

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



February 2, 2026

THE NOTE!

I spoke to the kids this morning about **Candlemas** and how God sent his son to be our Light in a dark world. I encourage the kids to share that light with others! We also talked about how Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow – UGH!! Hopefully he's wrong!

We are celebrating **100 days of school** – 100 days of learning – 100 days of loving Jesus – 100 days of making friends! It's hard to believe we are well over 1/2 way through the school year! Thanks to our teachers for making it a special day for the kids!

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams and coaches for both winning 2nd place in our tournaments the past two weekends! Lots to be proud of. Good luck to them as they continue their season and compete in the Albion tournament this weekend.

Great job, 6th grade BB and coaches for 4th place in the Clay City tournament last Saturday. Good luck to both 5th and 6th grade BB this week and this weekend.

The **IESA** asks that we recognize women who are making a difference in the lives of our young people! We are blessed to have lots of female coaches/leaders for our kids. Thanks to: Jess Swick (7/8 boys BB), Nikki Earnest, Libby Meinhart (and 6 BB), Beth Ochs, Paige Zumbahlen (5-8 Volleyball), Darleta Wagner, Allison Harris (7/8 girls BB), Dawn Meinhart, Linda Tharp (6-8 Cross Country), Amy Hartrich, Kasey Iffert (5-8 Track), Jennifer Hinterscher (5-8 Cheerleading), Karen Bierman and Sarah Mason (6-8 Scholastic Bowl) for coaching our kids! Thanks to Mrs. Zuber for starting and continuing our Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Candlemas Day, Groundhog Day, 100th Day of School, Hat Day, Paper, Rock, Scissors Tournament, VB H Oblong 4:00 (C game follows)

Tuesday: 5/6 BB @ Oblong 6:00, SB @ St. Anthony 4:00, Cheer Clinic/Performance @ NCHS

Wednesday: **K-2 Class Mass** (K-1 in charge), Blessing of the Throats, 5/6 BB H New Hebron 5:00, School Board 6:00, Trivia Night 7:00

Thursday: VB @ West Salem 6:00 (C game 5:15)

Friday: **All-School Mass** (2nd grade in charge), Adoration 'til noon, READ distribution

Saturday: 6th BB @ Sigel 9:00, 7/8 VB @ Albion tournament, **Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30**

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

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Camp Ondessonk flyers, February Calendar/Menu, St. Anthony H.S. information (8th grade only), Meyer Twins Art registration, January Lunch statements, 6th-8th 4-H Welding Workshop flyer, Future Blood Donor flyer

***Trivia Night** is quickly approaching! We still need wine, and we still have a few open tables! I will send out the worker assignments next week. I'm looking forward to the night!

*The **Future Lady Eagles Basketball** sign up is due tomorrow!

*We had a great presenter from **Camp Ondessonk**. I'm sure several will be begging to go. We have had some go in the past. I'm sure it would be a great experience. Information is in the packets.

***Congratulations** to Olivia Bower (8), Bailey Kistner (5) and Megan Farley (5) for becoming published poets. The Appelly National Student Poetry group will let them know if they have placed in the competition, but we know that their poems are making the book! Way to go, Ladies!

* **Nominate a teacher for the diocesan wide St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award!**

Do you know a Catholic school teacher who lights up the classroom, pursues academic excellence, and lives the Catholic faith with joy and authenticity? Has a teacher made a lasting impact on your life or your child's life — going above and beyond to form hearts, minds, and souls? Now is your chance to honor them! Nominate that exceptional educator for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, recognizing teachers who exemplify outstanding teaching and a deep commitment to the Catholic mission. Nominations are due by March 29. Go to dio.org/schools/eas to submit their name! St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the foundress of Catholic education in the U.S.

- *A **big thanks to Ginger Robins** (Miss Ginger to the kids) for giving our K-3 students new books. She will be here Friday with her high school volunteers to distribute the books. If you see her out and about, tell her thanks!
- *Our **Scholastic Bowl** team begins their season tomorrow at St. Anthony. We wish them the best of luck and thank them for representing our school! Thanks Karen Bierman and Sarah Mason for coaching!
- *Keep sending **coats!** We will get outside as much as possible to blow the germs off and to save our gym floor.
- *I've been doing **teacher evaluations** and, WOW! We have amazing educators in our building who work hard for your kids. I am so thankful for them all!

I saw this somewhere and thought we need to make sure our kids hear this-of course I would add every TikTok video/YouTube short you watch:

Be careful what shapes you...

Every movie you watch, every song you play, every person you hang around is shaping you, slowly, quietly, but surely. If it doesn't point you closer to God, it's pulling you further from Him.

You can't fill your mind with the world and expect a heart on fire for Jesus.

I hope everyone has a great week! Lots going on. Try to stay healthy!
Jill

