

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



December 15, 2025

THE NOTE!

Wow, it's cold out there! Please continue to send your kids in coats. There is a warm up beginning today, so that's a blessing. As soon as we can get outside we will!

I shared with the kids Father Tomy's 3 ways to share Christian Joy this week, as we celebrate Gaudete week. Some of them remembered from mass this weekend! 1. Practice joyful presence with someone who may feel overlooked. 2. Create an Advent Joy Corner in your home where you can pray for God's joy to fill your heart. 3. Offer one hidden sacrifice joyfully. (I told the kids to maybe do a chore they don't like with a smile instead of whining – you're welcome)

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The gifts that Lori and I receive from many of you are unnecessary, but truly appreciated. Our hearts are warmed by how much you do for us! It's almost impossible for us to send thank you notes, but please know they we are sincerely appreciative!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: PJ Day

Tuesday: Christmas Shirt or Ugly Sweater Day, BB H T-Town B 6:00

Wednesday: Christmas Hat/Headband Day, **5-8 Class Mass** (5th in charge)

Thursday: Falalalala Flannel Day, FCA 7:40, BB H Oblong 6:00 (8th grade night)

Friday: Christmas Socks Day, **All-School Mass** (K-1 in charge), Christmas Movies after mass, AR party 1:30, Early Dismissal 2:00, End of 2nd Qt.

Saturday: **Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30**

Sunday: **Masses @ St. Thomas 7:00/10:00, Mass @ St. Mary's 8:30**

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24:	5:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas (Youth Choir)
	7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary's
	11:00 pm @ St. Thomas (Five for the One)
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25:	8:30 am Mass @ St. Thomas
New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31:	6:00 pm Mass @ St. Thomas
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1:	8:30 am Mass @ St. Mary
	10:00 am Mass @ St. Thomas

***What a wonderful concert!?** Your kids did such a great job. Thanks to Mrs. Boehl for preparing them and for her unending patience and creativity.

***Lots of fun** going on this week, but also trying to **finish up the 2nd quarter**. Lots of quizzes and tests for the older kids. We appreciate your help in keeping them focused, just until Thursday!

***2nd quarter grade cards** will come home on Tuesday, Jan. 6th.

***We will be recognizing our 8th grade basketball boys and cheerleader** with their parents on Thursday between the 7th and 8th grade games. Come out and support them as they host Oblong!

***Thomas the Elf** arrived today. The kids have been asking about him and I told them he was probably having a hard time getting here because all of their elves from home were clogging the North Pole highway. His letter says he will be sharing a short Bible verse with them each day, to memorize and share. Hopefully they can tell them to you.

***FCA** (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) is the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings at 7:40 in the cafeteria. This is definitely worth bringing them in, but if they have to ride the bus, they can come in when they arrive. This is for ALL 5th-8th graders (you don't have to be an athlete).

***The apparel orders** will be in this week. Please email Lori if you don't want us to send things with your kids. You can pick them up whenever it works. Thanks again to Tiffany Keller for all her work on it!

***We have early dismissal (2:00)** on Friday. If your **transportation plans** are different, please let Lori know ASAP.

***If your son or daughter comes home with a free slice of pizza certificate**, they have earned it by exhibiting a virtue. Today I recognized two for Generosity of their time, helping with things without complaint. We are focusing on Joy this month and next. Several got those today as well! Way to go, Saints!

From the Advent book Waiting Well by Father Mike Schmitz:

Perhaps it surprises us that in having more to fill our time than ever before, that fullness can often lead us to feel empty. We have allowed time to rule us and sweep us along in a rushing current rather than seeing it as a gift. Time acts upon us rather than the other way around. We can use time wisely, or we can be harried by it.

Definitely hit home with me! Just thought I'd share with all of you.

