

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

**Dec. 15-19, 2025**

## Next week!

The virtue this week is **humility**: Awareness that all of our gifts come from God and appreciation for the gifts of others.

**Sunday, Dec. 14 – 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Band Concert, 2:30pm,**  
Catholic Central HS gym

**Monday, Dec. 15 –**

- **Deadline to be removed from the STA Family Directory.** If you do NOT want to be included in the school directory, please email [secretary@stthomasqr.org](mailto:secretary@stthomasqr.org) ASAP.
- **Please send in wrapped and labeled gifts for our King's Table families.**

**Tuesday, Dec. 16 –**

- **Uniform holiday**
- **Please send in wrapped and labeled gifts for our King's Table families.**
- **Parent Rosary, 2:45pm,** inside church
- **Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm,** inside church

**Wednesday, Dec. 17 –**

- **All-School Mass, 8:15am.** Please remember Mass uniforms.
- **Gym Time, 11:10am,** Saint Thomas Gym

**Friday, Dec. 19 –**

- **Storytime, 10am,** Preschool Center

## King's Table Families

We are partnering with King's Table Ministries to support three families who have children with serious special needs. Many of their requested items are essential things. Please consider giving a gift, having your child draw a picture or write a prayer, or delivering these things to the families. Thank you!

[Preschool - Kindergarten: Cordona Family Sponsorship](#)

[Grades 1-4: Hoffman Family Sponsorship](#)

[Grades 5-8: Martinez Family Sponsorship](#)

Please bring all **wrapped and labeled** gifts to school on Monday, Dec. 15 or Tuesday, Dec. 16. We will have tables set up near the office. Look for the family name.

## Cookie Thanks!

A special thanks to all those who brought in cookies and helped distribute our teacher/staff Christmas cookie trays! We love our Saint Thomas community!

## Looking ahead!

Dec. 22-Jan. 4 – Christmas break  
Jan. 5 – School resumes  
Jan. 6 – School Board meeting  
Jan. 14 – [Kindergarten Spotlight](#)  
Jan. 15 – All-School Spelling Bee  
Jan. 16 – Second quarter ends  
Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / No school  
Jan. 24/25 – [School Showcase after all Masses](#)  
Jan. 26-30 – Catholic Schools Week  
Jan. 27 – Uniform holiday  
Jan. 28 – [Preschool Palooza](#)

## School lunch!

Here is our [December 2025](#) lunch menu.

## Mass participants for Dec. 17

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading: Gabby M
- Petitions: Forest H, Henry T, Joseph S, Edward E, Frankie N, Ceci W, Colin J
- Altar servers: Olivia B, Eden R
- Sacristan: Eliana K, Asher K
- Gifts: Mary V, Harriet W
- Ushers: Emma Sa, Emma St
- Bells: John, Liam, Nixon
- Song leaders: Kain, Lennyn, Mari

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



## Welcome to our littlest Hornet!

Little Hornets are popping up everywhere! Join us in welcoming another Saint Thomas community member – Clementine Magdalene. Clementine was born on Nov. 29. Congrats to the Grutter family – especially big sisters Jane (2) and Elouise (4) and big brother Marshall. Welcome to the world, Clementine! We're so glad you're here! If you are interested in providing a meal for the Grutters, please use this [Meal Train for the Grutter Family](#).

## We want your feedback!

There's still time to give your feedback! We ask parents to reflect on the last few months of school and share their input on teachers, administration and the principal. 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](#)

## STA Directory

We are getting ready to email the Saint Thomas Family Directory to our school community. If you do NOT want to be included in the directory, please send an email to [secretary@stthomasqr.org](mailto:secretary@stthomasqr.org) by Dec. 15 to be removed from the directory.

## Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- What does the Sacrament of Reconciliation teach us about God's mercy and love?
- How can we prepare our hearts for Sunday Mass throughout the week?

## After-school clubs!

We are offering after-school clubs through Afterschool Enrichment Solutions. The classes run 3:25-4:25pm. If you are interested in signing up your child for Chess or Stage Stars, go to [www.learningmeansfun.com/signup](http://www.learningmeansfun.com/signup) and complete the online registration. If you have any questions, please contact Afterschool Enrichment Solutions at (847) 482-9999 or email [registration@learningmeansfun.com](mailto:registration@learningmeansfun.com). Register ASAP! Classes start next week!

Click on the class name below for more details about each class:

[Chess Scholars](#) (Grades K-8)

Meets Wednesdays, 12/17 start date

Course code: TGR12.17.25

[Stage Stars](#) (Grades K-6)

Meets Mondays, 12/15 start date

Course code: TGR12.15.25

## 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](mailto:lucas.vandrunen@gmail.com)) and/or Lindsay Keegan ([keegan.d.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:keegan.d.lindsay@gmail.com)) to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities.

## Blackbaud Financial Aid window open!

The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2026-27 school year is open. To get started, visit [studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school](http://studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school) and check out the [2026-27 Blackbaud Financial Aid parent application guide](#) and the [2026-27 parent instructions](#) to help.

## 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 while you pray the rosary. If you are interested, use our [Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary Sign Up Genius](#).

## Parish News!

[Corpus Christi Adoration w/ Confessions & Advent Stations!](#) Friday, Dec. 12, 6:30 - 8pm. Families with children of all ages are welcome! Confessions will be heard throughout. An Advent "Stations of the Nativity" will be prayed at 7pm.

[Saint Matthew: the Apostle & His Gospel](#), Monday, Dec. 15, 6:30 - 7:30pm, Ministry Center. As we begin a new liturgical year and prepare for Christmas, come get to know this beloved apostle and evangelist. Discover the unique voice and message of the Gospel that we will hear proclaimed each Sunday of this Advent and throughout the year ahead!

## Catholic Central News!

**Cougar Youth Skate:** Skate with the Catholic Central Hockey Team, Dec. 30, 3:30pm. Check out this [Cougar Youth Skate flyer](#) for more details.

# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN  
14

### Kindergarten Spotlight: 6-7pm

Meet our amazing Kindergarten teachers, explore classrooms, and learn how we nurture faith, curiosity & a love for learning.

JAN  
24/25

### School Showcase: After Masses

All are invited to enjoy student-led tours and learn what makes St. Thomas special! Tours after 5pm/7am/9am & 11am Masses. Donuts & Coffee in the Ministry Center on 1/25.

JAN  
28

### Preschool Palooza: 6-7 pm

All prospective 3, 4 and Young 5 students are invited to test drive our new Preschool Center. Meet our teachers, enjoy crafts, games, snacks & a scavenger hunt!



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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