



# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

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December 7, 2021

Dear Families:

This week is one of those rare occasions when we have to send the folder home a day early. That's because we are closed tomorrow in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn are closed because Our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Diocese of Brooklyn—and she is also the Patroness of the United State of America under this title, too!

Since this feast day is in December, many people believe that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus, recognizing the time when the Angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of God. In actuality, Mary *herself* is the Immaculate Conception.

Because I attended Saint Bernadette School here in Brooklyn, I always remember that Mary is the Immaculate Conception. That's because in 1858 Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette, so above the altar in Saint Bernadette Church in huge gold letters are two simple sentences. One is the question asked by Saint Bernadette: "My Lady, would you be so kind as to tell me who you are?" The second is Mary's simple, but powerful response: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

But what does this mean? The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, defined by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, states that "The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, preserved exempt from all stain of original sin." Simply put, our salvation from sin begins when Mary—the mother of Jesus—was conceived. There is no salvation without Mary!

To me, tomorrow's feast day can be considered a second Mother's Day. Jesus would not have been able to free us from sin if not for Mary's "yes" to the Angel Gabriel. Similarly, each one of us would not be able to share our God-given gifts and talents with the world without our own mother's "yes."

One of my favorite classic TV shows, *The Honeymooners*, sums it up well...In one episode, Ralph makes a sexist, chauvinistic claim that all of the greatest discoveries and inventions in the history of mankind can be attributed to men. At one point he says to his wife, "There'd be no America if it wasn't for Christopher Columbus, to which she replies, "There'd be no Christopher Columbus if it wasn't for his mother."

During our day off tomorrow, say two prayers of thanksgiving: one for the Mary, the Mother of the God and the other for your own mom!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal

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**Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.**

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | [smcaonthebay.org](http://smcaonthebay.org)

# **EARLY DISMISSAL**

## **on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

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- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- This *is* a early dismissal day for 3K and Pre-K for All students, too.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

### **DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

- 3K for All classes will dismiss at 11:30am
- PreK for All classes will dismiss at 11:40am
- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 11:50am.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4 will dismiss at 12pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will also dismiss at 12pm.

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**School is CLOSED on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Mark Catholic Academy*  
**PRESENTS**



**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th**



**Tickets on sale Now!**

**\$15**

**Breakfast  
Santa Hat  
4X6 Christmas Photo  
Free Christmas Dress UP**

**SCAN  
this code**



**ORDER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/ydn5cu55>**

**ONLINE ORDERS ONLY**

**Deadline to ORDER -Tuesday Dec 14th**



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY



# Christmas Bow Sale



This Christmas, Saint Mark Catholic Academy will be holding a Christmas Bow Sale!

These bows will be hung on our fence outside the school on East 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Along with being a festive decoration, these bows will also be a way for you to honor or memorialize a special family member or friend.

Each bow costs \$5.

If you are interested in purchasing a bow, please click on <https://tinyurl.com/59v6bmsn> or complete the form at bottom of the page.

The sale is ongoing, but bows will begin to be hung after the Thanksgiving Recess. Thank you!

Saint Mark Catholic Academy • Christmas Bow Sale

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bows to purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bow #1 In honor of  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Bow #2 In honor of  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Bow #3 In honor of  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

If necessary, please list additional bows on the back of the form.