

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



Jan. 25-30, 2026

Catholic Schools Week 2026! We ❤️ Saint Thomas!

## SUNDAY

JANUARY 25

CELEBRATE ST. THOMAS



- Wear your uniform to Mass
- Middle schoolers to offer tours after 7:30, 9 & 11 am Masses
- Coffee & Donuts in the Ministry Center

## MONDAY

JANUARY 26

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

- Dress code: Uniform day
- Parent Rosary at 8:15 am in the Ministry Center
- Students to make cards to honor and welcome St. Stephen's community
- Student "Show & Tell"
- Kick off "Be the Change" competition

## TUESDAY

JANUARY 27

CELEBRATE STUDENTS



- Dress code: Pajama Day
- Fr. Stephen's favorite movies & popcorn for K-5

## WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 28

CELEBRATE VOCATIONS



- Dress code: Mass uniforms
- "Balloon Rosary"
- Fr. Stephen's favorite movie & popcorn for Middle School
- Class donuts
- Preschool Palooza, 6-7 pm

## THURSDAY

JANUARY 29

CELEBRATE NATION



- Dress code: Red/White & Blue
- Chapel speaker: Dr. Casey Parini
- Staff v. 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball game in Gym

## FRIDAY

JANUARY 30

CELEBRATE TEACHERS



- Dress code: Spirit Day
- Red Glasses Award presentation at Chapel
- Bring in a card or small treat for a teacher or staff member
- Middle school field trip to *Main Event*
- "Ready Set Glow" family dance 6-8:30 pm in the Gym

## Catholic Schools Week events!



**Winter Community Dinner, Jan. 24, 6pm:** Join us for fellowship, fun and a free Spaghetti Dinner! Hosted by The Knights of Columbus. RSVP by Jan. 19 to the Parish Office (616-459-4662). Visit our [Community Dinner webpage to RSVP](#) or [sign up to volunteer for the Community Dinner](#).

**School Showcase, January 25 After Masses:** All are invited to enjoy student-led tours happening after all Masses and learn what makes Saint Thomas special. Tours will take place after 7:30, 9, 11am Masses. Donuts and coffee in the Ministry Center.

**Preschool Palooza, January 28, 6-7pm:** All prospective 3, 4, and Young 5 students and their parents are invited to explore our new Preschool Center. Meet our teachers, enjoy crafts, games, snacks, and a scavenger hunt. Please use our [Preschool Palooza Google form to RSVP](#).

**Ready! Set! GLOW! Family Dance, Jan. 30, 6-8:30pm:**  
Join us to celebrate our Saint Thomas School Community!  
All school families are welcome. There will be pizza, music, glow sticks, face painting, and more! You can still [sign up to bring items or volunteer at the Family Dance](#).

## School lunch!

Here is our [January 2026](#) lunch menu. Please note:  
There is a change to the lunch menu: Friday, 1/30 is  
Little Caesar's pizza.

## Mass participants for Jan. 28

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading: Eliza L
- Petitions: Ryan M, Kathleen C, Lina S, Hailey B, Ben P, Anna H
- Altar servers: Eden R, Mary B, Maddie S
- Sacristan: Eliana K, Asher K
- Gifts: Nari G, Jack J
- Ushers: Anthony N, Gage F
- Xylophones: Leo D, Molly H, Mackenzie S, Emma Sa
- Bells: Ari, Makbel, Rowan
- Song leaders: Ros, Mia P, Emma G

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



## CSW movies for students

To celebrate Catholic Schools Week, our students will be watching some of Father Stephen's favorite movies. **If you do not want your child to watch the assigned movie, please email your child's homeroom teacher.** The movies are:

- Finding Nemo, grades K-2
- Prince of Egypt, grades 3-5
- Cool Runnings, middle school

We are looking for a few parent volunteers to help with CSW movies and more. If you're interested, please use our [CSW Volunteer Sign Up Genius](#).

## Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- If we had a family mission statement, what would it be?
- What is something kind someone in our family has done for you recently?

## Upcoming Sacrament events

**8th Grade Confirmation Candidate-Sponsor Session**, Jan 25, 2:30pm. Fr. Stephen will lead a Question and Answer Session with all 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates and their sponsor and/or parent(s) in the Lower Level of Church.

**2nd Grade First Communion Session**, Feb 1, 2:30pm.

Fr. Stephen will lead a session of prayer and reflection for 2nd Graders and their parents in preparation for their First Communion Mass, followed by a commemorative plate-making opportunity in the Lower Level with The Mud Room.

## Looking ahead!

Feb. 3 – School Board meeting, 6pm

Feb. 5 – Parent teacher evening conferences

Feb. 6 – Half day / Parent teacher afternoon conferences

Feb. 13-17 – No school / Mid-winter break

Feb. 24 – Uniform holiday

March 5 – Dinos with Dads

March 6 – No school; teacher professional development

March 10 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

March 11-12 – Accreditation Site Visit

March 19 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Songfest

## GRACEAC spring sports sign up!

Registration for GRACEAC spring sports is open. The available sports are: boys baseball, boys and girls lacrosse, girls softball, girls soccer, girls and boys tennis and girls and boys track & field. If your child is interested, please register using the [GRACEAC Spring Sports Sign Up](#).

The deadline to sign up is Feb. 15. After Feb. 15, there will be a late fee.

## Spring musical auditions!

Due to this week's snow days, the remaining auditions for *The Lion King* have been rescheduled for Monday, January 26, after school, from 3:30-4:30pm in the Ministry Center.

This is a great opportunity for students to be part of an exciting production! We encourage all interested students to audition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Katie Lewis at [katherinelewis@stthomasgr.org](mailto:katherinelewis@stthomasgr.org).





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!



**LOCATION:** St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool Center

1530 Fulton Street E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Registration information for the 2026-2027 school year will be provided!  
All prospective students welcome.



**REGISTER HERE >**



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Join artist and STA parent Beth Jacobson  
for a creative evening out!

# Painting Workshops

STA Preschool Center  
Thursdays 6:00-8:30pm  
Ages 12+, \$65, all materials included!\*

Follow this link to sign up:



- **January 29th**  
Snowman (Watercolors)
- **February 26th**  
Sweet Treats (Acrylics)
- **March 19th**  
Irish Landscape (Watercolors)
- **April 23rd**  
Spring Florals (Acrylics)
- **May 14th**  
Butterflies (Watercolors)

\*Early bird pricing--sign up and pay 1 month prior  
to class and receive \$5 discount!

Questions? [bethmariejacobson@gmail.com](mailto:bethmariejacobson@gmail.com)