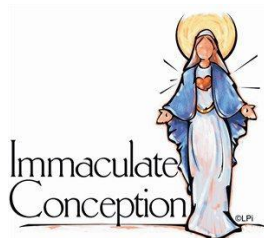


## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



**December 8, 2025**

### **THE NOTE!**

We were a little rushed this morning, but the kids heard about the Peace candle lit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent and some from Father Tomy's homily this weekend, like the meaning of penance, how we just need to do something different. We talked about trying to offer peace in our worlds by recognizing when our teachers/parents need quiet, saying we're sorry when we've messed up, admitting wrong and as Father Tomy told them this morning, never blaming others, since we have freedom of choice.



We also talked about the Immaculate Conception before heading to mass, clarifying that this Holy Day is celebrating the conception of Mary in her mother, Anne's, womb, not Mary conceiving Jesus. That's in March. If you haven't attended mass yet, St. Mary's is offering a service at 6:30 tonight. I'm sure you could find other options in the area as well. It's important for our kids to see us prioritizing mass attendance on holy days and weekends.

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

Monday: Volleyball practice began 6:15, **All-School Mass** (7<sup>th</sup> in charge) Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday: Meyer Twins Art 'til 5:00, BB @ Mattoon St. John's 6:00

Wednesday: **3-4 Class Mass** (4<sup>th</sup> in charge), Christmas Program 7:00 (Students should be here by 6:45)

Thursday: Advent Reconciliation 1:30, BB H Altamont Lutheran 6:00 (5/6 play at 5:15)

Friday: **No mass**, Happy Birthday, Linda Hemrich

Saturday: Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30, Newton Christmas Parade 6:00

Sunday: Masses @ St. Thomas 7:00/10:00, Mass @ St. Mary's 8:30, NCHS Pops Concert 2:00

**ATTACHED/IN PACKET:** School Board minutes, Christmas Week information, VB players have Expectations in their packets, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will have their Confirmation Certificates in their packets

\*The **weather** is going to stay cold for a while. This morning was 23 degrees when I got here. Too cold for shorts. We will always try to be outside to 1. Get fresh air, and 2. Save our gym floor.

\*The **Christmas Program** is this Wednesday. Mrs. Boehl and your kids have been working very hard to prepare. It's always a magical evening! Try to have your kids here by 6:45 p.m. Thanks!

\*I'm personally inviting you to the **NCHS Pops Concert** this Sunday at 2:00. There are several St. Thomas graduates represented in this talented group!

\*We are busy getting ready for the **Trivia Night** fundraiser. Thanks to those who have already shared the sponsor information or signed up a team. I'm thankful for the awesome group of people who are helping with this most important fundraiser. Keep them in your prayers as they work hard to make it a success once again.

\*Check out the information about **Christmas Week**. There will be dress up days and students will be able to choose which movie they want to watch next Friday morning after church. Teachers will guide them to ones that are appropriate for their age.

\***Volleyball** practice began this morning at 6:15! Thanks to Nikki Earnest and Libby Meinhart for coaching again this year along with helper, 2020 St. Thomas graduate, Paige Zumbahlen.

\*If your 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grader is interested in **Scholastic Bowl**, practices will begin after Christmas Break on Wednesdays after school until 5:00. There will be more information sent out, but just a heads up that it will begin soon. Even if they didn't sign up before, they are welcomed to try. Thanks to Karen Bierman for coaching.

\*Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity for **Reconciliation** this Thursday afternoon. The Sacrament will continue until 5:00 after the students finish if you would like to participate.

\*The last day to order **SCRIP** cards was today. We have SOME on hand, so you can let us know if there is something you're looking for.

\*Our **girls' basketball** season has ended. Thanks to Bailey, Lyndsey, Audrey and Kinsley for their hard work to the JCJH Lady Eagles this season.

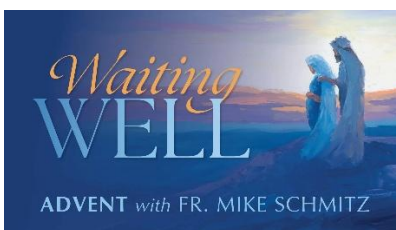
\*We are still focusing on the **virtue of Joy**. I ask kids often, "Why are you fussy?" when I see them frowning, acting down, etc. Let's use this time to encourage our kids to be joyful. Don't let them act "fussy" in public. A true life skill is to learn how not to share our down/sad/frustrated times with others. This comes from being truly grateful. Our kids are very blessed to have amazing parents, warm homes and everything they need and a lot of what they want. Let's help them choose joy!



During this Advent season, I'm using the book, Waiting Well from Father Mike Schmitz. Today's focus word is BREATHE. It says, "We often get so wrapped up in the busyness of life that we forget this simple task. We let our days so consume us that we are unable to stop and take a moment to listen to God. Sometimes we don't even realize that we're doing it until another day passes." I'm truly guilty of this, especially this time of year, as I'm sure many of you are as well.

The challenge says, "Recall Mary's words in today's gospel reading: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.* Is God calling you in ways that you're choosing to ignore? How might you try to be more receptive to the Lord's plan?"

Hopefully we can all make time to breathe and listen to what God is telling us or calling us to do during this Advent season leading up to the birth of our Savior.



\*Our last day will be Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> with early dismissal at 2:00. The students and teachers will return Tuesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026!

Let me know if you need anything. Thanks,

Jill