

## **St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School**



**October 30, 2023**  
**THE NOTE!**

I hope everyone had a great weekend. Lots of trick-or-treating and parties I bet. Looking forward to the awesome costumes tomorrow for the parade. I hated to cancel our marching in the Oblong parade, but I did not regret it. Congratulations to the NCHS Marching Eagles and JCJH Marching Eagles on their success!



Thanks to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders for a fun mission party that raised money for the mission trip this summer. What a great way to have fun and give back. We also thank Civics Club for making Red Ribbon Week fun with the dress-up days. I could have used a pajama day today ☺!

The kids were all layered up this morning which is great to see. We will try to stay outside as long as possible. It is always up to our morning watchers, but if you've ever done morning duty, that gym is crazy loud with all 199 students in there.

We continue our girls' basketball season and begin our boys' basketball season tonight. It's going to get busy for all of our kids, so thanks to all of you who help them manage and prioritize. Just a reminder if you signed up to work at ballgames, the first home game is this Thursday! If you see any holes in the schedule, feel free to sign up! Thanks again to Helen Weber who takes care of all of that for us!



## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

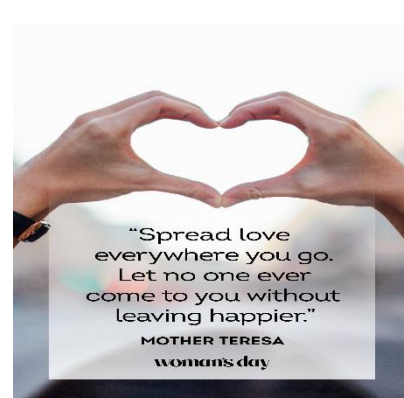
Monday: GBB @ Dieterich 6:00 (Pink Out game – all proceeds benefit Whitney Benefiel family), 8<sup>th</sup> BB @ Dieterich Tournament 5:00/6:15  
Tuesday: GBB @ Lawrenceville 6:00, Halloween Parade 1:15, Class Parties  
Wednesday: **All-Saints Day** (Holy Day of Obligation), **All-School Mass (6)**-1<sup>st</sup> graders dressed as Saints, St. Thomas Holy Day mass 12:10 p.m.,  
Holy Day mass @ St. Mary's 6:30  
Thursday: Hearing Checks K-3, GBB H Oblong 6:00, BB H Altamont 6:00, NCHS Pops Concert 7:00, **All Soul's Day** mass @ St. Thomas 5:30 and @ St. Mary's @ 7:00  
Friday: **K-2 Class Mass (2)**, Adoration, READ Distribution K-3, NCHS Pops Concert 7:00  
Saturday: GBB @ Marshall 9:00, Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30  
Sunday: Mass @ St. Thomas 7/10, Mass @ St. Mary's 8:30

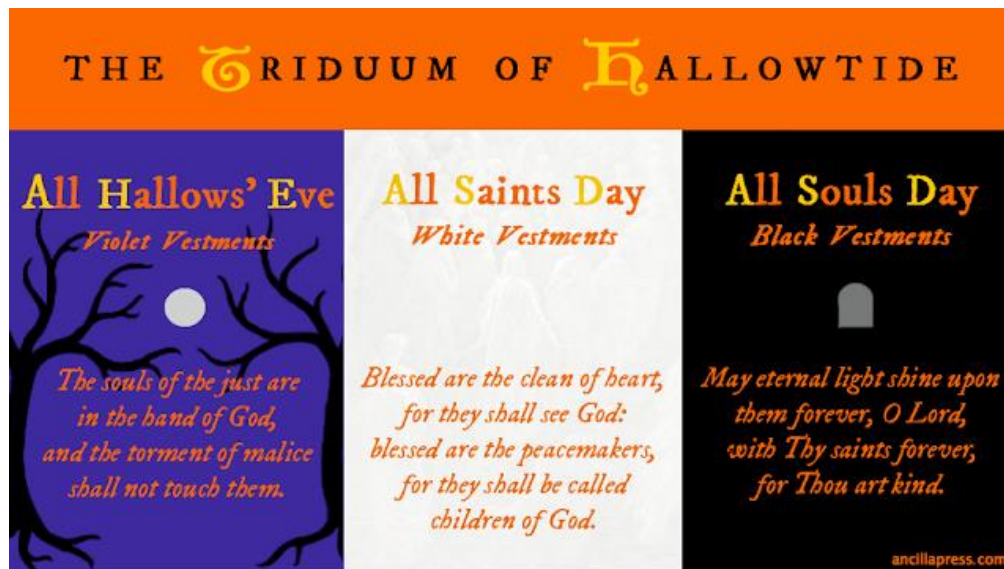
**ATTACHED/IN PACKET:** Pictures, November calendar/menu, Meyer Twins Art registration, 4-H flyer, Change for Christ 1/2 sheet flyer, Workers' lists for BB and VB games

- If you are interested in discussing the future of the St. Thomas **Soup Supper**, there will be a brainstorming meeting on Sunday, Nov. 12th following the 10:00 mass in the parish center. All are invited to provide input. I would love to see members of the kitchen committee and other chairpeople there for the conversations. If you have any questions, email school principal, Jill Bierman, at [jillbierman@stthomassaints.com](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com).
- The NCHS Ag Power II Class is selling **beautiful shadow-casting Nativity sets**. Check out the St. Thomas Facebook page for pictures. If you are interested in purchasing one, I can pass that on to the students or you can fill out the Google form on Facebook. This would be a neat way to support our vocational kids at NCHS.
- I want to personally invite you to the **NCHS Pops Concert** this Thursday and Friday nights at 7:00 in the NCHS auditorium. There is a lot of talent to be shared. All songs are from movies! It promises to be a great show!
- Thanks to everyone who sent treats for the **Mission Party** and paid for your kids to attend. It was a great time and money was raised to

help with this summer's mission trip to Milwaukee, WI. Several of our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders are going! The 8<sup>th</sup> graders did an awesome job and were very creative.

- We are thankful to the **Newton Public Library** for their story walk around the square. Several of our groups have gone, enjoying the story and the fall weather.
  - Normally we would have the **School Board** and **Trivia night** meetings this week, but Wednesday is a Holy Day of Obligation, so it is not until next week.
- We are looking for help in the **cafeteria** on Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-1. Let me know if you can help out.
  - Next week, to help raise funds for the ministerial association's Christmas food boxes, we will have a change drive. We are calling it **"Change for Christ"**. Have your kids start doing extra chores to save up change to bring in. This will be a friendly class competition, with the winning class getting to choose a "party". Thanks in advance for supporting our community.
- Next week the **Booster Club Wreath Fundraiser** will be coming home if you want to start asking family members. I can't believe we're thinking about Christmas!
  - If you are headed to Disney anytime soon, ☺ we do have Disney **SCRIP** cards and VISA cards as well. All are good for travelling! It's also a good time to start stocking up for Christmas. Let us know, so we can get them ordered for you!
- If you get a chance, work with your littles on **zipping/buttoning coats**. I know it's a lot for their little fingers, but it's worth them trying and saves a lot of time going out to lunch recess if at least some of them can do it.





I've been asked by several people about Halloween. Some churches celebrate it and some do not. There is technically nothing in the Bible about it – obviously, the Bible was written way before the tradition of Halloween began. However, all have the religious freedom to celebrate or not. Let's be tolerant and kind, and although people can associate bible verses with/against Halloween, it is solely interpretation and application. We can find verses to go with almost any side of any issue if we interpret that way.

It does coincide with the Triduum of Hallowtide when the Catholic Church celebrates our saints in heaven, those working to be saints, and the souls of those who have died. All Saints Day is a Holy Day in our church and falls the day after Halloween in the U.S. At St. Thomas School we enjoy the creative costumes and invite all families to come and watch the parade of classes at 1:15. We do not make our parade about our faith. We do faithfully attend church on All-Saints' Day with our 1<sup>st</sup> graders showing and teaching us about their favorite saints.