



THE BUZZ!

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School | Dynamic Education Centered in Christ

Plan your week!

Parents, we hope you can join us for chapel. The virtue this week is temperance: The restraint of our desires so that we can do what is right and good.

Sunday, Nov. 20 – 5th and 6th grade band concert, 2:30pm, St. Cecilia Music Center (24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids 49503). Please have students there by 2pm.

Monday, Nov. 21 – Grades 1-3 Mass, 9:55am.

Wednesday, Nov. 23 – Friday, Nov. 25 – No school! Thanksgiving Break!

Monday, Nov. 28 – Grades 1-3 Mass, 9:55am.

Tuesday, Nov. 29 – Giving Tuesday! We are collecting donations for Artists Creating Together (ACT). Students can bring items to their homeroom teachers. We have divided ACT's needs into four categories and assigned each category to a grade level:

- **Preschool/Kindergarten:** Tape – masking, wash, painter's scotch and Baby wipes
- **Grades 1, 2, and 3 Grades:** Skinny Crayola markers, sidewalk chalk, and glue sticks
- **Grades 4 and 5 Grades:** Aluminum foil, metallic sharpies, paint brushes of all sizes
- **Grades 6, 7, and 8 Grades:** Sharpies all colors and sizes, liquid hand soap

Tuesday, Nov. 29 – Uniform Holiday

Wednesday, Nov. 30 – Uniform Holiday, Principals for the Day Emily and Thomas Schuring Decree

Wednesday, Nov. 30 – Home & School Meeting, 8:15am, Ministry Center.

Friday, Dec. 2 – Grades 4-8 Mass, 9:55am.

Financial assistance for 2023-24



Tuition assistance is available to active parish families of students in Grades PreK to 8. Families requesting financial assistance must submit an online application through SMART Aid. The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2023-24 school year is open. Priority consideration will be given to applications submitted by the Dec. 1. To get started, visit studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school to get started and check out the [2023-24 Blackbaud/SMART Aid Online Instructions](#).

For assistance in completing the online application, please check out the [SMART Aid Parent Instructions](#). For information and instructions about applying for aid, please visit the [SMART AID web site](#).

Our SMART School ID number is: 13303.

Lunch menu!

Check out our [November lunch menu](#).

We Wear Saint Thomas!

Announcing "[WE WEAR SAINT THOMAS!](#)," a year-round online shopping experience for the Hornet in YOU! Just in time for the holidays! In the spirit of the season, our grand opening includes \$20 off all orders over \$125 - use code SNEAK20 through 11/20 - that's this Sunday, so start shopping today!

Important reminders!

♥ **Sick kid policy:** Just a quick reminder that students need to be 24 hour fever free (without medication) and vomit free before they return to school. Thank you!

♥ **Winter wear:** Now that winter has arrived, please remember that boots are not allowed in the classroom. Students must bring shoes to school.

♥ **Book Fair thanks:** The Book Fair Committee would like to send a giant THANK YOU to the entire STA community for their support with this year's Book Fair. Many thanks to those who volunteered and helped the Book Fair run smoothly.

♥ **Books make great gifts:** Want to surprise your child with their favorite book? Didn't get a chance to stop by the Book Fair in person? Go to www.LowryBooks.com or call 269-273-READ to make those final purchases. (Write St.Thomas the Apostle GR in the comments.) Flyers will also be sent home with your child. All sales will continue to benefit STA and will be delivered to school within the next few weeks.

♥ **After school opportunities:** We are offering Winter after-school classes in guitar, coding and chess. Check out these flyers for more info: [Winter Guitar](#), [Winter Coding](#) and [Winter Chess](#).

Events calendar!

Immaculate Conception (Late start) – Dec. 8

Christmas break – Dec. 19 – Jan. 2

All School Spelling Bee – Jan. 12

[Saint Thomas Parent Events Calendar](#)

Welcome to our littlest Hornet!

♥ **Baby news:** We want to welcome another member to our Saint Thomas community. Remington "Remy" Garret Eakin, who arrived on Sunday, November 13. Welcome Remy!



Meal trains for STA families!

♥ **Eakin family:** Please consider supporting the Eakin family with a meal, as they adjust to life as a family of six! Thank you! If you'd like to help with a meal, please sign up at: <https://mealtrain.com/085ry9>.

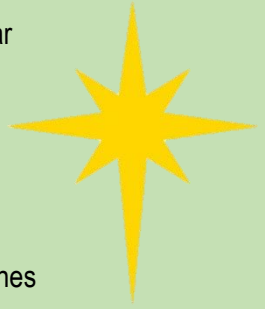
♥ **Rosser family:** Saint Thomas mom Dawn Rosser is recovering from bypass surgery and needs help feeding her family during this time. The schedule starts on Friday, Nov. 18 and continues through the end of the year. If you can help with a meal, please sign up at: <https://takethemameal.com/MUBY5506>.

Prayers for both of these families – the Rossers and the Eakins.

Holiday music events!

♥ **Saint Thomas School Nativity Program, Dec. 9 at 9:55am in the Church basement:** Come hear the beautiful Nativity story through dialogue and song from our 3rd grade classes in the Church basement. Contact Mrs. Emily Brunner (emilybrunner@stthomasgr.org) with questions.

♥ **Saint Thomas School Vespers Service, Dec. 11 at 5pm in the Church:** Come celebrate the beauty of the advent/Christmas Season through prayer and song. Vespers Service put on by all students in Grades 1-4 and 6-8. Please have students in the church by 4:30pm, wearing nice clothes in red and green.



Help wanted!

Saint Thomas Parish and School is seeking a full-time employee to assist Ted and his crew with afternoon/ evening cleaning and maintenance of our Church and School facilities. This position requires: ability to work both alone and with others, self-motivation, ability to perform physical labor and willingness to learn. On-the-job training is provided. Contact Pam (pamstrobel@stthomasgr.org) or Carla (carlagrant@stthomasgr.org) at the Parish office or call them at (616) 459-4662 for an application form or to get additional details.

Other stuff!

♥ **Parish Thanksgiving Dinner** – Saint Thomas will be hosting our Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thursday, November 24, from 12-2pm in the lower level of church. All are invited to join in the celebration and bring your family or invite friends! [Register for the dinner](#) or use this [Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteer Sign Up Genius](#). Call Lori F. at (616) 459-4662 with questions.

♥ **Sibshops** – for brothers and sisters of children with special needs. For more info, check out this [Sibshops flyer](#).

♥ **Catholic Central Admissions Information:** 2023-24 Incoming Freshman Applications are OPEN! Priority deadline is Dec. 1, 2022. Open to all current 8th graders. Learn more and apply online at: grcatholiccentral.org/admissions. For more information about Open Houses and Shadow days, check out this [Catholic Central admissions flyer](#) and then [RSVP for the Open House](#) and [RSVP for Shadow Days](#).



Advent by Candlelight 2022

Friday, December 2 at 7 pm

All Ladies of the Parish and School are warmly invited!

Please join us as we gather in the Church
for music, prayer and a reflection
followed by a festive reception in the Church Lower Level.

Be inspired to live **Holy Moments** this Advent,
with insights from Saint Teresa of Calcutta,
who encouraged us to do

"Small things with Great love".

Come alone, with family members, friends or watch virtually.



Please RSVP by November 30th
on the Parish website
or by calling the Parish Office.

Questions? Contact Pam Strobel
(pamstrobel@stthomasgr.org)