

# Alumni invited to celebrate St. Mark's 50th

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It's been half a century since the first brick was laid. Now Stouffville's oldest Catholic school will be celebrated as a cornerstone of the community.

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School celebrates its 50th anniversary on April 25. Festivities include a Feast Day Mass in the morning with an open house school celebration in the evening.

The entire school community including parents, former staff, alumni and community partners are all invited to attend. Mass will be led by Father Michael Hughes at St. Mark Church, right next to the school.

The open house will feature a school tour,

scavenger hunt, 50/50 fundraiser in support of St. Mark Church, music, entertainment, student presentations and brief remarks by officials.

Among them will include school trustee Elizabeth Crowe, education superintendent Opiyo Oloya, Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann.

## MASS, OPEN HOUSE

St. Mark CES opened on 333 Glad Park Ave. in Stouffville in 1965 with a 100 students in attendance under inaugural principal Paul Condon.

Prior to the construction of St. Mark Church, the school hosted Sunday Mass, it was the only Catholic school in the community for 36 years.

The school continues to grow and expand as it plans to add a French immersion program in September.

"We look forward to welcoming the many new students and families who will soon join us," said Principal Derm FitzPatrick in a press release. "I hope our 50th anniversary serves as a great opportunity to get to know our school better, to celebrate with friends, to reflect on our school's proud history and to dream about our future together."

On April 25, Mass is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. at St. Mark's Church on 345 Glad Park Ave. The open house celebration runs from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mark CES on 333 Glad Park Ave. Refreshments will be served.

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