

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

December 15, 2023



STS Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk.....

Happy Friday St. Thomas Families,

The weeks leading up to Christmas are tremendously filled with activities. Wednesday, we saw the pre-school/PreK perform their Christmas concert. Yesterday, the Kindergarten through 3rd grade students sang in front of a packed gym. Tonight is the Live Nativity - I hope to see many of you at what promises to be a reverent reminder of the birth of Jesus.

I'm attaching a few pictures from the concerts over the past two days, the kids did an amazing job. Our teachers and staff have worked hard to help students learn lyrics, practice choreography, and put on such a lovely performance.

Reconciliation

I mentioned last week the dates and times for confession at St. Thomas. We are encouraging families to attend the sacrament of Reconciliation

together this Advent season. Please use the following link to see the availability. [<Reconciliation-Times>](#)

As we look forward to the festivities next week has to offer, please keep in mind that all spirit wear should be school appropriate, especially as we attend Mass on Wednesday and Friday.

Thank you for a wonderful week, I hope your weekends are restful.

All the best in Christ,

Chris

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

UPCOMING!!!

Live Nativity & Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, 12/15/23
6 PM

Holiday Spirit Week

12/18/23—12/22/23

See Details Below

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

Casual Day—\$2

1/11/2024

Gently Used Yoga Mats

to the office before
January 12, 2024

NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Junior Day

Monday, January 15

Early Dismissal Friday, January 26, 2024

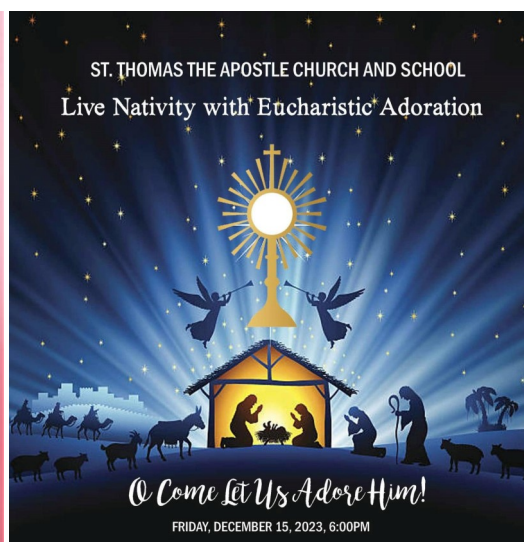
12:30 PM

NO AFTERCARE

Early Dismissal Tuesday, February 13

1 PM

NO AFTERCARE





SAVE THESE MUSICAL DATES!!!!!!

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

Happy Holidays from Your PTO

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

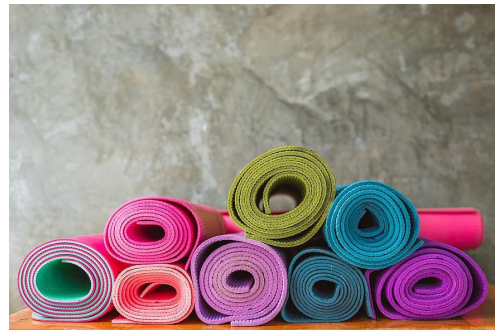
Teacher Christmas Gift Program, Each staff member will receive a holiday gift card from our families, everyone who donates will be listed on the card.

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>

Now collecting: **NEW** or **GENTLY USED** YOGA MATS
Mr. P needs mats for PE class, please consider donating!



Mats may be dropped off in the main office anytime before January 12



KEYS FOR THE NEW YEAR!!

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





If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.

~St. Katharine Drexel



Teacher & Staff Christmas Gift Program

Each year, your St. Thomas PTO organizes a gift collection of donations from school families who would like to participate in our Teacher and Staff Christmas Gift Program. The donations are compiled and presented to all teachers and staff in the form of a Visa Gift Card. Along with the gift card, each teacher and staff member will receive a Christmas Card with the names of every family who participated in the program this year. The Teacher & Staff Christmas Gift Program allows our families to show their appreciation to every teacher and staff member at this special time of year without having to purchase individual gifts.

Many families do like to give their own gifts to the teachers, please know that this program is completely voluntary and made available simply as a way to make it easier for you to show your appreciation for everyone on the staff. Any amount is appreciated! It adds up very quickly. Thank you in advance for your participation. The teachers and staff are very appreciative of this program.

If you would like to give, please complete this form and return it to the office along with your gift **by Monday December 18th or use the QR Code to pay online!**

Family Name: _____

Teacher Gift Amount (checks to St. Thomas School): _____

Giving Tree Gift Amount: _____







Child/Children's Name(s): _____



The Giving Tree

Donations for the Giving Tree will go to families within our St. Thomas Community who may need a little extra help this holiday season. If you find it in your heart to donate to you may include that with your form or follow the QR code to donate online. Each family who donates will have an ornament for every \$10 with your name on it placed on the Tree in the school's commons area.

Merry Christmas from The PTO



A SPECIAL
STS TRADITION

CHRISTMAS

Cookie

TRAYS FOR TEACHERS

Bring in 2-3 Dozen
Homemade or store bought
christmas cookies
December 20-21st

PTO will assemble cookie
boxes for our teacher to
take home filled with your
special holiday treats!

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!*
**mass appropriate*



TUESDAY 12/19

*Wear the cutest
or ugliest
Christmas sweater
you can find!*



THURSDAY 12/21

*School
appropriate
pajamas*



Monday: Uniforms

Tuesday: Jeans or uniform bottoms

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

ST. THOMAS SPARTANS “MINDFUL MOVERS” CHESS CLUB

Where: Meet at the St. Thomas Commons

When: Starting Tuesday January 16th 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 16th !!!**

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





JANUARY 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-------------|---|--|---|-----|
| | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!! | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| CHRISTMAS BREAK ~ NO SCHOOL ~ RETURN 1/8/23 | | | | | | |
| 7 Solemnity of the Epiphany | 8 WELCOME BACK SPARTANS! A | 9 B | 10 All School Mass 8:15AM PTO Mtg after Mass C | 11 \$2 Casual Day D | 12 A | 13 |
| 14 | 15 NO SCHOOL MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR DAY | 16 B | 17 All School Mass 8:15 AM C | 18 D | 19 A | 20 |
| 21 | 22 B | 23 C | 24 All School Mass 8:15 AM D | 25 Free Casual Day A | 26 Early Dismissal 12:30 PM NO AFTERCARE | 27 |
| 28 | 29 C | 30 D | 31 All School Mass 8:15 AM A |  | | |



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

