NEWMAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: ST. MARK

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The Cardinal Connection

"The Good News in Education"

November, 2026 **Monthly Newsletter**



Inside this Issue:

From the Principal	1-2
Classroom News	3-6
Birthdays	7
Menu/Calendar	8
Cardinal Cards / Winter Wonderland Scrip	9 10

Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,
We begin our month with the celebration of All-Saints Day. While there are many activities taking place at NCES: St. Mark's, our faith lives and the daily celebration of saints is something we take seriously and prayerfully. Thank you to all those who join us, each week, for Mass and the celebration of God's word.

During this Veterans' Day, may we remember that without those who went before us and continue to serve today, we would not have the freedoms we do. God bless these brave men and women. We invite our veterans to join us on November 12th for Mass at 8:10 a.m. and a service and social sponsored by our 3rd graders to follow in our school building. Remembering our veterans and their sacrifices is something so important to who we are and how we live. Please watch for more information on this important day!

Parent-Teacher conferences for Preschool-5th grade will be held on November 12th and 17th. If you need to change your scheduled time, please first contact the teacher. We look forward to seeing you and sharing the great things your students are doing at school.
FYI - The book fair will be the week November 16-20. Be sure to check it out!

The next St. Mark's Home & School meeting will be held on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. We meet in the school library and all parents are invited to join us. The Home & School does so many wonderful things for our school, its students, and staff. Thank you to the group for heading up the Bingo prize collection for Grandparent's Day, crafting the treat bags at Fall Fest, popping popcorn for the students, providing a little sustenance for the teachers at conferences, and hosting events such as our upcoming "Giving Store" in December. More information coming on that event which supports local charities. This is the group you want to be in. If you are asking yourself 'why don't they..' or have a great idea to make kids and parents smile, come join the fun.

The Newman Catholic Schools Annual "Winter Wonderland Auction-Merry and Bright" will take place on Saturday,
November 14, at the Hilton Garden Inn. This annual auction is not only a fund-raiser for Newman Catholic Schools, but it is a chance to meet and spend time with members of our school family and celebrate the great things taking place at Newman. Items that St. Mark is offering up for the Silent Auction are:
Principal for the Day
6-Front Row Seats at the 12/3 Christmas Concert with front row parking for 1 car (2)
6-2nd Row Seats at the 12/3 Christmas Concert with front row parking for 1 car (2)
Phy Ed Eacher for the Day
Chef for the Day
Porch Goose Ensemble (Home & School)
An art experience for 10 by our art teacher Mrs. Pendergrass
A Boy and a Girl Blanket Basket with blankets made by the students

- Continued on page 2 -

Principal Letter - pg 2

We'd like to thank our St. Mark family for the outpouring of support for each other, especially for the Onesti Family. Your kind words, thoughts, and prayers hold us all up. Your children are in our hearts each day. It truly takes a village!

Thanks to generous support from St. Mark Parish, we recently completed our boiler and furnace replacement project just in time for the colder months. Thank you to Gilray Heating and Plumbing for borrowing us space heaters for those last chilly mornings. Looking ahead, our next effort will focus on refreshing our hallways with a new coat of paint. If you are interested in lending a hand with this project, we would welcome and appreciate any volunteers. Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission—your dedication keeps our community thriving.

Thanksgiving is a time of friendship, family, and gratitude. As we go through the days of November, may all of our moments be filled with the blessings of God and one another. It is truly in the sharing and the caring that we can be our best.

Peace to you,
Mrs. Fochs

Safety Drills at St Mark include: SECURE



SECURE is followed by the Directive: "Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors" and is the protocol used to safeguard people within the building. We do our normal business on the inside of the building. The blinds will be closed to stop distractions, if any. Nobody will be allowed inside during the drill. A sign will be on the door telling you why we can't let you in.

However, if you find yourself already in the building, you cannot leave until the SECURE is lifted.

Preschool News

Mrs. Schepp

We are continuing to have fun in preschool learning lots of things and enjoying spending time with one another. This past month we have completed fall scarecrows, Fire Safety, fall trees/squirrels/nuts, owls, spiders, bats and pumpkins theme.

Your children are still continuing to work on Phonic Soup letters and are enjoying the activities that correspond to the letter learned for the week.

During the next month our themes will be the following: Turkeys, Pilgrims, Native Americans, and Thanksgiving.

We will continue to work on our Phonic soup letters, counting, Jesus time, and calendar skills. We look forward to all of the fun we will continue to have in preschool as we watch your children learn and grow.

God Bless!
Sincerely,
Mrs. Mandy and Mrs. Mary



4K News

Mrs. Kalmon

November is an exciting month in 4K! We continue to enjoy the fall colors, changing weather and talk about all the things we're thankful for. We will also be celebrating our Veterans.

In our classroom, we will talk about hibernation, being thankful, and Thanksgiving. We will work on recognizing numbers 0-10 and rote counting.

During letter learning, we will continue to review letters Aa, Mm, Ss, Pp, Tt, Nn, Cc, Oo, Ff and introduce letters Hh, Dd, Rr, Ee, Bb, and Ll. We will continue talking about red and green choices and social-emotional skills.

In religion, 4K Friends will be talking about the lives of Saints and being thankful. 4K Religion in October offered the 4K students a great opportunity to visit Feast Days such as Guardian Angel, St. Francis, and the Holy Rosary.

We hope all families have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Kindergarten News

Mrs. Onesti

What a wonderful first quarter! The children are getting comfortable with our daily routines, making new friends, and learning to work together. It's a joy to see them trying their best each day!

Reading: We are learning letters, practicing their sounds, and reading words we see often. Our small groups give everyone time to practice and build confidence.

Math: We are practicing counting, writing numbers, and recognizing patterns. New math games make learning fun!

Religion: We have been learning about the rosary and joined our school community for the Living Rosary. We are also practicing our prayers and learning how to show kindness and care for others.

As November approaches, we will talk about Thanksgiving and the many blessings in our lives. I am so thankful for your children and for your support. Thank you for helping make our kindergarten community such a special place!



Grade One News

Mrs. Augustiniak

It is hard to believe that it is already November and we have finished the first quarter of first grade. Many of the students are realizing that they can do "Hard Things" with a bit of hard work. Their joy and excitement in learning sure makes being their teacher fun and rewarding! We are learning something new everyday. And we still continue to laugh and have fun!

We have so many things to learn in first grade that it can be overwhelming at times. We will continue to decode and spell short vowel words. We will practice using our phonics skills to read fluently. In math we will work on relating addition and subtraction facts. In religion we will continue to learn about being good followers of Jesus and what this should look like (no tattling, no name calling, being kind and helpful to our classmates, and being good listeners.)

I do not believe that first graders should be on their Chromebook very often. I feel that they get enough screen time outside of our classroom. Soon we will start using them a bit more to work on reading and math skills. They do use Chromebook and computers in keyboarding and technology. If you are looking for educational sites to use at home, I am willing to share some that I have used in the past.

Second Grade News

Mrs. Reiche

The month of November has us busy working on all kinds of activities. Animals is the theme in reading for Unit 2. We will read realistic fiction stories, a fable, and poetry about animals. We will learn how animal babies are like their parents, what animals teach us, and what we love about animals. In math we will learn about place value to 100 and number concepts and patterns, and work on addition of two digit numbers. Don't forget to keep practicing those math facts at home.

In Religion we will discuss the sacrament of Reconcilation. We will talk about responsibilities and rights we have. The children will also learn about making good choices. Science will lead us to a unit on Earth, today and yesterday. We will talk about how the earth has changed and how scientists learn about those changes on earth.

In Social Studies students will learn about how communities are different, how we use maps, and what geography is.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Betti

November is a special time to reflect and be thankful for the many gifts God has given us.

In **Religion**, we are currently learning about free will, choices, and sin. In our next chapter, students will learn about their conscience and the way it helps them make good choices in order to bring them closer to God and others.
In **Math**, we are wrapping up chapter 2, which has students adding multiple addends and estimating. We will be moving into chapter 3 which focuses on subtraction and introduces the students to new rules of subtraction, as well as methods to solve story problems.
Our **Wonders reading** series has students meeting new challenges while reading interesting stories, finding key details, and finding the message of a passage. As always, we will work as a class to build new vocabulary and explore ideas to help us answer our essential questions.
In **Social Studies**, we will start our chapter on Wisconsin's First People. We will discuss the transition from nomadic living to the building of permanent homes and the domestication of plants and animals. We will also learn about traditional foods, clothing, and homes.
In **Science**, we will begin a new chapter that will help grow our understanding of Earth's surface and interior. Some topics will include what has shaped our Earth and a look inside Earth.

I look forward to meeting each of you during our scheduled conference times.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Third Grade News

Mrs. Richards

We begin the month of November by remembering the lives of saints (All Saints Day) and praying for our loved ones who have passed on (All Souls Day). We also remember the wonderful gifts we are blessed with.

In Religion, we have moved into Unit 2. In this unit your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by learning about the Pope and Bishop, recognizing that the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit to teach the truth, and praying alone and with others to praise God, thank God, ask for forgiveness, offer blessings, and seek God's help. This month's virtue is courtesy - being thoughtful of others.

In Math, we are well into our multiplication unit and students are beginning to deepen their understanding of multiplication by looking for patterns and using different strategies. Please continue reinforcing multiplication fluency with your children by practicing with flashcards.

In English we are starting our personal narratives. I always look forward to this unit for so many reasons. One of the reasons being that personal narratives are a great way for me to learn about my students and their life experiences. I think it's a perfect way to start them off as writers!

I'm also looking forward to seeing you at conferences and to fill you in on the huge amount of progress your child has made this year. They amaze me more and more each day!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fifth Grade News

Ms. Lang

We have been enjoying all of the beautiful fall colors and appreciating what comes with the new season!

In October students learned about problems and solutions within texts. We read some expository texts, and learned about the American Revolution. Next month we will start reading folktales. Students will also learn about plot and setting.

Fifth graders have been working hard on their multiplication and division. As we move into November, students will continue to work on their division skills. They will begin to work on factors, primes, and fractions.

We have been discussing Sacraments and Saints throughout October. In November students will learn more about the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. We will talk about how these sacraments bring us together as one Church.
I appreciate all of the teamwork to help our students be successful, thank you!



Spanish News

Mrs. Ross

¡Es noviembre! In Spanish class students are hablando mucho español (talking lots of Spanish)! In Kindergarten, we are learning colors through the story Pinturade Ratón (Mouse Paint). First grade has reviewed their colors and animals with our book Oso Marrón, Oso Marrón, ¿Qué ves ah¡? (Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?. Next we will prepare to read La Oruga muy Hambrienta (The Very Hungry Catepillar) by learning the foods the caterpillar eats. Second graders have been learning about weather and will add the clothing we wear to match the weather. They will read Froggy Se Viste(Froggy Gets Dressed). Third graders have sent their symbolic butterflies off to Mexico for the winter, we will await their return this spring!
In the mean time, we will be talking about likes and dislikes. Fourth continue to talk about families. They can tell you who the members of their family are. We will talk about some famous families including the Spanish Royal family and explore the positives and negatives of being a member of such a family. Next, we will work on physical descriptions as well as learn some adjectives to describe personality. We will apply all these new descriptions to ourselves and our family members!
Fifth graders will conclude their unit on the story La Ratona Que Sabia Ladrar (The Barking Mouse.) Next we will begin a Panamanian folk tale called Conejito (Little Bunny). The tale tells us about a little bunny and his aunt, who outsmart the other animals in the forest.

Language learning tip of the month: You don't need to understand every single word. Just as a two year old understands much of what is said, but not everything, in Spanish class you will understand much, but not everything.

It is o.k. to be a little uncomfortable!



Phy Ed News

Mrs. Schepp

We have been having a blast in Physical Education Class this past month. Your children in first-fifth grade finished soccer, flag football, Frisbee golf, and tennis. We were able to be outside for a lot of the month thanks to the wonderful Wisconsin weather.

4K and Kindergarten worked on their locomotor skills playing lots of games, they also had fun with bean bags, and Parachute. During the month of November we are going to continue having fun and learning new things. All grades will be working on basketball skills during this month as well as some fun thanksgiving games.

While the weather starts to get colder I hope you will all be able to find some fun physical activities to do as a family to continue staying active. At our house we love to go for walks with our dogs, and we also love to do workout videos on YouTube.
I love to hear stories from your children about all of the sports or recreational activities you do over the weekend and week.



God Bless!

Technology News

Mrs. Schepp

I am sure students would agree a great time is being had in Technology class. It is not uncommon to hear the word "already" when we tell them it is time to log off.

This past month in Technology Class they have been working on making projects and working on their formatting skills in Google Docs for first and second grade. The third, fourth, and fifth graders had fun learning how to use a coding program called Scratch.
During the next month in Technology the third grade will be working in Google Slides collaborating with a partner to come up with an invention. Fourth grade will be working on a cookbook and Google Excel. Fifth grade is continuing to write and Illustrate a children's story using Google Docs and Sketchpad 5.1. first and second grade will continue working and creating projects in Google Docs and continuing to work on their formatting skills. Our fourth and fifth grade students have also been having lots of fun in keyboarding class with our Typing Bird program. Make sure they take part in the extra credit calendar to boost their grades - every hour equals 10 extra credit points, and it will only help them excel in their keyboarding skills as well.
Your students will continue to learn and grow their skills on the computers this month and I look forward to teaching them.
God bless.

Art News

Mrs. Pendergrass

Happy fall!!!! The Art room has been a busy place welcoming all the colors of the season.
Kindergarden just finished their line unit with a 3d sculpture. We are jumping into color theory and learning how to create those secondary colors.
First grade is wrapping up a mixed media fall project that will be displayed soon.
Second grade is wrapping up their analogous mummy eyes and will be on display soon.
Third grade just finished their gray scale ghosts that are in the hallway. Don't forget to check out what the students named their silly friends.
Fourth grade got to take a look at geometric and organic shapes. They got cheesy with creating their cardboard pizzas.
5th grade finished their mixed media leaf prints still life. Be on the look out for our class collaboration that will take us into the Christmas holiday.
Mrs. Pendergrass



Guidance

Mrs. Parkin

During our weekly guidance lessons, students have been learning about emotion management through the Second Step curriculum. We have been exploring how to recognize and name different emotions, identify clues our bodies give us when we experience strong feelings, and practice strategies to help us calm down and make positive choices. Students are learning that all emotions are normal and helpful, but how we respond to those emotions matters. Our goal is to help students develop healthy coping strategies they can use both at school and at home.

As we finish our emotion management lessons, we will begin our next unit on **empathy and kindness**. Students will learn how to recognize and understand the feelings of others, consider different perspectives, and show kindness through their words and actions. We will also explore how our actions can affect those around us and ways we can help others feel included, respected, and valued. These lessons provide a wonderful opportunity to reinforce our Catholic values of compassion, kindness, and treating others as God calls us to. I look forward to continuing to help students build skills that support positive friendships and a caring school community!

~Mrs. Parkin

Library News

Mrs. Hoelter

Fall is in the air and we have been reading stories about farms, leaves, pumpkins and apples. The students are enjoying the library and checking out lots of books. Thank you for helping them to return their books weekly, it's greatly appreciated.

Information was sent home on October 8th for the Packers Tundra Tales Reading program. The Tundra Tales program runs from Monday, October 12 – Sunday, November 15, 2026. During this time, 4K through fifth grade participants must read or be read to outside of the school day for an average of 60 minutes per week for four weeks, for a TOTAL of 240 minutes. Your child should return the completed and SIGNED Tundra Tales Reading Log to me no later than Monday, November 16, 2026. Students that complete the entire program will receive one student and one adult Hall of Fame admission voucher along with a certificate of completion from the Green Bay Packers. If you have any questions please reach out to me.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held November 16 - 20, 2026 and it is during the week of Parent/Teacher conferences. Watch for more information as we get closer to the fair date. It's always a fun time when the book fair comes to NCES:St. Mark.

"A book is a gift you can open again and again"



STUDENT & STAFF BIRTHDAYS!

11/5 Luke M.
11/13 Ava D.
11/16 Paul G.



Staff
Mrs. Jackson - 8
Mrs. Fochs - 10

Great Job, NCES: St. Mark Students!!

Star Reading accurately measures a student's reading level and comprehension in under 30 minutes. It is valuable because it gives us immediate, actionable insights to deliver targeted reading interventions, track growth over time, and match students with the right reading materials to foster literacy development. As you can see, IT'S WORKING! With your assistance at home with reading we can go so far with the growth and love in reading.

Star Reading Proficiency Rate (District Benchmark)

Fall 2026-2027

81.3%



"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
– Richard Steele



Newman Catholic Elementary School: St. Mark 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 - Qtr 2 Begins - Burger Bar: Burger Patty, Cheese, Bun, Toppings, Baked Beans, & Apples	3 Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dinner Roll & Blueberries	4 Taco Bar, Flour Tortilla, Taco Meat, Toppings, & Mixed Fruit	5 **8:10 Mass** **4/5th Grade Retreat at NCS** Ham, Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown Patty, Mixed Veggies & Fruit Juice	6 **NCS Spirit Day** **4K - 5 REPORT CARDS go home** **DARE Bowling for 5th Grade!** Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup, Salad Bar, and Peaches	7 
8 Happy Birthday Mrs. Jackson 	9 **Circle of Joy Food Drive Begins** Lasagna Pasta Bake, Corn, Salad, Applesauce Breadstick, & Mandarin Oranges	10 Happy Birthday Mrs. Fochs  Chicken Ranch Wrap w/ Tortilla, Diced Chicken, Cheese, Ranch, Broccoli, &	11 Pulled Pork Sandwich, French Fries, Coleslaw, Pickles & Pears	12 **8:10 Mass + Veteran's Social** **3K, 4K, K-5 Parent Teacher Conferences** Build a Sub: Turkey, American Cheese, Toppings, Fresh Veggies w / Ranch, & Craisins	13 **NCS Spirit Day** Cheese Omelet, Hashbrown Patty, Muffin, Apples, Mixed Veggies, & Fruit Juice	14 **NCS Winter Wonderland Auction**
15	16 **Nov. 16-20** Pizza, Mixed Veggies, Salad bar & Pineapple	17 **3K, 4K, K-5 Parent Teacher Conferences** Walking Tacos: Chips, Taco Meat, Cheese, Tomatoes, Lettuce, & Peaches	18 8:15am Principal Chat **Scholastic Book Fair all week!** Ham & Cheese Melt, Potato Chips, Baked Beans & Mixed Fruit	19 **8:10 Mass** **Circle of Joy Food Drive Ends** Hot Lunch: See right…. **6:00pm Home & School Meeting**	20 **NCS Spirit Day** Waffle, String Cheese, Tropical Fruit, Fresh Veggies, Blueberries & Cherry Star Juice	21 19 **Thanksgiving Dinner** Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Cranberries, Applesauce cup, & Pumpkin Dessert
22	23 NFL or Spirit Days ! Corn dog, French Fries, Baked Beans, & Peaches	24 Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli, Baby Carrots, & Applesauce	25  No School	26	27 Nov 25-27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent	30 Burger Bar: Burger Patty, Cheese, Bun, Toppings, Baked Beans, & Apples	1 Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dinner Roll & Blueberries	2 Taco Bar, Flour Tortilla, Taco Meat, Toppings, & Pears	3 **9:30 All School Mass @ St Mark** Ham, Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich, Hashbrown Patty, Mixed Veggies & Fruit Juice	4 **NCS Spirit Day** Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup, Salad Bar, and Peaches	

" The LIGHT shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"
John 1:5





It's time again for Winter Wonderland!

Our 39th annual event is on Saturday, November 14, at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Items that St. Mark is offering up for the Silent Auction are:
Principal for the Day
6-Front Row Seats at the 12/3 Christmas Concert with front row parking for 1 car (2)
6-2nd Row Seats at the 12/3 Christmas Christmas Concert with front row parking for 1 car (2)
Phy Ed Eacher for the Day
Chef for the Day
Porch Goose Ensemble (Home & School)
An art experience for 10 by our art teacher Mrs. Pendergrass
A Boy and a Girl Blanket Basket with blankets made by the students

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Cardinal Card | $25/Card
Get 25 discounts at local businesses with hundreds of dollars in potential savings throughout the year. Every Cardinal Card purchased supports the Newman Catholic Athletics Booster Club and helps provide equipment and resources for our student-athletes.

NEW THIS YEAR! Show your Cardinal Card and receive FREE popcorn at every Newman Catholic home game!

Purchase your Cardinal Card:

- Currently available at all NCS locations, including District Office and SCRIP.
- Cards will also be available for purchase at home games.



⭐ November 2026

SCRIP NEWS

Check out the mobile app for scrip on your smartphone: RaiseRight. Available in the App Store or Google Play. Use your same log in as the RaiseRight website.

Download our RaiseRight mobile app

App Store | Google Play

New to scrip? Find the instructional video at newmancatholicschools.com, click on scrip. Please call or email scrip@newmancatholicschools.com for the NCS enrollment code.

Scrip Business Hours

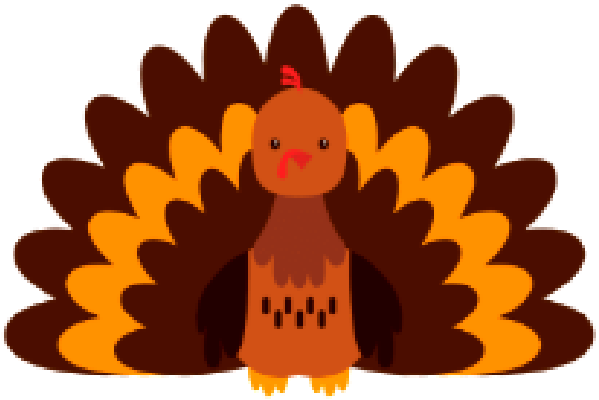
Monday 9:00-4:00

Thursday 9:00-4:00

Scrip will not be delivered to the schools on Thursday, November 26, 2026 due to Thanksgiving.

Follow RaiseRight on Facebook for tips and rebate bonus information.

Contact us: **715-849-7713**
615 **Stark St. Wausau, WI 54403**
scrip@newmancatholicschools.com



November 2026 Scrip Hours:

Monday November 2	9:00-4:00
Tuesday November 3	Closed
Wednesday November 4	Closed
Thursday November 5	9:00-4:00
Friday November 6	Closed
Local Scrip Order Week	
Monday November 9	9:00-4:00
Tuesday November 10	Closed
Wednesday November 11	Closed
Thursday November 12	9:00-4:00
Friday November 13	Closed
Monday November 16	9:00-4:00
Tuesday November 17	Closed
Wednesday November 18	Closed
Thursday November 19	9:00-4:00
Friday November 20	Closed
Local Scrip Order Week	
Monday November 23	9:00-4:00
Tuesday November 24	Closed
Wednesday November 25	Closed
Thursday November 26	Closed
Friday November 27	Closed
Monday November 30	9:00-4:00