

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST



a century of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • 1924-2024

Dec. 16-20, 2024

Next week!

The virtue is **humility** – awareness that all of our gifts come from God and appreciation for the gifts of others.

Sunday, Dec. 15 – Middle School Choir Advent Concert, 5:30pm, Church.
Students should arrive at 5:15pm in uniform bottoms with red or green top.

Monday, Dec. 16 – Grades 1-3 Mass, 10:10am, Church. Please sign in.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 –

- **Christmas-themed uniform holiday** – dress in **red** and **green** and Christmas-themed clothes
- **Middle School exams / Dismissal at 11:30 am (Middle School only)**

Wednesday, Dec. 18 –

- **0-5ers Gym time**, 11:10am, Gym
- **Middle School exams / Dismissal at 11:30 am (Middle School only)**

Thursday, Dec. 19 –

- **Middle School exams / Dismissal at 11:30 am (Middle School only)**

Friday, Dec. 20 – Grades 4-8 Mass, 10:10am, Church. Please sign in.

Looking ahead!

Dec. 23 – Jan. 3 – Christmas break

Jan. 16 – Spelling Bee

Jan. 21-24 – All In Week!

Jan. 27-31 – Catholic Schools Week!

Jan. 28 – Education Foundation Breakfast – [Get tickets today!](#)

Jan. 29 – Preschool/Kindergarten Round Up! 9am and 6pm

**DO
GOOD**
December
Rejoice in the Lord
this Advent Season

An [Advent calendar](#) for Christ-centered fun for the entire family. Let's find opportunities to rejoice in the Lord this Advent season. Included are some ideas to get you started.

Check in update!

FYI...school check in system requires a drivers license and saves it for 90 days. For some of you, your 90 days may soon be up. Please remember to bring your license again so you have it when your 90 days has expired. You can save it for another 90 days. Thank you for your cooperation as we do our best to create a safe environment for everyone here at Saint Thomas.

School lunch!

Here is our [December 2024](#) lunch menu. **Please note this lunch change on Thursday, Dec. 19 – Orange chicken (NOT BURGERS)**. Also, on Monday, Dec. 16, we will be doing a lunch count for Friday, Dec. 20, which will be Little Caesar's pizza.

ECC Construction Update

As we end our week, here are a few of our accomplishments:

- Underground plumbing and duct repair is complete and inspected.
- Concrete was infilled, all but the footing holes.
- Framing and drywall delivery arrived this week.
- Framing has begun and is 70% complete.
- Drywall hung and finished in the mechanical room.
- Steel columns measured for order.

We want your feedback!

In December, the following surveys will be available to our community. We love to hear your feedback. You do not need to have critical comments – we are also looking for positive affirmations. If you are happy with a teacher or administrator, take a moment to share that in these feedback surveys. This data is used in staff mid-year evaluations. The more data we have, the more we can improve. Feedback Surveys: [Teacher](#) / [Admin](#) / [Principal](#)

Return volleyball uniforms!

If there are any remaining volleyball uniforms out there, please return them to the office ASAP. Thanks.

Home & School notes!

Christmas Service Project: Our Saint Thomas School community is sponsoring three families in need this Christmas season. If you are interested in helping, please select according to your child's grade:

- [Preschool-grade 1](#)
- [Grades 2-5](#)
- [Grades 6-8](#)

Thank you for your generosity! Please bring all wrapped and labeled gifts, along with notes, pictures, and prayers, to school on Monday, Dec. 16 or Tuesday, Dec. 17. There will be tables outside the office.

Catholic Schools Week: If you are interested in helping with Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26-31), please contact Genevieve Boyle (773-610-6473).

Mission effectiveness!

Would you like to help deepen and expand the spiritual and intellectual life at Saint Thomas? Join the Mission Effectiveness committee to help us plan new ways to evangelize students, parents, and the parish at large. If interested, please write Mission Effectiveness Chair, James Matthew Wilson, at wilsonjm1@stthom.edu.

Traveling rosary: Our mission effectiveness team would like to invite you to participate in our Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary. If you are interested, please use our [Traveling Rosary Sign Up Genius](#).

Blackbaud Financial Aid!

The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2025-26 school year is open. To get started, visit studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school and check out the [2025-26 Blackbaud Financial Aid parent application guide](#) and the [2025-26 parent instructions](#) to help.

STA childcare drop-in rates!

We are pleased to announce a Drop In Child Care Program for our preschoolers. Students **currently enrolled** in P3 or P4 are eligible to drop in for childcare with 24-hour or more notice. This program runs from 11am-3:20pm, Monday-Friday. The daily drop-in rate is \$30 per day. Parents will be billed the first week of the following month for any drop-in days. To sign up, contact Veronica Perdue at veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org.

Cannonsburg Punch Card

Punch Card passes for the 2024 / 2025 Cannonsburg Ski Area ski season are available for purchase. Passes come in bundles of 6 or 10 discount lift tickets, as well as discounts on lessons and rentals. Use the following link: <https://cannonsburg.com/shop/> and list your sponsor school as Saint Thomas and your sponsor as Josh Szymanski. See this [Cannonsburg flyer](#) for details and contact Erin or Josh Szymanski with any questions (josh@sOakmi.com).

Coding Camp

The Raspberry Pi advanced coding camp, run by The Pi Academy and Bravo LT computer scientists, is open to middle school students in West Michigan. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10am-3pm at the GRCC Calkins Science Center to ignite your passion for technology and programming! During this 5-hour camp, young coders will dive into a variety of coding challenges utilizing microcontrollers, sensors, drones, and more. Professional developers will be on hand to provide clues and insights, helping them enhance their coding skills. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt, a delicious lunch, and a Raspberry Pi kit to take home and continue their coding journey. [Register today!](#)



Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center

Wish List



- Sandbox
- Tricycles, balance bikes and scooters
- Outdoor toy storage bins
- Indoor clear storage bins
- Utility cart
- Bean bags
- Color-changing light tables
- Sand toys
- Playhouse
- Mobile tables and chairs for events
- Collapsible tunnel
- Children's books (seasons, holidays and saints please!)
- Laminator
- Sensory table
- Sand bags
- Feeling generous? Parking Lot Resurfacing



Click the image to view our Catechesis of the Good Shephard wishlist

Questions? Send an email to veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org