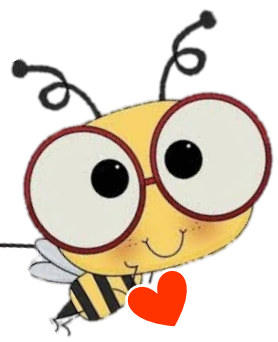


WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

a century of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • 1925-2025



Nov. 24-28, 2025

Next week!

The virtue this week is **gratitude**: a thankful disposition of mind and heart.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 –

- Uniform Holiday
- Parent Rosary, 2:45pm, inside church
- Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm, inside church

Wednesday, Nov. 26 – Friday, Nov. 28 – No school; Thanksgiving break.

***** After Break *****

Monday, Dec. 1 – First deadline for 2026-27 Blackbaud financial aid

Tuesday, Dec. 2 –

- Parent Rosary, 2:45pm, inside church
- Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm, inside church
- School Board meeting, 6pm, Ministry Center

Wednesday, Dec. 3 –

- All-School Mass, 8:15am
- Gym Time, 11:10am, Saint Thomas Gym

Friday, Dec. 5 –

- Saint Nicholas visits!
- Storytime, 10am, Preschool Center

Saturday, Dec. 6 – Saint Nicholas Feast Day Party, 3pm, Preschool

Corcoran's Corner!

Check out this special edition of Corcoran's Corner – Principal's Principles. Learn about Mr. Corcoran's priorities as our school leader.

[Video](#) / [Slidedeck](#)

Thanksgiving Drive!

Our Saint Thomas community will be collecting food and toiletries for our neighbors in need, Nov. 14-Dec. 2. Let's kick off this holiday season with some small acts of kindness that go a long way!

Here's what we will be collecting:

Preschool: Toiletries (Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, shampoo & conditioner, combs, toilet paper, etc.)

K-5: Dry Goods (Mac & Cheese, Rice, Stuffing, Cereal, Pasta, Beans, etc.)

6-8: Canned Goods (Soups, Canned vegetables, Canned fruits, etc.)

Grandfriends Club: Diapers (Size 3 & Up); Adult gloves & hats

Please drop off goods at the Ministry Center or the Preschool Center.

Cookie tray sign up!

Do you love to bake? Or spread Christmas cheer? Or both? On Dec. 10, we are putting together Christmas cookie trays for each staff member. We need a lot of cookies, and we would be very grateful to all who can help! Sign up using our [Christmas Cookie Sign Up Genius](#).

Looking ahead!

- Dec. 8 – All-School Mass, 8:15am
- Dec. 9 – Reconciliation Service, 5pm – Check out this [Corcoran's Corner](#) for more information about this service.
- Dec. 10 – Christmas cookie tray assembly/delivery
- Dec. 10 – School Reconciliation Service, 10am
- Dec. 10 – Advent Music Concert, 6pm (see last page for more details)
- Dec. 14 – 5th – 8th grade Christmas Band Concert, 2:30pm, CC gym
- Dec. 16 – Uniform holiday
- Dec. 22-Jan. 4 – Christmas break

School lunch!

Here are our [November 2025](#) and [December 2025](#) lunch menus.

Mass participants for Dec. 3

- 1st reading: Lincoln L
- Petitions: Frankie N, Mary B, Eli M, Forest H, Colin J, Henry T
- Altar servers: Eliza S, Eleanor V, Alaina B
- Sacristan: Asher K, Eliana K
- Gifts: Isabel C, Will D
- Ushers: Barrett T, Leon K
- Xylophones: Leo, Molly, Mackenzie, Emma Sa.
- Tone chimes: Xavier, Levi, Edward, Joseph
- Song leaders: Ceci W, Olivia B, Gabby M

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 topics:

- How can we live boldly and love big in our family?
- What are you thankful for and how can we show this gratitude to God?



We want your feedback!

Each December, we ask parents for feedback on how our staff and faculty are doing. At this point in the year, we are in our routines and the school year is up and running. We ask parents to reflect on the last few months of school and share their input. This is one way we partner with you as the first educator of your children. These surveys help faculty and staff recognize their strengths and areas for improvement.

Surveys: [Teacher](#) / [Admin](#) / [Principal](#)

Sign up for Winter II GRACEAC Sports!

The window to register for GRACEAC Winter II sports is open! If your student is interested in Girls Basketball or Boys/Girls Ski, visit <https://graceac.com/winter-ii/> to register today. The deadline to register is Nov. 30. After that, there will be a late fee.

Blackbaud Financial Aid window open!

The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2026-27 school year is open. **The first deadline is Dec. 1, 2025.** Visit studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school to get started and check out the [2026-27 Blackbaud Financial Aid parent application guide](#) and the [2026-27 parent instructions](#) to help.

Auction sponsorship opportunities!

Calling all STA business owners! Interested in being a 2026 Auction Sponsor? Reach out to Lucas Van Drunen (lucas.vandrunen@gmail.com) and/or Lindsay Keegan (keegan.d.lindsay@gmail.com) to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities.

Parent basketball nights!

The Thursday night women's basketball group will now be meeting at **8pm** in the Saint Thomas gym! All Saint Thomas moms are welcome! Contact Val Wieten (616-822-9051) with questions.

Saint Thomas dads' basketball will meet on **Tuesday** nights at 8:30pm. All Saint Thomas dads are welcome. If interested, contact Gareth Emmerson (616-214-9702) to be added to the group for planning purposes.



Traveling Rosary!

Our mission effectiveness team would like to invite you to participate in our Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary. Lift up our school staff teachers parents and kids and your daily prayers while you pray this rosary. If you are interested, use our [Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary Sign Up Genius](#).

Library News!

Did you know that Saint Thomas School has an online book catalogue? You can search to see what books we have, what books you might want your child to request to bring home, what's new, and more. Visit <https://stthomasgr.library.site/> to access it.

Parish News!

Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner – All are invited! Saint Thomas the Apostle Church will be hosting the annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner on **Thursday, Nov. 27, from 12-2pm** in the church lower level. All are invited to join in the celebration at 1449 Wilcox Park Drive SE, GR, MI. [RSVP to attend](#) or call (616) 459-4662. If you are interested in volunteering, please [RSVP to volunteer](#).

Advent by Candlelight – Please join us **Friday, December 5 at 7pm** for a special evening of faith and fellowship for women. We start our evening in the Church, followed by a festive reception in the lower level where you can sit at a reserved table of up to eight ladies, while mingling through the beverage and food tables. Please [RSVP HERE](#).

A green poster for a Saint Thomas Advent Concert. It features musical notes at the top, a green Christmas tree with yellow stars and musical notes on the right, and four lit purple candles on the left.

Saint Thomas Advent Concert

K-4 AND 6-8 CHOIR STUDENTS

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Saint Thomas Church

Students arrive at 5:45.
Wear red, white, or green Sunday best.

Rehearsal on 12/10 at 2:00.
Parents are welcome to attend.

GET CREATIVE THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON!

Watercolor Workshops

THURSDAY, 11/20
FALL FLORALS

THURSDAY, 12/11
HOLIDAY WREATHS & FLORALS

Learn a simple & fun painting process with
STA parent Beth Jacobson!

STA Preschool Center
6:00-8:30pm

Ages 12+, all materials included, \$65

To register email:
bethmariestudiogr@gmail.com