

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



November 27, 2023

THE NOTE!

Welcome Back! I was so happy to walk in the gym this morning and see all the kids. We are only down a few with sickness and I pray that continues. I hope you all enjoyed your extra time with family and friends no matter what you were doing over break. I am so thankful for all of your families and am excited to begin the Advent season with your kids. Please begin the Advent season with a goal of getting to church on the weekends. Monday mornings involve talking about what goes on at church, so they really need to be there to help them understand. Advent is the beginning of the new year in our church calendar – make it the start of a dedication to mass attendance and growing closer to God.



Our 8th grade girls finished their basketball season over the break during regional play. We're very proud of all of our girls who represented St. Thomas on the JCJH Lady Eagles team. Thanks to their coaches for the time they've invested in the girls.



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:

Tuesday: BB @ Cumberland 6:00

Wednesday: Booster Club 6:00 @ KC Hall

Thursday: Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Day, BB @ Oblong 6:00

Friday: All-School Mass (5)

Saturday: Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Sunday: Masses @ St. Thomas 7:00/10:00, Mass @ St. Mary's 8:30 (1st Sunday of Advent)

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Booster Club Agenda, Trivia Night registration flyer, Trivia Night Donation/Sponsorship information, December calendar/menu, Advent Activity Calendars, SCRIP flyer, Breakfast w/ Santa flyer, Diabetes Awareness Flyer

- The **live wreaths** will be arriving on Wednesday. Lindsey Hermann will be here if you want to pick them up after school until 6:00. She is willing to come back at 7:30 as well. They will be in the parish center meeting room.
- You should have received your **basketball apparel** in the mail if you ordered. If not, should for sure today. Let me know if you are missing anything.
- **Frozen, Jr. tickets** are still available. Let me know if you'd like to go Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, Dec. 14th-16th.
- The St. Thomas CYO group is selling **\$5 raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the Ag. Power II metal nativity sets**. If you'd like to see what they look like, drive by Urfer farms on Rt. 130 at night – they are BEAUTIFUL! You can send in your money and I can fill out the ticket. Drawing will take place at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 13th.
- There is an **Advent Activity calendar** (2-sided) in each packet today. It's a nice way to make the Advent season of waiting special.
 - Just a reminder if there are any 6th-8th graders interested in helping at the **Breakfast with Santa** on Dec. 9th in the parish center, let me know. Great way to get service hours or just serve!
- The first Friday of each month, St. Thomas Church is offering **Adoration** after mass until noon. Our students have been attending and are enjoying their time with our Lord. Feel free to stop by at anytime for personal prayer time.
- This Thursday will be our **Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Day!** We currently have 4 students who face diabetes with courage every day! In honor of them, each class will wear a color on Thursday and will compete in an obstacle course activity. Teachers will use the morning to determine which boy and girl from each class can make it through the course the fastest and compete while the rest of their classmates cheer them on. The flyer with class colors is in the packet. We're also collecting any donations you'd like to make to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The teachers will collect that first thing Thursday morning.
- Hopefully most of our 5th graders have signed up to **serve at church** on the weekends. It's so great seeing the kids serve for the first time. They may be nervous, but they are doing a great job! Call Linda, 618-783-8741, to add your 5th-8th grader to the servers' list if they aren't already on it.
- Thanks to all of you, I delivered **13 shoeboxes** to Scott Avenue last weekend. I'm so proud and thankful for your generosity. Next is Toys for Kids, which all stays in Jasper County. Thanks for all of your giving!

- We are 1/2 way through the 2nd quarter. I know from all that I announce in the mornings and all that the kids tell me that our kids are busy! Thank you for helping them learn to **balance it all**, focusing first on their school work.
- If you're looking for a way to journey through Advent in a more spiritual way, check out **FORMED**. This is a platform provided by the church and has a daily devotional for the season. Check out the church's web site for more information.
- 5th-8th parents should have received an email letting you know that **volleyball** practice will begin Monday, Dec. 3rd at 6:15 a.m. If your daughter is playing, they have to have a physical on file. Lori will let you know if she needs one. Thanks to Nikki Earnest and Libby Meinhart for coaching these girls. If you have questions, feel free to email Coach Earnest at nearnest@dieterichschools.org.
- Don't forget to order your gift cards for Christmas through our **SCRIP** program.
- It's COLD in the mornings, but we will be outside throughout the day. We had some young ones with just hoodies on this morning. Better to layer!



"TO KINDNESS AND LOVE, THE THINGS WE NEED MOST!"

- GRINCH



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