

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

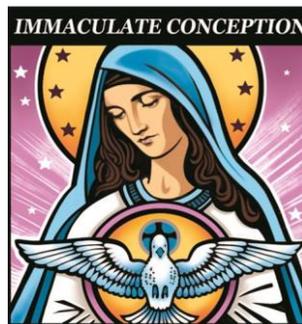


December 7, 2020

THE NOTE!

Saw a lot of hands go up when I asked how many deer slayers we had. Hope everyone enjoyed the weekend. St. Nicholas visited us last night, so the kids have fruit, a chocolate coin, and a candy cane on their desk. The teachers will talk to them about St. Nicholas. It's a great way to focus the holidays on giving instead of getting.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is tomorrow, so we will be headed to mass on Tuesday instead of Wednesday. Many Catholics believe this feast celebrates Jesus' conception through the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. However, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's conception in the womb of Saint Anne without the stain of original sin. Jesus' conception is celebrated on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before Christmas. So, from the time she was conceived, Mary was sinless.



We are seeing more kids with cold-like symptoms. In the past, no concern would be shown, but I know it's different this year. I've been asked if the quarantine length has been lessened and the answer is no. It's still 14 days. The IDPH has to agree to follow the CDC's recommendation before our health department can make that change. Many have been asking how things work: If you test your child and they are positive, they will ask where they were for 48 hours prior to symptoms starting. If they were at school, we have to send home all of their classmates who sit 6 feet from them regardless if they were wearing a mask or not. Our school does not require a COVID test to return. Let me know if you have any other questions. I will find the answer if I don't know it. Do your best – I know you want what's best for your kids and all the kids at St. Thomas, so I trust you. We'll get through this!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:

Tuesday: Feast of the Immaculate Conception All-School Mass (6), No a la carte at lunch (3rd-8th)

Wednesday: Advent Reconciliation 2nd-8th grades, Stang Arts 3:15-5:15 (pick up on East Side of building), Late Stay will be in gym, so pick up there

Thursday: No a la carte at lunch (3rd-8th)

Friday: 3-5 Class Mass (5), No Pre-K classes

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Late Stay statements, Bus slips, St. Nicholas family page

- Father Dean's dad, Bud Probst, passed away early this morning. We keep him in our prayers as he makes that journey into eternal peace. The services will be on Thursday at Sacred Heart, but will probably be private. I will keep you posted. We will be sending something from the church and school.



- I'm still interested in finding someone to help **Santa** out and dress as Santa for our kids. If you know of someone, let me know.
- If your kids came home talking about **Thomas the Elf**, he is our Elf on the Shelf here at school. He hangs out in the cafeteria because that is where all of our kids are each day. He is currently quarantined for 14 days, but is still watching them from the box he is in. The kids wondered why their elves at home didn't have to quarantine, so I told them it's because ours comes to a school. He is able to go to the North Pole each night, but he can't move around in our building.
- We do have many kids, of all ages, questioning **the magic of Christmas** every year. We apologize if your kids come home with questions, but that's how it goes, unfortunately. I tell them that Christmas is only magical if they believe in the magic. It is hard for our teachers because every child/family is in a different place with all of that, so please be patient. Thanks!
- We are in need of some help in the **cafeteria** this Friday so that Lisa can attend a funeral. Let me know if you'd be available from 9-1.
- Just a reminder that there will be **no Late Stay on Dec. 22nd**. That is our last day before break and we will have normal dismissal, just no late stay.
- **Stang Arts** is this Wednesday after school if you registered your child. Please pick up on the EAST side of the school at 5:15. Thanks.

- **Late stay** will have to be in the gym on Wednesday due to Stang Arts. Please pick up over there.
- The last day to place orders for **SCRIP** will be Monday, the 14th. Delivery is already slow and frustrating, so that's the latest we want to chance it. There is an order form on our web site or we can send one home if you ask.
- Ms. Cowger will be recording the "**Christmas concert**" on the 16th. This way the kids will already be in nice clothes for church. I'm thankful that she has worked with the kids to be able to have something to celebrate as a school family. Stay tuned!
- This time of year, I want to especially thank Samantha Herdes for doing our **SCRIP** ordering. It's a real treat! We're so glad to have the orders, but she and Lori do a lot of work to get things organized. Of course, COVID makes everything more difficult!
- If you haven't taken time to drive through **Peterson Park** to see the lights; it's really nice. I'd love to add to it next year with something from St. Thomas. Let me know if you have any ideas.
- Thanks to everyone who has supported the **Shoebox gift project** and our **Toys for Kids** here at school. If any of you have a need, please let me know. You are all so generous, but sometimes we need a little boost, so never be afraid to ask.
- The **Jasper County Ministerial Association** will be packing boxes this Friday from 9-5 and distributing them starting at 9:00 on Saturday morning. All of this is happening in the Floral Hall at the Fairgrounds. Feel free to show up and help out if you want.
- We're still focusing on the virtue of **Love**. We encourage the kids to find ways to show love to their classmates and families through actions, not just words.

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