

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 • 1925-2025

Sept. 15-19, 2025



Next week!

The virtue this week is **magnanimity**: seeking with confidence to do great things in God; literally "having a large soul."

Sunday, Sept. 14 – 11am Mass, Joining the Church! At the 11am Mass, we have several STA students and parents who will be entering into full communion with the Catholic Church! Emma S. (8th), Kylie S. (5th), and Tobias W. (3rd) will be making their First Holy Communion. Ali S. (Junior at Catholic Central), Elizabeth S. (mother of Ali, Emma, and Kylie) and Andrea K. (mother of Toby) will be receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Join us in celebrating!

Tuesday, Sept. 16 – [West Catholic's Jubilee Penance Service](#), 6pm

Wednesday, Sept. 17 – A Mass Non-uniform picture day

- **Mass, 8:15am**
- **School pictures for grades P4-8, Library.** Visit www.inter-state.com/order and use order code 0266MGB to order your pictures AND YEARBOOK.
- **[Living the Liturgical Seasons](#), 6-8pm, Cathedral Square**

Thursday, Sept. 18 –

- **School pictures for P3, Preschool Center**
- **New family parent meeting, 6pm, Preschool Center**

Next week!

The weekly parent rosary will now be held Tuesdays at 2:45pm in front of the Church (and in the Church when weather requires). Please join us before pickup to pray the Rosary at 2:45pm or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:05pm.

School pictures!

School pictures are Sept. 17. This is a uniform holiday so your child can wear what they would like for pictures. Please follow our [uniform holiday guidelines](#). Sept. 18 is also a picture day but primarily for our P3 class. If your child is absent on Sept. 17, they can get their picture taken on Sept. 18, but they will need to wear their school uniform, change into their picture-day shirt and then change back into their school uniform. To order pictures online, visit www.inter-state.com/order and use order code **0266MGB**. You must order pictures online.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD WANTS A YEARBOOK, YOU MUST ORDER NOW WHEN YOU ORDER SCHOOL PICTURES!

Picture volunteers!

We are looking for a few volunteers to help kids look their best on Picture Day, Wednesday, September 17. Please email Genevieve Boyle, genevieveboyle@stthomasgr.org, if you'd like to help!

School lunch!

Here is our [September 2025](#) lunch menu. Here are [Instructions for depositing money into your student's IC account](#). If you need help getting into Infinite Campus, please email Cammi in the office (clawrence@stthomasgr.org).

Looking ahead!

Sept. 28 – Education Foundation Coffee and Donuts after Masses
Sept. 28 – **Schwallier's Shindig!** for STA families, 3:30-5:30pm (last page)
Oct. 3 – No school, teacher PD
Oct. 9 – School Board meeting, 6pm
Oct. 9/10 – Hearing and Vision Screening
Oct. 17 – Grandfriends' Day ([RSVP for Grandfriends!](#)) / 11am dismissal
Oct. 17 – Book Fair in Library, 8am-12noon
Oct. 20 – Late start for teacher MAP test review, start time 9am
Oct. 24 – End of first quarter
Oct. 28 – Uniform holiday
Nov. 5 – Middle school awards ceremony

Mass participants for Sept. 17!

Mass helpers:

- 1st reading: Rebekah H
- Petitions: Olivia B, Carter R, Eli M, Henry T, Forest H, Ceci W, Joseph S, Colin J
- Gifts: Lennyn J, Georgia L
- Altar servers: Christopher A, Henry B, Eden R
- Sacristan: Gage F, James P
- Songleaders: Ismelda N, Sadie T
- Tone chimes: Asher V, Molly S, Maddie P
- Xylophone: Mari B, Eliana K, Corrine J, Emma S

If your child is listed above and you know they will not be attending Mass, please email Mr. Baxter.

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion questions of the week:

- If you could have dinner with Jesus, what would you ask Him?
- What is something small we can each do to make home feel warm and welcoming?

Class grade hosts!

We are looking for party hosts for the following grades: P3, P4, Young 5s, K, 3rd, and 7th. Thank you for considering! If interested, please contact Genevieve Boyle (genevieveboyle@stthomasgr.org).

FYI...consider using our new preschool building (at no cost) to host a parent party!

Here are the list of hosts we've got so far:

1st grade – 9/25 @ the Keegans
2nd grade – 10/18 @ the Giovannettis
4th/5th grade – 9/26 @ the Jacobsons
6th grade – TBD @ the Pfennigs
8th grade – 10/11 @ the Parinis

Look for an email from these hosts with details (time/location) about the parent parties. Contact Genevieve with any questions.

Winter I GRACEAC sports sign up

Registration for Winter 1 sports is open! Visit the [GRACEAC website](#) to sign your child up for boys basketball or competitive cheer. The deadline is Oct. 1. After that, you will be charged a late fee. To participate, your student will need a physical and permission slip on file in the school office.

Cub Scouts!

Is your child interested in hiking, playing games, doing crafts, fishing, camping and more? Cub Scouts is a fun program for K-5th grade boys and girls that builds citizenship, character, personal fitness, and leadership skills. The St. Stephen/St. Thomas Pack 3217 is looking for new members to join our Cub Scout Pack. We meet Tuesdays at 6pm at St. Stephen Church. If interested, please reach out to Adam Hillary (adamj_h11@yahoo.com) or Bill Mulholland (616-822-5814) for more information.

Parish News!

Corpus Christi: monthly Adoration with confession, 6:30 - 8pm, September 12! Families with children of all ages are welcome! Confessions will be heard throughout. A Young Adult Social (18-39) will take place in the Ministry Center afterwards, from 8 to 9:30 pm. Questions? Contact Tim Horst at timhorst@stthomasgr.org.

Receiving the Sacraments

- **2nd Graders** - **[Registration for First Holy Communion](#)** (Parent & Child Meeting in February; Retreat and FHC Masses in April 2026)
- **8th Graders** - **[Registration for Confirmation](#)** (Sponsor/Parent & Child Meetings begin in October; Confirmation takes place in March 2026)
- **Adults** - **[OCIA: Becoming Catholic Inquiry Form](#)** (for adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and/or becoming Catholic!)

Schwallier's Shindig!

Sunday, September 28, 3:30- 5:30 p.m.

Schwallier's Country Basket

1185 9 Mile Road NW, Sparta, MI 49345

Come enjoy some fall fun with other school families!

We will have donuts and cider in the barn!



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

invites you to



GRANDFRIENDS' DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17: 8- 11 AM



8:00 AM Arrival

8:15 AM All School Mass

9:45 AM Classroom visits

Coffee & light refreshments available

11:00 AM Dismissal

[REGISTER HERE](#)

in partnership with the
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION