

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 16-20, 2026

Next week! MARCH IS READING MONTH!

The virtue of the week is **generosity**: Giving to another person something of yours as an act of free will, without obligation.

Monday, March 16 – [K-2 Parent-to-Parent Series](#), 8:30am, Ministry Center

Tuesday, March 17 –

- **Comfy Clothes for March is Reading Month (wear sweatpants, sweatshirts, joggers, tshirts – no pajamas, no slippers, please)!**
- **St. Patrick's Day assembly with Irish Dancers**, Church Lower Level, 8:30am
- **Eucharistic Adoration**, 9am to 5:30pm, Church
- **Parent Rosary**, 2:45pm, Church
- **Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy**, 3:05pm, Church

Wednesday, March 18 –

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

Thursday, March 19 – St. Joseph's Day

- **Wear red shirts with uniform bottoms to honor St. Joseph**
- **Pasta and Parmesan Collection all week for St. Joseph**
- **Grandfriends' Coffee Club**, 8:30am, Ministry Center
- **4th Grade Songfest**

Friday, March 20 –

- **Rock your Socks Day / Down Syndrome Awareness Day**
- **0-5ers Story Time**, 10am, Preschool
- **Party in your Parka**, 6pm, South Side Ice Arena (566 100th St SW, Byron Center, MI 49315) ([Complete this waiver](#) to attend).

Saturday, March 21 – Euchre Tournament, St. Thomas Gym, 7pm.

There's still time to RSVP! Email boosters@stthomasgr.org.

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.



**PASTA & PARMESAN
COLLECTION**

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH

MARCH 16- 20

BRING A BOX OF DRY PASTA OR NON-REFRIGERATED, GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE, TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH FOOD BIN.

The poster features several cartoon pasta shapes (like shells, tubes, and spaghetti) with faces and arms, arranged around the text. A hand-drawn arrow points from the '4th Grade Songfest' item in the Thursday list to the poster.

Looking ahead!

March 22 – Family Literacy Event, 12:30pm (see flyer)
April 6-10 – Spring Break; no school
April 16 – Renewing the Catholic Family Speaker Series (see flyer)
April 24 – First Communion retreat
April 26 – First Communion Mass, 3pm
May 3 – First Communion Mass, 3pm
May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
May 5 – School Board meeting
May 12 – Boosters Golf Outing
May 25 – Memorial Day; no school
May 26 – Uniform holiday
May 27/28 – Lion King Performance, 6pm

School lunch!

Here is our [March lunch menu](#). Please note these upcoming lunch changes:

- Tuesday, March 17 – Bosco sticks
- Thursday, March 19 – Pasta and meatballs
- Thursday, March 26 – Hot dogs

Mr. Don Serba will be serving up smiles and stacks of pancakes for **Free Pancake Day on Friday, March 27!** Students can enjoy a pancake lunch prepared by Mr. Serba. Pancakes will take the place of our regular hot lunch that day. Options are chocolate chip and plain.

Mass participants for March 18

- 1st reading: Lincoln
- Petitions: Edward E, Ceci W, Forest H, Eli M, Mary B, Colin J, Joseph S
- Sacristan: Eliana K, Asher K
- Gifts: Casper, Lennyn S
- Altar servers: Henry T, Evan B, Oliver VD
- Ushers: Gage F, Drew N
- Bells: Asher, Molly S, Maddie P
- Xylophones: Leon, Mia, Emma G, Frankie
- Song leaders: Ismelda, Sadie

Book Fair thanks!

The Book Fair committee would like to thank everyone for an amazing fair. We couldn't have done it without the students, parents, and teachers who came by and shopped. THANK YOU!

If you still want to buy a book, you can order online by creating an [Ignatius family account](#).

Changes at end of the quarter?!

The end of the third quarter is approaching – March 27! If you'd like to make changes to Kindergarten Enrichment, Preschool Add-Ons, or Childcare or Hornets' Nest days, contact Cammi Lawrence (clawrence@stthomasqr.org) now or before March 27. We are happy to make changes but we ask that you do this only at the end of the quarter.

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."

PARTY IN YOUR PARKA

Southside Ice Arena

6-8
PM



20TH
MARCH

Complimentary Open Skate and Rental,
provided by the Slobodnik family!

Please sign waiver at [link here](#)
Dress Warmly & consider bringing bike helmets for novice skaters!

Renewing the Catholic Family Speaker Series

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
6:00-6:30- RECEPTION

6:30-7:30 - PRESENTATION

7:30-8:30 - Q&A / FELLOWSHIP

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY
UPPER LEVEL - BROPHY ROOM
1110 4 MILE RD NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI

 SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

 **CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
of West Michigan

 IMMACULATE
HEART OF
MARY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

 **SPA**
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

 **ASA**
All Saints Academy

JEFF VELEY



Raising kids in today's world can feel overwhelming. Join us for an inspiring evening with Jeff Veley as he shares practical tools for raising resilient, faith-filled children.



READ AROUND THE WORLD



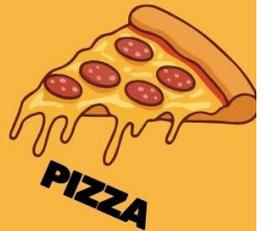
LITERACY DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

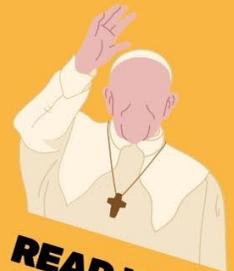
PRESCHOOL BUILDING 12:30-2:30PM



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!

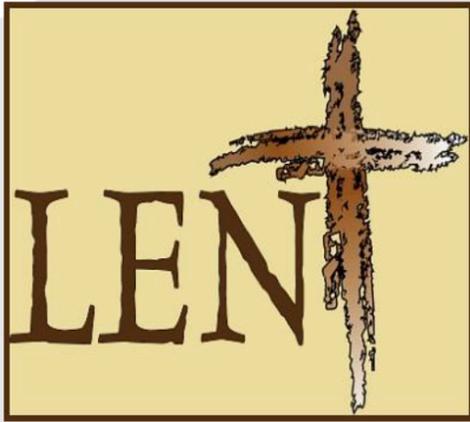


VISIT SPACE!

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

RSVP: SIGN UP HERE





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.