

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



January 12, 2026

THE NOTE!

I hope you made it to church this weekend to celebrate **the Baptism of Our Lord**. We conclude the Christmas season in our Liturgical calendar and move in to Ordinary Time until Lent begins. Father Tomy reminded us of the importance of our baptism and asked that we find the date and celebrate it each year. Although our kids who were baptized as infants don't remember the day, they can pray for or reach out to their Godparents and you can tell them about that special day, maybe even get out some pictures.

I was baptized at 13 years old at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp in Flora, IL by my Uncle Ray. I was spending my one week at camp that summer, as I did for several years, and found myself called to be baptized. My parents came down with my Uncle Ray, and I remember it well. Just a few years later, I wasn't going to church regularly anymore, as life got busier. Once I started dating my husband at 17, I was amazed by the strong faith of his family and extended family and eventually chose to join the Catholic Church. This was the best decision I ever made. Never take for granted the love of Jesus Christ and the strength that our faith provides us. The Catholic faith has been a blessing to me, my marriage and all of my kids. Don't let anything else get in the way of your faith!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: BB @ Sigel 6:00 (6th grade plays at 5:30)

Tuesday: Meyer Twins Art 'til 5:00, VB @ Trinity 6:00 (C game at 5:15) – Girls stay after school, leaving at 4:00, BB H West Salem 6:00 (5th grade plays at 5:15)

Wednesday: **3-4 Class Mass** (4th in charge), BB H Altamont Lutheran 6:00 (5th at 4:30, 6th at 5:00)

Thursday: VB @ Sacred Heart 4:00 (C game follows 8th grade) Leaving at 3:00, BB H Dieterich 5:00 (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Friday: **All-School Mass** (6th in charge)

Saturday: **Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30**

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

Monday: NO SCHOOL, MLK, Jr.'s B-day, 7th BB Regional game @ Sigel 7:15

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Cheer Clinic form (K-6 girls), School Board minutes, tax information from church and school, Worker Sign-up for Trivia Night

*Thanks to our high school cheerleaders and coach for inviting our girls to participate in a **cheer clinic and performance**. The information is in the packets. Congrats to them on their 4th place finish at the state competition!

*I'm sending home the **worker sign-up sheet for Trivia Night**. This event is an awesome fundraiser that allows us to pay our valuable teachers' aides. PLEASE sign up to work if you aren't playing that night. We do need you to commit to working OR playing. You can't do both unfortunately. Thanks for your help!

*We are looking for **bottles of wine** for the Wine Pull booth at Trivia Night. Please send in bottles of wine that you haven't opened or consider buying some to donate.
Thanks!

*I just wanted to bring attention to the **time change** on our basketball game on Thursday with Dieterich. We will begin our 7th grade game at 5:00 instead of 6:00.
Thanks!

*We recognized our **2nd Qt. A and B Honor Roll** this morning. I always start with telling all of the kids that school work comes easy to some (and they are lucky), some have to work at it, some harder than others, and some choose not to work their hardest. Regardless, you get back what you put in. Earning honor roll is great, but if you are working hard and doing your best, but still don't make honor roll, it's okay. If you don't work your hardest to earn honor roll, it will transfer over to everything else you do.

*I reminded the kids this morning about **ballgame behavior**. I had a parent from the other school thank me for addressing some of our kids' behavior on Saturday, and one of the officials asked me to talk to some of our kids as well. Friday, both officials commented on the number of kids "running around". I told the kids it is great to have them at games/matches to cheer on our Saints, but they should be sitting and watching, not running back and forth to the concessions stand/bathroom. I told them that between quarters/games is the only time they need to be up. We also talked about the messes they are making. Saturday one of our students dumped a bag of popcorn on another's head on purpose, and another one through someone's hat onto the court during the game. They are great kids, but I will discipline them at ballgames if I have to. If yours is one who has trouble behaving, please keep them with you during games.
Thanks!

*This week is **IESA Official's Appreciation Week**. If you attend a ballgame and get a chance, thank the officials. St. Thomas will recognize ours before the start of each game with a token of our appreciation.

*The teachers have recently been given the **new Religion Standards** provided by the Diocese. They will be working to ensure that we are addressing each one with the curriculum we use. We are considering a different Religion series for next year, but haven't chosen anything yet. I'm thankful that our teachers make every effort to teach our faith with the curriculum provided, but mostly through sharing their own faith and teaching what they know is important for our kids.

*This week is busy for home basketball. We will be **outside for recesses** if at all possible to save the gym floor. PLEASE send coats. They may think they only want a hoodie, but, like this morning, it's cold and they're outside for recess.

*I'm sure you know that I am not on Facebook or any other social media except Pinterest. I find things that really make me think as a mom, a wife, a Catholic and a principal, so I like to share them. The first one I take as a challenge and the second one I shared with my kids especially, but it resonated with me as well. Our society is focused on being happy and being who you want to be, etc. I always tell my kids something I heard once, "Do what makes you holy, not happy." If we're holy and make it on the ark, we will be happy!

Make sure your children are on the ark...

Tonight during the message my nine-year-old son, Jay, came to the realization that the children who were not on the ark didn't make it. He looked to me with such a sad, questioning face. All I could say was "Their parents didn't make sure they were on the ark." The weight of that statement is still weighing on me.

Of all the things that I do for the Kingdom of God, NOTHING is more important than making sure that my children find their way to a relationship with Jesus.

-Traci Jaco

