

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

March 2-6, 2026

Next week! MARCH IS READING MONTH!

The virtue of the week is **fortitude**: The ability to overcome fear and remain steady in our will in the face of obstacles.

Monday, March 2 –

- [6-8 Parent to Parent Series: Having Conversations about Sex and the Body](#), 8:30am, Ministry Center.

Tuesday, March 3 –

- **Read My Shirt for March is Reading Month (full uniform holiday)!**
- Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:30pm, Church
- Parent Rosary, 2:45pm, Church
- Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm, Church
- School Board meeting, 6pm, Ministry Center

Wednesday, March 4 –

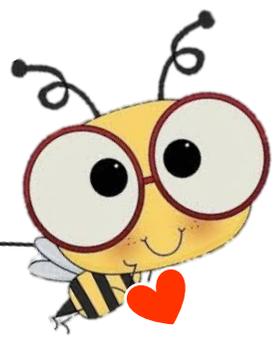
- All-School Mass, 8:15am. Please remember Mass uniforms.
- 0-5ers Gym Time, 11:10am, Saint Thomas Gym

Thursday, March 5 – Dinos, Dads and Devotions, 6pm, Preschool Center

Friday, March 6 – No school; teacher professional development

St. Joseph Day Meal for Teachers

We are hoping to start a new tradition of celebrating St. Joseph's Day with a pasta meal for our teachers and staff at lunch. If you can contribute to the lunch on Thursday, March 19, please use our [St. Joseph Day Sign Up Genius](#) to contribute. All food items can be brought to the office or teacher's lounge on March 19, by 11am.



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.

Uniform holidays!

To celebrate March is Reading Month, we will be having uniform holidays every Tuesday in March. Here are the themes for each uniform holiday:

March 3 – Read My Shirt Day

March 10 – Spirit Day

March 17 – Comfy Day

March 24 – Show your Faith Day

Looking ahead!

March 10 – 8th Grade Confirmation
March 10-12 – Ignatius Press Book Fair
March 11-12 – Accreditation Site Visit
March 16 – [K-2 Parent-to-Parent Series](#), 8:30am
March 19 – St. Joseph's Day (red shirt day, pasta collection)
March 19 – Grandfriends' Coffee Club, 8:30am
March 19 – 4th Grade Songfest
March 20 – Party in your Parka, 6pm ([Complete this waiver](#) to attend)
March 21 – Rock your Socks Day / Down Syndrome Awareness Day
March 21 – Euchre Tournament
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 [March lunch menu](#).

Mass participants for March 4

- 1st reading: Paige K
- Petitions: Mary B, Eli M, Colin J, Ceci W, Forest H, Joseph S, Henry T, Edward E
- Sacristan: Eliana K, Asher K
- Gifts: Bryson H, Mila L
- Alter servers: Chris A, Cam M, Oliver VD
- Ushers: Leon K, Barrett T
- Xylophones: Rebekah H, Eliza L, Eden R, Gabby M
- Song leaders: Nixon, Jane, Liam

Auction request

The Emerald Auction team is seeking donations for this year's event and we would be grateful for any gift basket items, vacation homes, gift cards, sporting tickets and/or experiences you would kindly be willing to donate. Please contact Lindsay Keegan at keegan.d.lindsay@gmail.com or 773-368-7252 with any questions or donate online by visiting our [Auction website](#) and click on "Donate an Item for Auction."



Love and Logic

Our Parish will be offering Love and Logic courses. Love and Logic offers a variety of simple yet effective parenting resources designed to support families from birth to adulthood. These trusted resources for parenting are grounded in love, respect, and proven strategies that make a lasting difference.

Parishioner Helen Milanowski will offer the Parenting the Love and Logic Way training course beginning March 8 for 6 weeks on Sunday afternoons. The class will meet Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, plus two additional sessions in April from 2:30 – 4:30pm in the Preschool Center. The cost is \$85 per couple, which includes a parent booklet. Childcare will be provided if requested. The Parenting the Love and Logic Way curriculum was developed by Jim Fay, Charles Fay, Ph.D., and Foster W. Cline, M.D. [Register online for the course](#) or call Helen at (616)-774-8471.

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

What does the Sacrament of Reconciliation teach us about God's mercy and love?

How is your Lent going?

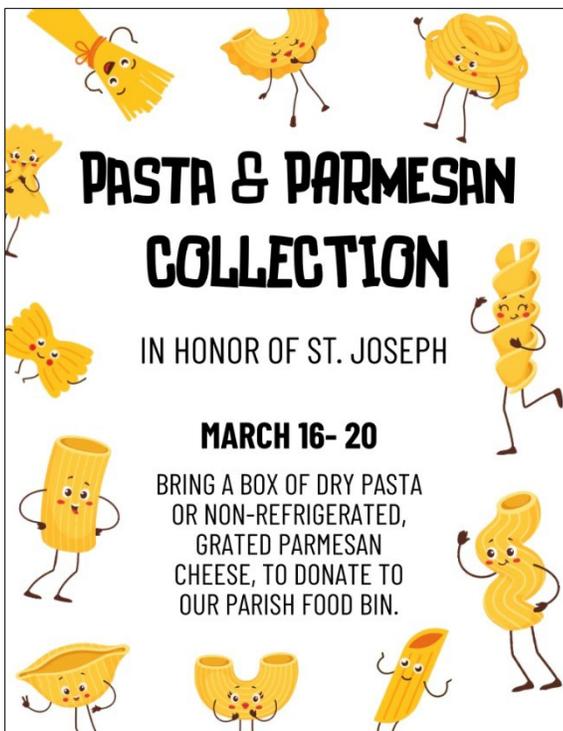


ACT/Red Glasses Movement

Our school will participate in the Red Glasses Movement to honor the legacy of Audrey Jandernoa, who was a preschool friend and classmate to many of our current 7th-graders. We are kicking off an art supply drive for Artists Creating Together (ACT), an inclusive art organization. We invite our school community to donate art supplies to support ACT. Check out this [ACT Wishlist of items to donate](#) throughout the month of March. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Walsh.

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



Celebrating St. Joseph



GRANDFRIENDS COFFEE CLUB

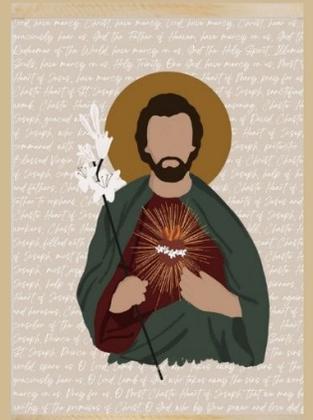
Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph

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



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



READ AROUND THE WORLD



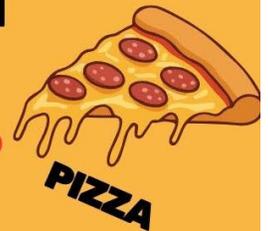
LITERACY DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

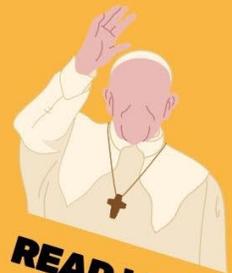
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 12:30-2:30PM



PreK - 5th graders: Get your passport and travel from room to room with your family to see how reading takes you places!



**READ BY
CAMPFIRE!**



**READ WITH
POPE LEO!**



SAFARI ADVENTURE!

***BRING GENTLY USED
BOOKS TO DONATE TO
CARLTON LOFTS.**



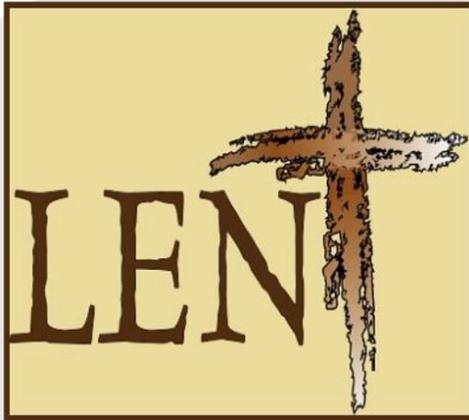
VISIT SPACE!

RSVP: SIGN UP HERE





Opportunities for Prayer and Spiritual Growth



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.*

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.