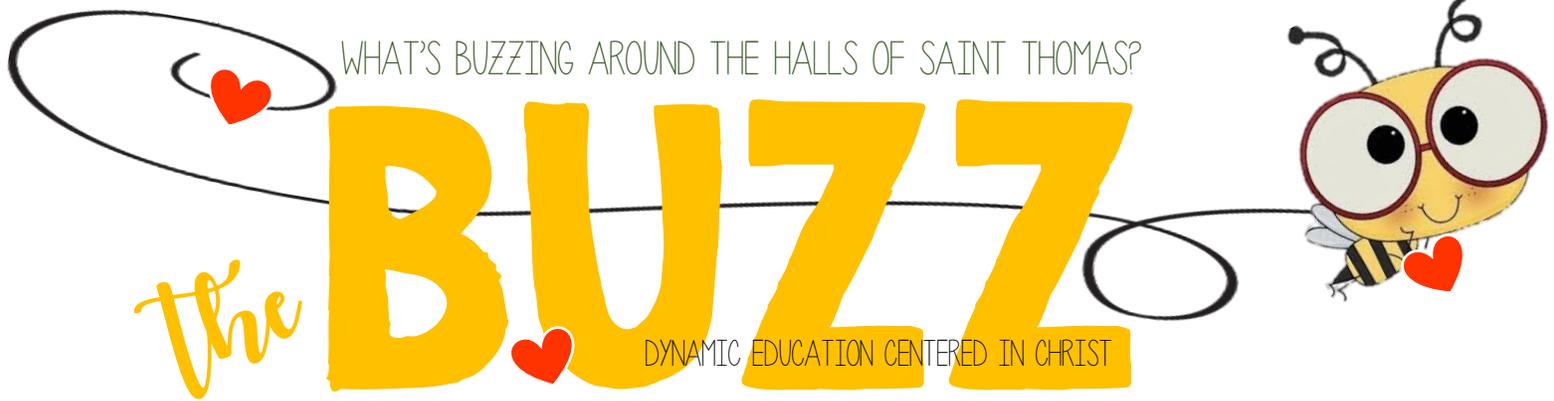


WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?



Feb. 23-27, 2026

Next week!

The virtue of the week is **perseverance**: Taking the steps necessary to carry out objectives in spite of difficulties.

Sunday, Feb. 22 – Together We Win (formerly Rumble) Game, 1pm, Saint Thomas Gym. Everyone is welcome! Come support our very own Mr. Drew and his Special Olympics basketball team!

Monday, Feb. 23 –

- **3-5 Parent to Parent Series: Having Conversations about Sex and the Body, 8:30am**, Ministry Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 –

- **Uniform holiday**
- **Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:30pm**, Church
- **Parent Rosary, 2:45pm**, Church
- **Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm**, Church

Wednesday, Feb. 25 –

- **All-School Mass, 8:15am**. Please remember Mass uniforms.
- **0-5ers Gym Time, 11:10am**, Saint Thomas Gym

Thursday, Feb. 26 –

- **School reconciliation service, 12:30-2:30pm**, Church. Students in grades 3-8 will participate in this service. Multiple priests will be available at this time.

Friday, Feb. 27 –

- **0-5ers Story Time, 10am**, Preschool Center
- **Pancake Lunch served by Mr. Don Serba**, Lunchroom

2026-27 Enrollment!

We're gearing up for the 2026-27 school year! Thank you to all the families who have completed enrollment information.

To those families who haven't submitted the enrollment forms, you should have received an email to enroll your child(ren) for next year. If you didn't receive the enrollment email, please check spam or search for an email from this address: info+stthomas@fsenrollment.com.

If you still can't find the email or if you have any questions about enrollment, please contact our STA Admissions Director Cammi Lawrence at clawrence@stthomasqr.org.

Financial assistance 26/27!

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

Looking ahead!

March 2 – [6-8 Parent to Parent Series](#), 8:30am
March 5 – Dinos, Dads, and Devotions, 6pm
March 6 – No school; teacher professional development
March 10 – 8th Grade Confirmation
March 10-12 – Ignatius Press Book Fair
March 11-12 – Accreditation Site Visit
March 19 – St. Joseph's Day (red shirt day, pasta collection)
March 19 – Grandfriends' Coffee Club, 8:30am
March 19 – 4th Grade Songfest
March 22 – Family Literacy Event, 12:30pm
April 6-10 – Spring Break; no school
April 24 – First Communion retreat
April 26 – First Communion Mass, 3pm
May 3 – First Communion Mass, 3pm
May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week

School lunch!

Here is our [February lunch menu](#).

Mass participants for Feb. 25

- 1st reading: Mackenzie
- Petitions: Michael C, Domenic N, David A, Mavis H, Iris V, Caroline L
- Sacristan: Eliana K, Asher K
- Gifts: Fred G, Julian G
- Alter servers: Maddie S, Sarah H, Eliza S
- Ushers: Jane B, Alexis B
- Xylophones: Leon, Mia, Emma G, Frankie
- Song leaders: Cora, Iris

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:

- When is it hardest to live out our faith — and what helps us stay faithful in those moments?
- How can forgiveness bring healing and peace within our home?

Drop off / Pick Up Reminder

We're seeing a lot of families dropping kids off or picking them up in front of school. This is absolutely not allowed. For the safety of our students and our community, we ask that you drop off and pick up **ONLY** in the carline, the gateline or park in the parking lot and walk to drop off or pick up your child. This is for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. If you are dropping off late or picking up early for an appointment, you may park in front of school and walk in.

Also, a reminder to **treat Wilcox Park Drive as a one-way westbound street** at pick up and drop off times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Uniform update

My Aplus Uniforms, one of our school uniform providers, no longer has a physical store in Grand Rapids (you can still order online). However, they have given us sample skirts to try on for sizing. If you are interested in having your child try on a sample before ordering online, please contact the office.



you belong here!
**register today for
2026-2027!**

After-school enrichment classes

We are offering a program through Afterschool Enrichment Solutions. The classes run 3:25-4:25pm starting in March. If your child is interested in Stage Stars, Music Start or Chess, go to 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. Click on the links below for class descriptions:

- [Stage Stars \(K-6th\)](#): Mondays. Course code: TGR3.16.26
- [Music Start \(Grades 2-5\)](#): Tuesdays. Course code: TGR3.17.26
- [Chess \(K-8th Grade\)](#): Wednesdays. Course code: TGR3.11.26

GRANDFRIENDS COFFEE CLUB

Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph

New parishioners from St. Stephen's and members of our Grandfriends Club are invited to join us for Chapel followed by coffee & pastries to celebrate St. Joseph's Day!

WHEN: Thursday, March 19 @ 8 AM

WHERE: Saint Thomas the Apostle
1449 Wilcox Park Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

RSVP: Please RSVP [here](#) or with QR code





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!*

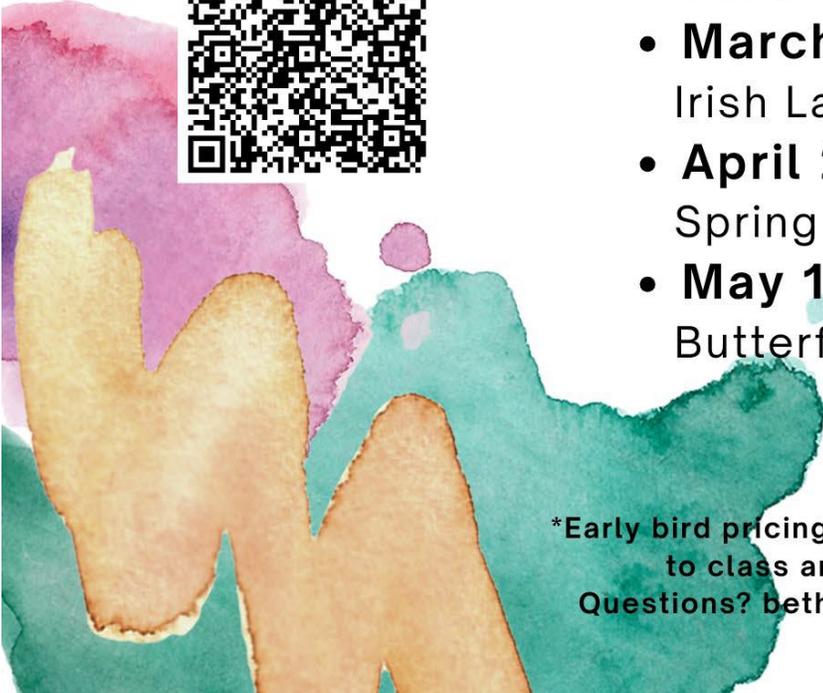
Follow this link to sign up:



- **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? bethmariejacobsongr@gmail.com



STA SPRING BOOK FAIR

20
26

HOSTED BY



IGNATIUS
BOOK FAIRS

BOOK FAIR IS IN THE MINISTRY CENTER!!



Monday 3/9 6:15-7:30PM (during Religious Ed.)

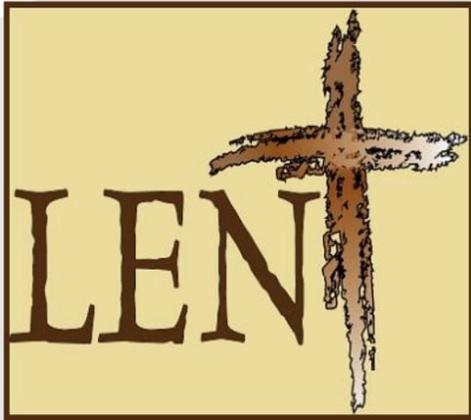
Tuesday 3/10 8AM - 4PM

Wednesday 3/11 8AM - 4PM

Thursday 3/12 8AM - 4PM

QUESTIONS? Contact Sue Edgerly libadmin@stthomasgr.org

- Ignatius Book Fairs is part of Ignatius Press, the Catholic Publishing House.
- Every title is handpicked by their staff to align with our Catholic virtues.
- Titles will be available for all ages.
- Visit ignatius.com/books to view their offerings



**2026 LENT & EASTER PRAYER,
CONFESSION, AND
MASS SCHEDULE**

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays from 9 am to 5:30 pm
Evening Prayer is recited at 5 pm.

Ash Wednesday – February 18

Celebration of Holy Mass with
Distribution of Ashes – 8:15 am, Noon and 7 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, Feb 20, 27, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7 pm

Individual Reconciliation (Confession)

Thursdays, 5:45 – 6:45 pm at *St. Stephen*
Saturdays, 3 - 4 pm from Feb 21 - March 28
Friday, March 13 from 6:30 - 8 pm *Thursday*,
March 19 from 5 – 8 pm
Friday, March 27 from 6 - 7 pm
Wednesday, April 1 from 6 - 8 pm

Holy Thursday, April 2

7 pm – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper*
8 – 11:30 pm – Altar of Repose in Ministry Ctr.
11:30 pm – Night Prayer in Ministry Center

Good Friday, April 3

12:30 pm – Stations of the Cross
1:30 pm – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion*
(*Note new time for the Lord’s Passion service!*)

Holy Saturday, April 4

12 Noon – Blessing of Easter Foods
9 pm – Easter Vigil Mass*

Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses will be celebrated at 7:00, 9, and 11* am
9:30 am at *St. Stephen Church*

**These services will be livestreamed.*

Opportunities for Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Men’s 33-Day Consecration to Saint Joseph

Sunday, February 15, 4 pm Kickoff through Thursday, March 19
Men, take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual growth under the guidance and intercession of St. Joseph-Husband of Mary, Foster-Father of Jesus, and Terror of Demons. RSVP: bit.ly/33Joseph or on Parish website.

Soup and Fellowship prior to the Stations of the Cross

Fridays, Feb 20, 27 and Mar 6 13, 20, 27 at 6 pm in the Church LL
Stations of the Cross at 7 pm in the Church
Meatless soup is provided. Bring a salad or a loaf of bread to share.

Women’s Lenten Morning of Reflection

Saturday, February 21 from 8:30 - Noon in the Ministry Center
All women are invited to this time of fellowship, prayer, and spiritual renewal as we begin our Lenten journey. Guest speaker, Julie Bevins, wife of Deacon David Bevins. RSVP by February 19 on the Parish website.

Lectio Divina of the Gospels

Mondays, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 7:50 - 8:50 am in the Rectory Fireside Room

Lectio Divina or “divine reading” is a process of engaging with Christ, the Word of God, through four steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation. Gather to reflect on the Sunday Gospel and grow in your relationship with Christ. Facilitated by parishioner Mary Clark-Kaiser.

Corpus Christi Lent Edition: An Evening of Adoration and Stations of the Cross with Confession

Friday, March 13 from 6:30 - 8 pm in the Church
A soup supper will be offered at 6 pm, family time of Adoration at 6:30 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7 pm. Confessions will be heard throughout Eucharistic Adoration.

The Light is On for You! An Evening of Confession

Thursday, March 19 from 5 - 8 pm in the Church

Opportunities for Almsgiving and Service

Contact Lori Fedewa at lorifedewa@stthomasgr.org to inquire:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS): For Lent For Life

CRS Rice Bowl invites you to reflect on how your Lenten sacrifices can help families around the world overcome the challenges of hunger and poor nutrition. Pick up your CRS Rice Bowl in the back of Church.

Family Service Opportunity: Kids Food Basket (KFB)

Wednesday, March 4, 6 - 7:30 pm at KFB (1300 Plymouth NE)
Join us in assisting KFB at their GR location. Volunteers (5 and up) are needed to help prep food for super sacks. Register on the Parish website.

Blood Drive

Sunday, March 15 from 8:30 am – 1 pm in the Ministry Center
Appointments are encouraged. To sign up, call Versiti at (616) 233-8509 or see the Parish website.

Community Cuisine Night at Carlton Lofts

Help coordinate/prepare a weeknight meal and engage with Carlton Lofts residents in a meaningful and impactful way; one in Feb. and one in March. Watch the Parish bulletin or website for the schedule of dates.