

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

April 28-May 2, 2025

Next week!

The virtue is **self control**: joyful mastery over one's passions and desires.

Sunday, April 27 – First Communion Mass, 3pm, Church

Monday, April 28 – Grades 1-3 Mass, 10:10am, Church

Wednesday, April 30 –

- **0-5ers Gym time**, 11:10am, Gym (FYI...this is the last Gym time of the school year)
- **Dine & Donate at Pietro's** (2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids), 4-9pm (see details on next page)

Thursday, May 1 – May Crowning, 8am, Mary Grotto (weather permitting), 2nd, 4th, and 8th grade come dressed in Sunday best.

Friday, May 2 –

- **Grades 4-8 Mass**, 10:10am, Church
- **0-5ers Storytime**, 11:10am, Library
- **Catholic Art Show**, 3:30-7pm, Cathedral Square Center

Saturday, May 3 – Catholic Art Show, 9am-5pm, Cathedral Square Center

Mark your calendar!

May 5-9 – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5 – [Parent to Parent series](#) (K-2nd grade), 8:30am

May 5 – Parent speaker series, Wait until 8th (see flyer). [RSVP](#).

May 7 – Kindergarten Kick Off, 9am (No P4 or P3 that day)

May 9 – Boosters Golf Outing. [Register to golf or sponsor!](#)

May 9 – 7th / 8th Grade Dance (details in MS Newsletter)

May 12 – [Parent to Parent series](#) (3rd-5th grade), 8:30am

May 18 – Middle school choir concert

May 19 – Field Day

May 19 – Dine & Donate @ Big Bob's Pizza in EGR (more info to come)

May 19 – [Parent to Parent series](#) (6th-8th grade), 8:30am

[2025-26 school year calendar](#)

Teacher Appreciation Week!

Teacher Appreciation Week is Monday, May 5 - Friday, May 9! We are hoping to shower our wonderful teachers and staff with lots of love and appreciation for all they do for our children and school. One way we are planning to do that is with a luncheon on Wednesday, May 7. We need several volunteers and many items.

Please use our [Teacher Appreciation Sign Up Genius](#) to help if you can!

Thank you! ~ Genevieve Boyle,
Home & School president

Coffee treat!

Please consider bringing one of our teachers his/her favorite drink sometime during Teacher Appreciation Week. Use our [STA Coffee Treat Sign Up Genius](#). This is always a nice little treat for each of them!



Uniforms!

Looking for uniforms? They will be available in the Ministry Center from **7:45am-8:15am** and **3-3:30pm on Friday, May 2.**

School lunch!

Here is our [April lunch menu](#) and our [May lunch menu](#).

Help stock our preschool!

We are ready to stock our new Preschool! We are reaching out to our Parish and School community in hopes of fulfilling our school needs. We are looking for gently used or new items for the teacher's lounge and office. Please check out our [Stock the Preschool list](#) for items that we need.

This is a great opportunity while spring cleaning to see if there are any unused items at your house that we can put to good use!

If you are interested in making a donation, please send an email to veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org or keegan.d.lindsay@gmail.com. Thank you!

~ Veronica Perdue, Preschool Director

Sports uniform turn in!


If you have any sports uniforms from past seasons, please return them to Mr. Sluggett. Thank you.

Wednesday, April 30th

HELP RAISE SOME DOUGH

for Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center

Come to our location at 2780 Birchcrest Dr. SE on Wednesday, April 30th from 4 to 9pm and mention that you're a supporter of Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center. This organization will then receive **10%** of the total net sales for the evening.


SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

PIETRO'S
REAL • ITALIAN

Want to raise funds for your organization too? Ask a Manager for details. **IT'S EASY!**

2780 Birchcrest Dr. SE, Grand Rapids • (616) 452.3228 • PietrosGR.com

Breaking bread, building faith

Family dinner-time discussion question of the week:

Why do we celebrate Easter?

What is one thing you did today that you are proud of?

Program Effectiveness Survey!

The Office of Catholic Schools is distributing the [Program Effectiveness Surveys](#) to all parents, staff, and students in grades 5-8 and 9-12. We will continue to alternate with the Catholic Identity Surveys next year. Please complete this survey by Friday, May 16.

Lunch Account Balances!

We have many families that have a negative balance in their students' lunch accounts. We need all families to check and submit funds to cover what they owe. Please add enough funds to cover your balance and for hot lunches for the rest of the year. As a school, we have a negative balance of nearly \$3,000. **We need to take care of this ASAP.**

Catholic Schools Art Show

May 2, 2025 Friday 3:30-7pm

May 3, 2025 Saturday 9am-5pm

Cathedral Square Center, Grand Rapids, MI

Here is a [list of STA students](#) who have an art piece in the show.

Registration 2025-26!

Thank you to all who have completed the registration paperwork. To those who have not, submit ASAP to guarantee your child's seat for 2025-26. Preschool programming options are available now. Log into your Finals site account to make your selections.

Questions?! Contact Betsy Edgerton or Cammi Lawrence in the school office. Please note: If you have a preschooler, kindergartner and/or a 7th grader for next year, you must submit immunizations and health appraisal to be complete. If you are waiting for an upcoming well-child checkup, upload old forms and we can help upload new ones as you get them!

Blackbaud Financial Aid!

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

Strategic plan!

Wondering what's driving our planning? Check out our [strategic plan](#).

Traveling Rosary!

Our mission effectiveness team invites you to participate in our Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary. You can pray with your family while driving back and forth from school or pray a decade of the rosary each night. If you are interested, please use our [Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary Sign Up Genius](#).

Mourning the Pope

We mourn the passing of our beloved Pope. Check out this [YouTube video about the Pope](#). Hear our principal, Mr. Ryan Corcoran, share the powerful story of his personal encounter with Pope Francis, as featured by channel 13 ABC.



From the Parish

Altar Server Training/Review/Party, Wednesday, April 30, 6-8 pm

6-7pm--Training for New Altar Servers (4th grade and up) and review for everyone else.

7-7:30pm--Thurifer Training for those interested who have served as a Cross Leader AND Cross Leader practice.

7:30- 8pm--Lower Level Ice Cream Party for ALL!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School dates are June 23-27, 9-11am. Get more detailed information about registration and program info on the parish website: <https://stthomasapostlegr.org/children/vbs/>.

HELP Baby Supplies and Diaper Drive

Saint Thomas' Respect Life ministry is coordinating a Supplies Drive to support HELP Pregnancy Aid. Join us by dropping off disposable diapers (newborn, 1-2), new pacifiers, sippy cups and PJs (boys and girls, size 12 mo. and up) in the HELP collection box in the back of church from Mother's Day, May 11- Father's Day, June 15.

Call Helen at (616) 774-8471 or jimhelenmilo@gmail.com with questions. Thank you for your support!

	<p>Please join us to support Saint Thomas Athletics</p>	
<p>FRIDAY, May 9 8:30am</p>	 <p>Golf Fore Sports</p>	<p>THE MINES GOLF CLUB</p>
	<p>Sponsors and foursomes are needed to make this event possible!</p> <p>Click here or visit www.STAGolfOuting.com</p>	

Calling All Diocesan Parents: Join Us for our Speaker Series #2 **Renewing the Catholic Family**

WAIT 8th th

For the second speaker in our series, we welcome nationally-acclaimed Brooke Shannon, the Executive Director and founder of Wait Until 8th. Brooke works with parents and communities across the country to help families establish a healthy relationship with technology. She is a national speaker on how to parent in the digital arena, having appeared on the Today Show, Good Morning America, NPR and many other outlets. You don't want to miss this! Childcare available.



Sponsored by:



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
of West Michigan

Save the date: Monday, May 5

6-6:30pm: Complimentary Wine & Appetizers
6:30-7:30pm: Presentation
7:30-8:30pm: Q&A, Conversation & Fellowship



Admission is **FREE**
but please RSVP



Cathedral Square: 360 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

summer programming

Join us this summer at Saint Thomas! Morning sessions for kids going into kindergarten - 2nd grade. Afternoon sessions for kids going into grades 3-5.



June 9-12

Soaring with Superheroes
9am – 12noon

Soccer
12:30-3:30pm



June 16-19

Around the World
9am – 12noon

Basketball
12:30-3:30pm



June 30-July 3

Launch to Space
9am – 12noon

Frisbee
12:30-3:30pm



July 7-10

Oceans and Water
9am – 12noon

Softball/Baseball
12:30-3:30pm



July 14-17

Exploring Dinosaurs
9am – 12noon

Soccer
12:30-3:30pm



July 21-24

Knights and Princesses
9am – 12noon

Basketball
12:30-3:30pm



July 28-31

Circus Spectacular
9am – 12noon

Frisbee
12:30-3:30pm



August 4-7

Farm Fun
9am – 12noon

Softball/Baseball
12:30-3:30pm



Registration

[Registration Form](#)
[FAQs](#)

Questions?

secretary@stthomasgr.org



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

The Parent to Parent Series

At Saint Thomas, we recognize our parents as the primary educator of their children. Our faculty and staff are here to support you in educating, raising, and teaching your children. Guided by our mission of providing dynamic education centered in Christ, we work to support you in raising virtuous, wise, compassionate, responsible children who will one day bring their strong character into adulthood.

Join us for our Primary Educator series, where we discuss

- the joys and challenges of raising children
- parenting
- standing firm in our beliefs

These sessions will be led by Mr. Corcoran, Mrs. Johnson and a grade-level teacher. We will begin with a short presentation and then have time for parent discussion. Children are welcome.

This series will take place in the Ministry Center from 8:30-9:15 am.

Talk 1 - Parents of kindergarten through second grade - *May 5*

Talk 2 - Parents of third through fifth grade - *May 12*

Talk 3 - Parents of sixth through eighth grade - *May 19*

Please fill out this [survey](#) to let us know topics you would like to discuss.