

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



January 6, 2026

THE NOTE!

I hope this finds all of you feeling well and blessed after our long Christmas/New Year's break. We're excited to begin 2026 and the 3rd quarter at St. Thomas School!

We begin our Volleyball season tonight as the girls travel to Neoga! We are thankful for Nikki Earnest, Libby Meinhart, Paige Zumbahlen and Beth Volk for coaching our girls! We continue our basketball season and begin a busier 5th/6th schedule as well. We pray that all of our athletes stay healthy and remember to thank God for their talents and to thank those who help them along the way! Go Saints!



I reminded our 5th-8th graders to start strong this 3rd quarter. Every assignment/quiz/project is important for maintaining grades that allow them to play their sport(s) or participate in activities. One goal for the new year and new quarter should be to joyfully do what is asked of us to the best of our abilities, giving thanks for the opportunity!

Father Tomy's Epiphany blessing was wonderful. In your white packets you will find a piece of chalk that he blessed during the liturgy this morning along with a card that will help you do the same to your doors at home. Father told us that every time we walk through our doors that have this blessing, we should be reminded that God is with us and that we are his sons and daughters, a gift from Him! I'm sure your kids will enjoy this and it could become a new tradition for your family!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Tuesday: Welcome Back! Father Tomy will lead a door blessing for our school 10:00, 2nd Qt. grade cards go home, VB @ Neoga 4:30 (C game 3:45), BB H New Hebron 6:00

Wednesday: **K-2 Class Mass** (2nd in charge), Scholastic Bowl practice 'til 5:00, School Board 6:00, Trivia Night mtg. 7:00

Thursday: 2nd qt. Honor Roll, 5/6 BB @ Palestine 6:00

Friday: **All-School Mass** (3rd in charge), VB H Martinsville 4:30

Saturday: BB H Pana SH 10:00, Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30

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

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Meyer Twins Art, School Board agenda, Recess supervision information, 2nd quarter account balances, Epiphany Door Blessing kits, CEO flyers

*On Monday, Jan. 12th, Lori will include the **tax information** in the packets.

*I have had many requests for more guidance for those parents who volunteer in the **morning or at noon for recess duty**. Thanks to Karli Burley for her work on this. I'm attaching / putting in packets. Not only does it help our amazing volunteers, but also parents can go over these expectations with their kiddos.

***Trivia Night** planning continues. Please get a team together and let us know if you have donations and/or someone who would like to sponsor or donate. Sign-ups for working the event will come soon.

*We do have a **Wish List on Amazon**. Thanks to one of our families, the staff has a new coffee/hot chocolate maker in their kitchen! Thanks so much!

***Scholastic Bowl** practice begins this Wednesday after school until 5:00 in the cafeteria. Parents are asked to come in at 4:50 for a quick meeting on Wednesday. Thank to Karen Bierman who is the head coach for the group and Sarah Mason will be assisting her.

*Just a reminder that it is **all hands on deck** after home basketball and volleyball events. If everyone will jump in to help, it doesn't take much time at all. Thanks!

*It's been awhile, so please check to see if you signed up to **work the door or the concessions stand** for upcoming games/matches. We appreciate everyone's help!

*The Health Department will be here tomorrow (Wednesday) for **head checks**.

*We're still focusing on the virtue of **Joy**. It's easy to find joy during the excitement of the Christmas festivities, but let's encourage our kids and ourselves to find Joy in every normal day. Isaiah 61:10, *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation.*

*Although it says it's 50 degrees, it is chilly and damp. The kids are shivering a bit. We will have them outside as much as possible, so send jackets.

*We **welcomed Mrs. May to our kindergarten** class today. She has already been working hard and has true Joy in her heart. We have been blessed! Join me in welcoming her and wishing her well! I'm so thankful for Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Geier and Mrs. Beals who will work with her to make it a smooth transition.

*As this 3rd quarter begins, subjects start to get a little harder. Please encourage your son(s) and daughter(s) to take advantage of the amazing teachers in our building by listening intently and doing their very best. When they struggle, teach them not to be too proud to **ask for help** while they are at school. We are all here to help and teach. Learning to advocate for themselves is an important life skill!

*We're seeing a little bit of sickness as the weather fluctuates. Just a reminder that a fever is consider 100.1 degrees or higher. If it takes medicine to keep the fever down, they should stay home. We continue to encourage coughing in their elbows, not touching their noses/mouths or others. Thanks for helping us remind them ☺!

