

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • est. 1925



Oct. 5-9, 2026

Next week!

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

Monday, Oct. 5 –

Tuesday, Oct. 6 –

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

Wednesday, Oct. 7 –

- Mass, 8:30am. Please remember Mass uniforms.
- Diocesan All-School Rosary, 1:15pm with the Bishop.

Saturday, Oct. 8 –

- Renewing the Catholic Family Speaker Series, 6pm, Cathedral Square

Newman Society Survey!

The Cardinal Newman Society is asking parents to complete this brief survey about choosing Catholic education. Please take a moment to complete this [13-question Newman Society survey](#).



the
EMERALD
AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 3

We've got a big weekend coming up. This Saturday, Oct. 3, check out these events:

Pulaski Day Parade: St. Thomas will be walking in the Pulaski Day Parade. We'd love to have St. Thomas families join our St. Thomas float.

- K-8 students: wear your STA school uniforms
- Younger siblings: wear red
- Everyone: wear red glasses if you've got 'em!

We're 6-7 in line this year and will be meeting at our float on **Lake Michigan Dr and Valley NW at 10:40am**. Join us and show your STA spirit!

Emerald Auction: Our Emerald Auction event is finally here! Thanks to everyone who has placed bids in our [Silent Auction](#). Bidding closes Saturday, Oct. 3 at noon. So be sure to get your final bids in before noon.

Our live auction/ celebration begins at **5:30pm at the St. Nicholas Cultural Center (2250 East Paris Ave. SE)** on Saturday.

Let's raise our paddles for all of our precious St. Thomas gems – our staff, students and teachers! We love our St. Thomas community!

Looking ahead!

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 Oct. 7

- 1st reading: Margaret K
- Petitions: Olivia S, Lily C, Eddie P, Benjamin P, Izzy C, Kate W
- Sacristan: Eleanor V, Dylan S
- Gifts: Canaan GG, Lennyn S
- Altar servers: Cam M, Eleanor VD, Eliza S
- Ushers: Hannah B, Sophia M

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 started Oct. 1 and will 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 is our [October lunch menu](#). The October breakfast menu is: cereal, goldfish grahams, apple juice and milk.

Please remember, there will be NO extra entrées/doubles or alternate meal options in October.

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.



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.

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- Jesus tells us to be the “light of the world.” How can our family shine His light for others this week?
- Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is known for her “Little Way” of doing small things with great love. What is one “little thing” you can do today with great love?

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.

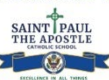
OCTOBER 8, 2026

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

SPEAKER

DR. RAY

REGISTER HERE
FOR PLANNING
PURPOSES



Home & School News!

We've got upcoming parent parties scheduled:

P3: the Boogs, Nov. 5

P4: the Kammels, Oct. 23

Y5: the Delgados, TBD

Kindergarten: the Johnstons, Nov. 7

1st grade: the Rossis, TBD

3rd grade: the Kennedys, TBD

7th grade: the Pfennigs, Nov. 14

8th grade: the Williams, Oct. 23

Invites and more information will be coming soon from those who are hosting!
We are still looking for 2nd, 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!

A decorative border of autumn-themed illustrations surrounds the text. It includes various types of leaves in shades of orange, red, and brown, as well as green leaves. There are also several acorns in brown and tan, and a small branch with leaves. The border is arranged in a roughly circular shape around the central text.

SAINT THOMAS HORNETS ARE

FALL-ING

FOR BOOKS
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

FALL BOOK
FAIR

FRIDAY OCT 23 8AM-12PM
TUESDAY OCT 27 10:30AM-4PM
WEDNESDAY OCT 28 9:30AM-4PM
THURSDAY OCT 29 8AM-12:45PM

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





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+