

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



**December 5, 2022**

### **THE NOTE!**

Hoping everyone had a wonderful weekend. They seem to fly by this time of year! We were blessed to have all of our kids home to eat together, decorate the tree, and make gingerbread houses! I really miss when the kids were little at Christmas time, but really enjoy my older kids and their friendship and laughter. As the busy season sets in, I pray that you find time to just be – be a family, be a spouse, be a faith-filled Christian, waiting to celebrate the birth of our Savior. As we lit our Peace candle this morning, that's what we talked about. If we let Jesus in, we find peace. If we let only worldly things in, we find stress and chaos. Here's to a peaceful Advent!

### **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Monday: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent

Tuesday: St. Nicholas Day, Reindeer Visit, Stang Arts 'til 5:00, BB H Mattoon St. John's 6:00

Wednesday: 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> VB practice begins 6:15 a.m., **K-2 Class Mass (K-1)**, 7/8 Brain Games @ Lawrenceville, 5<sup>th</sup> grade to movies, Trivia Night 7:30, Holy Day Vigil Mass 6:30 @ St. Thomas

Thursday: Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) **All-School Mass (6)**, 12:10 Holy Day mass, BB @ Altamont Lutheran 6:00, 6:30 Holy Day mass @ St. Mary's

(All masses are open to the public)

Friday: No mass, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> to movies

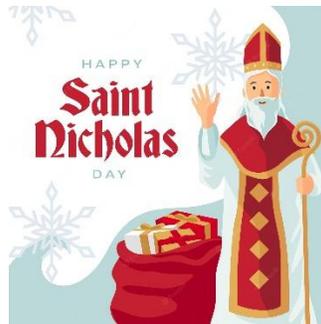
Saturday: Breakfast with Santa in PC, Elks Hoop Shoot @ Effingham H.S., Christmas celebration on the square, Christmas nighttime parade, 4:30 mass @ St. Thomas

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

**ATTACHED/IN PACKET:** Lunch statements

- \* **Congratulations** to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade BB players as they finished their season at the Sectional game Wednesday of last week. The sectional champs, Paris Mayo will play for the state championship on Thursday.
- \* I appreciate those who worked **Bingo** Friday night. The next Bingo is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Let me know if you can help.
- \* This Thursday is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, the Immaculate Conception. This day is a celebration of Saint Anne conceiving the sinless Mary who would eventually be the mother of Jesus. There are several options for mass:  
Wednesday(vigil mass) 6:30 @ St. Thomas. Thursday 8:30 and 12:10 @ St. Thomas, and 6:30 @ St. Mary's. I hope you all find time to celebrate with mass.
- \* We are thankful for the family who has arranged for the **live reindeer visit** on Tuesday. The kids always enjoy learning about the reindeer and seeing them up close.
- \* Meraki Health let us know that they are hosting **Santa Frank** and the public is invited to go visit with him this Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. at their S. Van Buren location. We welcome Santa Frank to our community.
- \* Your kids might mention that **Thomas the Elf has returned**. He hangs out in the cafeteria and then returns to the North Pole each night to report good/bad behavior. MAYBE it will make the cafeteria a little quieter! (yeah right) It is just a fun way for us to talk to the kids about making extra efforts to be their best leading up to Christmas. If your family does not believe in the elf, please encourage them to enjoy the make believe, and not ruin it for others.
- \* If your child is signed up for **Stang Arts**, please pick them up in the East alley at 5:00 on Tuesday. Remind them of the importance of good behavior.
  - \* K-2 will have **mass** two days in a row. Wednesday and Thursday.
- \* If you are parishioners of St. Thomas and did not get your picture taken for the **directory**, please contact Linda at church if you want to submit a picture for the directory. If you are parishioners of St. Mary's, they are scheduling their directory pictures now.
- \* Due to the Holy Day vigil mass, we will not be having a **school board meeting** this Wednesday. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me or one of the board members know. Thanks!
- \* Mrs. Vahling will be accompanying our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **ROE 12 Brain Games** teams to Lawrenceville this Wednesday where they will have to work together to reach a goal set before them. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade team includes Alani Bergbower, Lauren Gier, Oliver Ochs, and Nathan Bierman. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade team includes Jackson Baltzell, Alayna Ochs, Ava Earnest, and Madison Keller. Go Saints!
- \* Good luck to our Saints who will be representing our school at the **Elks Hoop Shoot** this Saturday.
- \* Just a reminder that the last day to order **SCRIP cards** is Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who have ordered so far. The on-hand cards will be for sale after each mass this weekend and the next two. (I promise to remember to put the box over there this weekend!)

- \* **Home game** Tuesday of this week. Please check to see if you are a door or concessions worker. Thanks to Mr. Stork for covering the game for me.



One of the most popular legends about Nicholas is that the saint, who is said to have come from a wealthy family, secretly helped a poor man with his three daughters.

The father could not provide proper dowries for the girls to marry, and without husbands to support them, they might have been forced to turn to prostitution.

Learning about the situation, Nicholas secretly slipped a bag of gold coins through the family's window while they were sleeping. He later left a second bag of coins, and likewise, for the third daughter, at which point, the legend says, the father, who had waited up all night, "caught" Nicholas red-handed in his gift-giving. But Nicholas made him promise to keep the secret.

The story is likely the explanation for why the modern Christmas character of Santa Claus brings his gifts for children under the cover of night.

Although he has a white beard, St. Nicholas does not have dimples and a big belly. We celebrate the generosity and care that St. Nicholas showed to complete strangers. He is the patron saint of children.