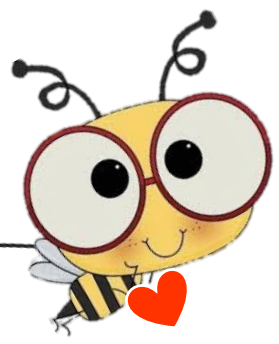


WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • est. 1925



Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 2026

EMERALD AUCTION WEEK IS HERE!

Next week!

The virtue this week is **patriotism**: paying due honor and respect to one's country, with a willingness to serve.

Monday, Sept. 28 – Preschool Coffee Talk, 8:15am, Preschool

Tuesday, Sept. 29 –

- Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:15pm, Church
- Parent Rosary, 2:45pm, Church
- Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm, Church

Wednesday, Sept. 30 –

- Mass, 8:30am. Please remember Mass uniforms.
- **Deadline to register for Winter 1 GRACEAC sports.** If your child is interested in basketball or competitive cheer, please [register on the GRACEAC website](#). **The deadline to register is Sept. 30.** After Sept. 30, there will be a late fee to register.

Saturday, Oct. 3 –

- **STA in the Pulaski Day Parade, 11am.** For more info, contact Molly Kennedy (m.maxbauer@gmail.com).
- **Emerald Auction, 5:30pm,** St. Nicholas Cultural Center (2250 East Paris Ave. SE). Let's celebrate!

Uniform reminder!

The last day to wear shorts and skirts without leggings is Oct. 30. Beginning on Nov. 2, students must wear pants or skirts with leggings. Please make sure pants are long enough and locate leggings before Nov. 2. Thank you.

Emerald Auction News!

Get excited! The [Saint Thomas Emerald Silent Auction](#) is LIVE! There are so many amazing items up for grabs, so bid early and bid often! And don't forget—this year, our Impact Tables are online and open NOW for donations!

Safety & Security Targeted Donation: Your generosity will be matched up to \$5,000! Let's work together to exceed this goal and make an even greater impact.

Please consider making a donation to support the many needs of our school and parish. Every gift makes a difference! Thank you for helping make the Saint Thomas Emerald Auction a success!



STA Family Directory!

We are preparing our St. Thomas family directory, which we will distribute electronically. If you do NOT want your information included in the directory, please email the school office at secretary@stthomasgr.org by Oct. 1.

Looking ahead!

Oct. 7 – Diocesan All-School Rosary, 1:15pm with Bishop
Oct. 8 – Renewing the Catholic Family Speaker Series, 6pm
Oct. 15-16 – No school / Staff professional development
Oct. 23 – Grandfriends' Day ([RSVP today!](#)) / Fall Book Fair
Oct. 23 – Half day (11:15am dismissal)
Oct. 25 – Trunk or Treat, 3pm
Oct. 27-29 – Fall Book Fair
Oct. 30 – End of first quarter
Oct. 30 – Last day to wear shorts and skirts without leggings
Oct. 30 – Uniform holiday
Nov. 2 – Second quarter begins
Nov. 2 – Pants and leggings with skirts required
Nov. 4 – Picture retakes
Nov. 12 – Evening parent teacher conferences
Nov. 13 – Half day / Dismissal at 11:15am
Nov. 13 – Afternoon parent teacher conferences
Nov. 20 – Uniform holiday
Dec. 15 – STA Advent concert

Mass participants for Sept. 30

- 1st reading: Lucy H
- Petitions: Taygan D, David A, Mavis H, David W, Elouise G, Cora C, Michael C, Bryce B
- Sacristan: Eleanor V, Dylan S
- Gifts: Mila L, Henry P
- Altar servers: Peter B, Ros W, Jack D
- Ushers: Claire VW, Maggie A

Bark enrollment!

We use Bark to monitor your students' email accounts and internet activity for important safety concerns, including cyberbullying, self-harm, and signs of severe distress. If a serious concern is detected, Bark sends an alert to St. Thomas staff and parents who are enrolled in Bark, so you can be aware when your child may need extra support.

To enroll in Bark, please complete this [STA Bark Enrollment form](#). After you submit your information, keep an eye on your email. You'll receive an invitation from Bark with instructions to complete your free account setup.

School lunch and program updates!

Free breakfast and lunch will start Oct. 1 and run until funds are depleted. For more information, please read this [Important Update from West Catholic](#). Please note: **All lunch balances must be paid off before we can begin this program.**

Here are our [September lunch menu](#) and [October lunch menu](#). The September/October breakfast menu is: cereal, goldfish grahams, apple juice and milk. Please make sure you have [paid your students' Infinite Campus lunch balance](#). If you need an Infinite Campus activation code, please email Cammi Lawrence (clawrence@stthomasgr.org).

A message from our Lunch Program

Director: We will **NOT** be offering extra entrées/doubles or alternate meal options in October. With Michigan Meals for All, we anticipate a significant increase in the number of meals served. We will use October to evaluate meal participation and determine the additional food, staffing, and resources needed. Then we will evaluate adding additional meal choices, including extra entrées/doubles and alternate meals. Thank you for your patience. ~Mary Wieber

STA GRACEAC games!

Come out and support our STA student athletes. Check out this [list of Fall 2026 GRACEAC sports games](#) for days, times and locations.



Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- How can you show Christ's love to a classmate who might be having a rough day or feeling left out?
- How do you imagine God's voice sounding when He speaks to us in quiet moments?

Adventure is calling. Scout me in!

WHO: Kids in grades 1-5 and their families who love adventure!

WHAT: Cub scout pack 3217 is ready for you! Come check out the fun, camping, hiking, and fishing with new friends!

WHEN: Tuesday nights 6:00pm-7:00pm

WHERE: Mayflower Congregational Church, 2345 Robinson Road, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

WHY: To have fun through adventure! Scouts and their families will learn so many skills through games and activities!

Need more information? Please reach out to Bill Mulholland at 616-822-5814 with questions or to let us know you're planning to check us out!



After-school enrichment programs!

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 the classes listed below, 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.

Chess Scholars (K-8), September 30-December 9, no class 11/25.

Stage Stars (K-6), October 12-December 7

MusicStart, October 13-December 8

Home & School News!

Home and School would love to help you get connected! Would you please take a couple of minutes to fill out this [STA Parent Questionnaire](#) on ways you'd like to get involved? Thank you so much!

Also, we've got upcoming parent parties scheduled:

Kindergarten: the Johnstons, Nov. 7

1st grade: the Rossis, TBD

7th grade: the Pfennigs, Nov. 14

8th grade: the Williams, TBD

Invites and more information will be coming soon from those who are hosting!

We are still looking for Y5, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grade hosts. Please reach out to Clare

(Clare.delgado14@gmail.com) or Holly (hollykammel@gmail.com) if you are able to host or have questions!

Ordering pictures!

There is still time to order pictures. Visit www.inter-state.com/order and use order code **0644GJB** to order online. Picture retakes will be Nov. 4.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD WANTS A YEARBOOK IN THE SPRING, YOU MUST ORDER THE YEARBOOK NOW AS AN "ADD ON" OR A PACKAGE WHEN YOU ORDER SCHOOL PICTURES!

2026/2027 SPEAKER SERIES

STAND STRONG PARENT STRONG

Our Goal: Empower parents to lead with confidence and authority, stand strong against the culture, and create calmer, more effective discipline.



SPEAKER

DR. RAY

REGISTER HERE
FOR PLANNING
PURPOSES



OCTOBER 8, 2026

6:00 PM | Q&A TO FOLLOW

CATHEDRAL SQUARE

360 DIVISION AVE S
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

SPONSORED BY



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC PARISH

SUPPORTED BY
A GRANT FROM



CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION
of West Michigan



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



TRUNK OR TREAT



October 25, 3-4 PM

St. Thomas Church Parking Lot



Cars must be parked by 2:55 pm.
No exceptions!



Prizes for Best Costume
and Best Trunk!



All our welcome!
Bring candy for 150+

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

GRAND FRIENDS DAY

in partnership with the
THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Please join us for Mass, special student-led tours, classroom visits & the Book Fair!



23 October 2026
8:15-11:15 AM



Saint Thomas the Apostle
1429 Wilcox Park Drive NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Please register
using QR code or
[link](#)



SAINT THOMAS
THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL





ART CLUB!

with Beth Jacobson

WEDNESDAYS

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

6 Week Sessions

Grades K-8th

St. Thomas the Apostle School

1429 Wilcox Park Dr SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Meet in the Art Classroom!!!

Session 1 (Fall I):

September 16th - October 21st

Session 2 (Fall II):

October 28th - December 9th

\$150 per 6 WEEK SESSION

OR

FLEXIBLE PUNCH CARDS:

5 punches = \$165

10 punches = \$300

Sign Up HERE!

