

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



**December 4, 2023**

### **THE NOTE!**

I hope this finds everyone celebrating Advent in a special way. This morning we talked about the Jesse Tree and the first week of Advent. The kids are always excited to hear and learn new things. This is a time of waiting, waiting for the birth of our savior, so it is definitely appropriate as we begin to focus on the virtue of Patience. We talked about our Nativity and our Advent wreath and they were excited to tell me about theirs at home. If you don't have an Advent wreath or a Nativity, it might be something to add to your Christmas décor.

I'm trying to make it a goal to focus on the waiting for Jesus, not the waiting for presents. Maybe if we all focus on that, Christmas will be that much holier! Kids make Christmas special, just like one very special baby made it a holiday for the Christian community. His humble beginnings should remind us that all the "stuff" isn't as important as family and church. I'm thankful for our St. Thomas School family.

Thanks to all of you for the well wishes for my daughter, Eliza, and future son-in-law, Blake. She was definitely reminded Once a Saint, Always a Saint after so many of you wished them well! Thank you so much!

I will include all of you in my prayers during this season of Advent, as I always do. May we wait with patience and love and teach our kids to do the same.



## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Monday: Volleyball practice begins

Tuesday: Voting on Door Decorating Contest, BB @ St. John's 6:00, 5<sup>th</sup> grade BB practice begins after school

Wednesday: St. Nicholas Day, Reindeer Visit, K-2 Class Mass (K-1), School Board 6:00

Thursday: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> to the movies, BB H Altamont Lutheran 6:15, Holy Day Vigil Mass @ St. Mary's 5:30

Friday: All-School Mass (8) – Immaculate Conception Holy Day 8:30, 12:10 and 5:30 masses @ St. Thomas, No Pre-K classes

Saturday: Breakfast w/Santa in P.C., Elks Hoop Shoot in Effingham – Good luck to our shooters, Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30

Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Masses @ St. Thomas 7:00/10:00, Mass @ St. Mary's 8:30

**ATTACHED/IN PACKET:** Elks Free Clinic Flyer, Lunch statements, Activity Fees statement, Meyer Twins Art registration, K-6 Girls' basketball registration

- Bright and early this morning, our **volleyball** girls began practice. We wish them the best on their season. Thanks to Nikki Earnest and Libby Meinhart for your time and energy!
- If you have a student playing **5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball**, please make sure you have the BAND app. Thanks to Zach Weber, Jud Cochran, and Mark Keller for coaching our kids. Practice begins after school Tuesday. I won't always put those practices on my schedule for the week, so make sure to join the BAND app.
- **6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball** has already been practicing. Thanks to Craig and Amy Hartrich and Mike Gier for your time organizing and coaching.
- We still have tickets available for **Frozen, Jr.** It is going to be a great show with several St. Thomas Saints on stage. Let me know if you need tickets. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 14-16.
- There are also raffle **tickets available for the metal nativities** created by our NCHS Ag. Power II Class. St. Thomas CYO is raising money for the mission trip this summer to Milwaukee, WI. 17 students and 4 adults will be attending. Tickets are \$5.
- If any 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders would like to help the Newton Junior Women's Club at their **Breakfast with Santa** this Saturday, let me know. Students help the kids shop for gifts, etc. It is open to all in our parish center beginning at 7:30 a.m. I have several who have volunteered already. Thank you!
- This Saturday marks the big **Christmas event on the town square**. There will be tons of great things going on for all ages. The St. Thomas Youth Choir will be singing as well. Head on up and support this great community event and then

watch the Christmas parade! If any 8<sup>th</sup> graders need service hours, the Chamber has reached out needing some help. Let me know if you're interested.

- **Trivia Night** is only a few months away. Get your team signed up and share the information at work and with family. This is our most important fundraiser of the year!
- The next **Booster Club meeting** will be Wednesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Parish Center. This meeting is to include all **stand managers for the Soup Supper**. We just need to get things ready for Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- We will be needing help in the **cafeteria on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are able to work from 9-1 for fair share hours, let me know.
- **SCRIP** is a great way to support our school and earn fair share hours. The last day to place an order for Christmas will be Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. They've recently added Casey's General Store to the list. You can order \$25/\$50/\$100 cards. We also have some \$5 Starbucks and \$10 Walmart while supplies last. There is a link on the web site, so you can order online, OR you can send in an order with payment. Thanks to Samantha Herdes and Lori for all their work with this fundraiser!
- We will be having a **Christmas Door Walk** on the evening of our Christmas program. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy elves decorating the classroom doors. The students and staff will vote on a winner tomorrow. They all look AWESOME! Following the program, families will be able to walk through the school and see the doors!

