



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School  
1331 N. Main Street Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-264-4855 Website: stselkhart.com

December 1, 2023



# STS Newsletter

## From the Principal's Desk.....

Happy Friday St. Thomas Parents

Our week has moved quickly - I hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and found time with family restful. In preparation for Christmas, we are entering the season of Advent this Sunday. We will look forward with hopeful anticipation to the coming of our Lord!

Students have been engaged in projects all week. Our 5th grade students received so many compliments from faculty and staff for exemplifying Virtues, they earned their class prize - a "fort day". Great job to the 5th graders for personifying Christ, Compassion, and Character in all they do.

At the end of the day before break we celebrated our Spiritual, Academic, and Athletic success with a Pep-Rally. Our Boys and Girls Soccer teams both won championships! This was a wonderful accomplishment and highlights our students' commitment to performing well both on and off the field.

We'll look forward to all the Christmas programs and festivities the next three weeks have to offer. Our Preschool/PreK and K - 3 Concerts are in a couple weeks and Band follows shortly thereafter. Our 2nd graders will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 6, please be sure to offer words of encouragement and support to them as they grow in their faith.

Looking Ahead

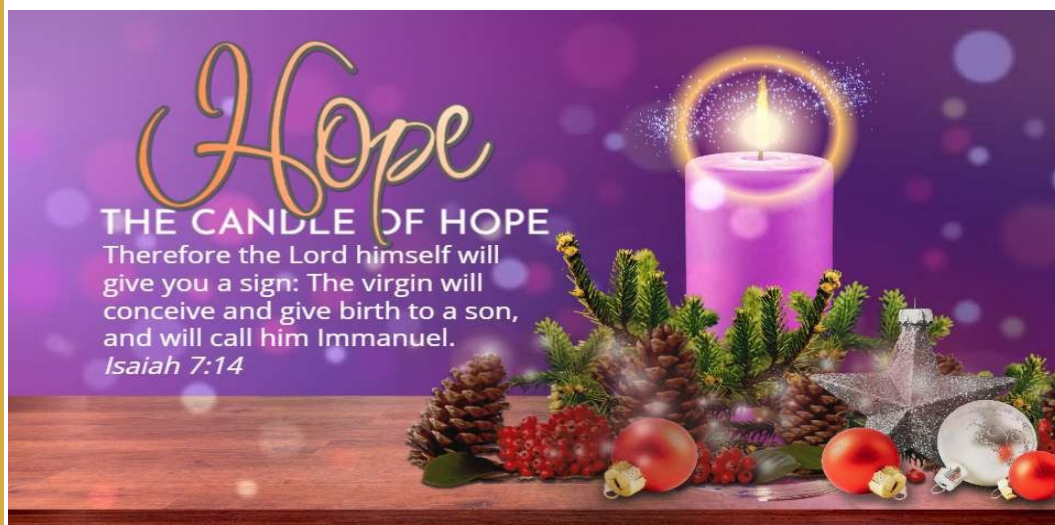
- **NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY** Dec. 6. Mass will be on Friday, Dec. 8. Students begin their Winter NWEA test next week.

I hope you all have a restful weekend. We'll look forward to all this Advent Season has to offer as we return on Monday.

All the best in Christ,

Chris

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only Light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only Love can do that. ~Rev. King



## DATES!!!

### Advent Wreath Making

12/3/23  
after 10:30 AM Mass

### PTO Meeting

12/6/23  
After 8:15 AM Mass

### \$2 Casual Day

12/7/2023

### Donuts with St. Nick

12/9/23 8:45—11 AM  
STS Gym

### Volunteers Needed!!!

*Perfect for High school service hours.*

<https://signup.com/go/TzWWvmx>

### Free Casual Day

12/21/23

### Class Christmas Parties

Friday, December 22  
11 AM—12:30 PM

### Early Dismissal Start Christmas Break

~End Quarter 2~

Friday, December 22  
12:30 PM

### NO AFTERCARE

### NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Junior Day

Monday, January 15

### Early Dismissal

Friday, January 26, 2024  
12:30 PM

### NO AFTERCARE

### Early Dismissal

Tuesday, February 13  
1 PM

### NO AFTERCARE



## K—3rd Christmas Program



The K-3 Christmas program will start at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 14th. All K-3 students will need to arrive and be in their homerooms between 6:00-6:15 pm. Students are welcome to wear Christmas attire or their "Sunday best". **No jeans, shorts, or t-shirts with writing.** Students may also wear their school uniform or Live Nativity shirts. Fun, festive sweaters are fine as long as they are school-appropriate. Please refer to the school dress code policy in the school handbook. Students are also welcome to wear fun accessories (ex: Santa hats, necklaces, etc.) as well.

*Happy Holidays from Your PTO*

*Join us in the PTO room for our **December meeting next Wednesday December 6th after 8:15 AM Mass (9:20)***

***Class Christmas Parties** Friday, December 22nd 11-12:30, Early Dismissal at 12:30*

***Donuts with St. Nick Saturday December 9, 9-11am** **Volunteers Needed** (perfect for High school service hours)*  
<https://signup.com/go/TzWWvmx>

***Donuts with Santa** Last Call for Registrations!!*  
*Please get those in by Monday!*  
<https://forms.gle/NnLkzkAGHV71UUS8>

***Teacher Christmas Gift Program**, Each staff member will receive a holiday gift card from our families, everyone who donates will be listed on the card.*

***Giving Tree:** To benefit families in the STS community who might need a little holiday help*  
*Follow this link to our square store to donate*  
<https://stsspartanstore.square.site/s/shop>



### SAVE THESE MUSICAL DATES!!!!

Wednesday, December 13th—  
Preschool Christmas Program at 6:30pm

Thursday, December 14th -  
K-3 Christmas Program at 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 19th -  
Band Christmas Concert at 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 26th -  
4th/5th Music Program at 6:30pm

Thursday, May 16th -

Middle School Spring Program at 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 21st -

Spring Band Concert at 6:30pm

### ~~~PTO Opportunities~~~

Would you like to spoil our teachers with a carry-in lunch?

Follow the link below to sign up for a month!

<https://signup.com/go/VmKXrMe>

Do you have an awesome idea for a PTO social event?

Please let us know, we are looking for new ideas for November!

Roller Skating Party, Hockey Night, Restaurant Give Back Nights?

If you'd like to assist with planning and scheduling please

email [amyrasler@gmail.com](mailto:amyrasler@gmail.com)

### **Do you have pictures that could be used in the yearbook?**

Attention all parents, coaches, club leaders, and more! Is there a game, play, or other special event that you would love to see in this year's yearbook. Get your pictures to the St. Thomas yearbook coordinator Evelyn Ponce

at [yearbook@stselkhart.com](mailto:yearbook@stselkhart.com) or upload directly

to <https://plicbooks.com/go/C54N7Q> .



# Spartan Christmas Spirit Week



**MONDAY 12/18**  
*Festive hats  
and socks with  
your uniform*



**WEDNESDAY 12/20**  
*Sparkle and shine!  
Wear your fancy  
& festive  
Christmas clothes!*  
*\*mass appropriate*



**FRIDAY 12/22**  
*Wear Christmas  
colors: red,  
green, and/or  
white!*



**TUESDAY 12/19**  
*Wear the cutest  
or ugliest  
Christmas sweater  
you can find!*



**THURSDAY 12/21**  
*School  
appropriate  
holiday  
pajamas*



Monday: Uniforms

Tuesday: Jeans or uniform bottoms

Students not participating on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Friday are expected to be in uniform

## **KEYS—KEYS—KEYS!**

We love our volunteers and the community  
use of our building...but...

\*\*If you have a key or door fob from an  
activity that is no longer ongoing, please  
bring your keys and fobs to the St.  
Thomas School Office\*\*



## **BE PART OF THE ACTION!!!**

St. Thomas Gymnasium Host  
Volunteer Opportunities

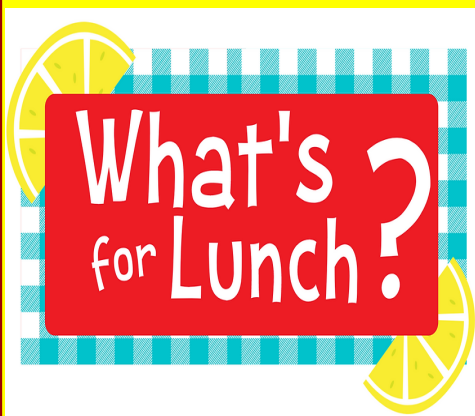
Concessions, Set up, Admissions, Clean up, and Scoreboard

Sign Up Here!!

Help make STS events welcoming to all and support our facilities!

**2023 Volleyball Hosting**

<https://signup.com/go/PcGRkHx>



### **Remember!**

**Milk is included w/ hot lunch order.**

**\*\*Individual milks will be charged at full price  
regardless of lunch status.\*\***

### **DON'T FORGET!!!**

THE CUT OFF FOR LUNCH ORDERING FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK IS

**5 PM FRIDAY**

December, & January Menus  
Open for Ordering on Boonli Site



# CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS

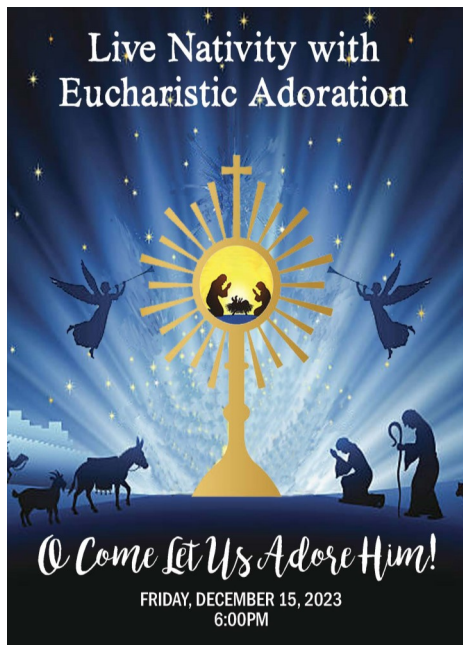
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

574.264.4855

NOVEMBER 30 2023

December is devoted to The Immaculate Conception

## Live Nativity with Eucharistic Adoration



Thank you Mrs. Wilsey for helping our 4th grade students learn about the saints, and to the parents who help at home create these beautiful costumes. We are blessed!



Are you curious what goes on during Friday Formation? Most days are spent in Eucharistic Adoration lead by Fr. Logan, other days may include praying the rosary, and during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross. If you want to participate in Eucharistic Adoration we invite you to the Live Nativity! Father Logan will lead us in prayer and help us prepare our hearts for Christmas. Students will dress in character as the living nativity and sing our traditional hymns to fill our hearts with joy!

During Father's Thursday classroom visits he discussed Genesis 1 before Thanksgiving Break. Last week and yesterday he discussed John 10:10.

Ask your children what they are learning. They are always so excited for his visits every other Thursday!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, December 3**  
First Sunday of Advent

**Friday, December 8**  
8:15am School Mass  
Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A few school moms are starting an Advent Bible Study lead by Fr. Logan. He will instruct moms interested in leading a future small group. Advent Bible Study Meetings are 3:30-4:30pm on December 7, 14 & 21. Lent Bible Study Groups will then break out into smaller groups. If you have questions, please call or text Erin Nickell at 574-370-3288.

FORMED

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

RELEVANT RADIO

SAINT OF THE DAY

USCCB

FWSB DIOCESE

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

 **catholic youth**  
**summer camp**  
GREAT LAKES

We pre-registered 12 girls & 12 boys for Week 1 June 9-14 (Middle School) and 12 girls & 12 boys for Week 2 June 16-21 (High School) for CYSC's newest location, Brighton, Michigan.  
Contact Jen Horoky [jhoroky@stselkhart.com](mailto:jhoroky@stselkhart.com) to reserve your spot ASAP!

 **damascus**



## Help Us Make a Difference In Our Community!

*This year the school is participating in the Salvation Army's "Red Ribbon Laundry Basket Project"! Each classroom has a basket that needs to be filled with household items that will then be distributed to needy families in Elkhart. See the flyer below for more details! Click on your child's teacher to sign up for how you can help our students make a difference!*

*ITEMS DUE DECEMBER 6TH!*



# RED RIBBON LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT



## 2023-2024 Salvation Army Red Ribbon Service Basket Project

Our St. Thomas the Apostle classrooms are collecting items as a service project this Advent. Please feel free to add extra or double any household items that you feel may be helpful. All items should be dropped off at the school by Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Thank you for your help!

Please click on your child's classroom sign up to donate:

[Mrs. Frick Preschool](#)

[Mrs. Tripp Pre-K](#)

[Mrs. Martinez Kindergarten](#)

[Mrs. Shetterly Kindergarten](#)

[Mrs. Culp 1st Grade](#)

[Mrs. Vickers 1st Grade](#)

[Mrs. Miller 2nd Grade](#)

[Miss Yeakey 2nd Grade](#)

[Mrs. Szymanowski 3rd Grade](#)

[Mrs. Yeakey 3rd Grade](#)

[Mrs. Wilsey 4th Grade](#)

[Miss Jondle 5th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Oxley 6th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Ponce 6th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Kiefer 7th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Vervynckt 7th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Baich 8th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Camp 8th Grade](#)



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

DONUTS  
WITH

ST. NICK



Enjoy A Craft, Bounce House, Awesome Pictures Set

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 09  
STS GYM 8:45-11AM

ADMISSION INCLUDES  
HOT CHOCOLATE, DONUTS,  
COOKIES & COFFEE

SANTA IS ONLY HERE FOR A LIMITED  
TIME. WE ARE ALLOWING A FEW TIME  
SLOTS TO MAKE SURE ALL OF OUR  
LITTLE BELIEVERS GET A CHANCE TO  
VISIT WITH HIM

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
CHILDREN'S NAME & AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COST \$25 PER FAMILY  
INCLUDES 2 ADULTS & ALL CHILDREN  
ADDITIONAL ADULTS \$5  
TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_ (CASH OR CHECK)  
PREFERRED VISIT TIME (NUMBER 1-4)  
9:00\_\_\_\_\_ 9:30\_\_\_\_\_  
10:00\_\_\_\_\_ 10:30\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*TIME SLOTS NOT GUARANTEED\*\*

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL BY DECEMBER 1ST  
PLEASE LIST CHILDREN'S ADDRESSES ON THE BACK SO  
ST. NICK CAN MAIL YOUR PICTURES TO YOU

# *Spartan JV Volleyball*

November 4th: 9AM @ St. Thomas

November 5th: 3PM @ St. Monica

November 12th: 2PM @ St. Thomas

December 1st: 8PM @ Queen of Peace

December 2nd: 12PM @ St. Matthew

December 3rd: 3PM & 4PM @ St. Thomas

# *Spartan Varsity Volleyball*

November 4th: 11 AM @ St. Pius

November 6th: 6 PM @ Queen of Peace

November 10: 8 PM @ St. Thomas

December 1st: 6 & 8 PM @ St. Thomas

December 3rd: 3 & 4 PM @ St. Pius



## ST. THOMAS SPARTANS “MINDFUL MOVERS” CHESS CLUB

Where: Meet at the St. Thomas Commons

When: Starting Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> after school(3:30pm)

Moderator: Lisa Dykes

Chess is great for all ages and especially for growing minds!

It can help kids develop critical thinking skills for academia and for daily life.

**Some of these skills include:**

**\*Problem solving   \*Abstract reasoning**

**\*Calmness under pressure   \*Patience**

**\*Sportsmanship   \*Creative thinking**

**\*Pattern recognition   \*Strategic thinking**

**\*Logic   \*Attention to detail**

**\*Discipline   \*Explaining difficult concepts   \*Collaboration**

Come join our club **January 16<sup>th</sup> !!!**

We will meet every other Tuesday.

Chess boards will be available or can bring your own.

Timers are welcome.

If you plan to have your child (ren) attend please email Lisa Dykes at  
[ldykes@stselkhart.com](mailto:ldykes@stselkhart.com)









## St. Thomas the Apostle School 2023 - 2024 Academic Calendar

Updated August 14, 2023

August 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14-15 Teacher work days  
16 First Day for Students  
24 Parent Night 6 —7:30 PM

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1-5 Christmas Break  
8 Classes Resume  
15 Martin Luther King Jr. – No School

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

4 Labor Day - No School  
7 Curriculum Day—No School  
8 Mission Day—No School

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

14 Ash Wednesday  
19 President's Day - No School

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

13 End of Quarter 1  
19-23 Washington DC Trip  
27 Fall Break - No School

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15 End of Quarter  
29 Good Friday—No School  
31 Easter Sunday

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

20-24 Thanksgiving Break

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-5 Spring Break

December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

22 End of Quarter 2  
Dismissal at 12:30 pm  
25-29 Christmas Break - No School

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

27 Memorial Day—No School  
31 Last Day of School  
Dismissal at 12:30 pm

### End of Grading Periods

1st Quarter	October 13	40
2nd Quarter	December 22	44
3rd Quarter	March 15	48
4th Quarter	May 24	48
		180

Key No School  
End of Quarter  
Important Dates

