



# Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education  
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER...

# PIECES

Vol. 16 Issue 10 January 11, 2012

## Welcome Back!

I could hardly wait for Tuesday to come. I missed you and your children badly. I love the imagination and excitement of our preschool and kindergarten children. I love seeing your tender eyes as you say goodbye to them. As I move in and out of our elementary classrooms, I am struck with the “business” of the day. Even on that last day before our break, learning was taking place. Our teachers are focused on getting the most out of each and every day. I often tell visitors when they tour the school, that our middle school students are the pride and joy of our school. They are thoughtful, polite, reverent, and lead the younger kids every day. They truly love this...we are so lucky to have adolescents who actually ask to be paired with the younger students for activities. I could not be prouder of our eighth grade class. Like no other class, they have made their mark in the leadership of our school. They single handedly produce and broadcast the morning announcements with the professionalism of adults. They have volunteered countless hours to service in our community. They have offered to take turns giving up their lunch recess time to help a younger student on the playground every day. As we settle into the long cold season of winter, and have a quiet stretch of “normal” after the busy holidays, know that your children are in a most wonderful and blessed place. The synergy of learning that takes place in our faith filled environment is exciting to witness. The presence of God all around us, in us, and with us is palatable. Your involvement in the daily life of the school has made us the special place that we are. Your children are surrounded daily by a family of moms and dads, grandfathers and grandmothers, and loving adults who are invested in the community of our school and who model our Christ-centered values for the children.

~ Mrs. Furtwangler

## Yearbook Orders

They grow up so fast! Remember the year with a full-color yearbook. If you haven't ordered a yearbook, there is still time. Orders must be submitted no later than February 1, 2012. Yearbooks cost \$12.00 each and order forms are available in the Welcome and Information Center near the school entrance. (Please note: Most picture packages included a yearbook.)

~ Sue Ysasi

## Variety Show

Yes, it's that time of the year. Time to show everyone that you are part of the Variety of Saint Thomas School! Our show is now scheduled for February 10th, and the rehearsal dates are reserved. All we need is you and a permission slip! Rehearsals will be in the church basement from 3:15-5:00 p.m. This year we will all practice together on February 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 with a dress rehearsal on February 9th.



Get your parents' permission, have them read the lyrics for any songs you will be using, and have them sign the permission slip that you will then drop off at the office. Also, I will need a CD of any music, preferably as a single on a disk. There will also be opportunities for involvement for anyone who is NOT part of an act. Just let me know that you want to help and I will put you to work for the show! I can be reached at 635-1090 if you have any questions or concerns.

~ Mike Trenshaw

**RISE UP**  
**2012**

**Permission slips coming home soon.**



## ATTACHMENTS

- January Hot Lunch
- Vocation Parent Letter
- Vocation Videos
- Athletic Booster Meeting Minutes
- Catholic School Fair Flyer
- Music Flyer

## With Love From Our Principal

I have come to the conclusion that all of us should aim to be more like a three year old. I had the gift of spending three whole weeks with my granddaughter, Marlee. She has more energy than anyone I know, more creativity, and more sass than shyness. She taught me much in our time together this Christmas. I think of our preschoolers, and realize that at this age, they are truly perfect little people. Three year olds are honest without apology. Marlee would be chattering away with me about something, and mid-sentence will inform me that I have an “eye boogie” and keep right on going with her conversation. After dinner one night, she stared at me and then opened my mouth. She proclaimed to the room that I had leaves in my teeth and proceeded to assist in plucking them out. It occurred to me later as I meticulously flossed, that Marlee had simply cared enough about how her Nana looked to inform me of what might be amiss. Deep down, we all wish our friends were less concerned about the embarrassment of telling us that our shirt is inside out than making sure we don't look silly needlessly!

Three year olds delight in nearly everything. A few drops of food coloring in their bath tub, a blob of shaving cream on the table, a bowl of snow with some maple syrup on top, and the excitement can barely be contained. Some of us require so much more in order to merely raise a smile. Three year olds enjoy life so much that they get up as early as they can, and attempt to stretch the day out as long as possible. We yawn our way through the day, looking forward to pajamas and pillows, while our wise wee ones enjoy every moment of every day. I suspect that Jesus had the heart of a three year old.

We all crave unconditional love...and get it in abundance from preschoolers. They are old enough to read your face when you need a hug, and young enough to affirm aloud your attributes. Three year olds let you know that you are loved without reserve. Marlee declared her love for me one day, informing me that I was her “berry bestest friend of all”. My son quickly said, “Hey, what about me???” To which she said, “Sorry dad, but it is Nana”. If we could love that deeply those around us, drowning them in admiration and putting them before all others, just think about how much pain would go away in people's lives. This love is contagious. Just stand in a hallway when the preschoolers are filing through. One wee one will pull out of rank to grab you for a quick and much appreciated hug. What inevitably follows is a snug fest of hugs from each of the remaining children. As I reflect on the year behind me, I sadly realize that I flew to Seattle three times. Once to care for my very ill daughter-in-law, Katie, who was overcome with sickness and fatigue as she began a long and difficult pregnancy. The second time to help Brandon and Katie go from a family of three to a very bustling family of five with the arrival of Carmen and Rogan in September, then in November to be with my son Tyler and his wife Ali, at the stillbirth of my grandson, Zachary. On the way home from the hospital, we were hit from behind twice by another car sealing that horrific day with painful whiplash. Soon after my return, we received word that my husband's brother, his only remaining family member, died at the age of 46. Earlier in the year, we buried his other brother, only months after his mother died. It has been a very difficult year...yet, this Christmas, surrounded by the wee ones, showered with the kind of sticky love that only they can give, it all drifted away.

I write this to you on the eve of our return to school. The house is now quiet, our sons are gone. The constant diversions of babies and Marlee's antics have disappeared, and even the ever-present sink full of dishes have been washed and put away. I have often wondered why God would call me from the classroom...that comfort zone I miss so much. Tonight, as I prepare to go to bed without a toddler stealing the sheets, and sadly accept that I will get a full night's sleep without taking the night feeding for the twins, I know why He did what He did three years ago. I listened to Father Jim this Advent. I prayed in quiet, and went to the place deep inside where I could ask Him to inspire me. I also asked Him for guidance, wisdom and to send me loving families who will join their talents with mine and help me in this huge job. Tonight, as I madly miss my children and their children, I realize that I am eagerly looking forward to school tomorrow. Your children are my children. Our school is our home. You are my partners, and I have missed all of you. This will be a very good new year...

~ Suzi Furtwangler, Principal

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the month of January:

*Victims of Natural Disasters: That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.*



## HOT LUNCH PRICE ADJUSTMENT



During an audit of our hot lunch program in December by the State of Michigan Department of Education we found that we should have been charging \$2.45 per student lunch for this school year. To correct this, **we will need to increase the student lunch price to \$2.45 beginning January 16.** Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## New Enrichment Opportunities in 2012/2013!!

### Expanded Kindergarten Enrichment

Our Kindergarten Enrichment program is expanding!! We are responding to many requests for more days of enrichment!! We hear you!! For the 2012/2013 school year we will have several options available: A 3-day program which meets with Mrs. Zakrajsek on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons; a 2-day program which meets with Mrs. Zakrajsek on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; and, if you want your child to attend kindergarten all day, they may attend both the 3-day and the 2-day program, which would then require them to attend the AM and PM kindergarten on alternating days with Mrs. Coderre. Registration forms will be available in the Registration packets. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Zakrajsek at [azakrajsek@stthomasgr.org](mailto:azakrajsek@stthomasgr.org).

## Lap Time and Community Coffee Changed to New Time!

In an effort to make our popular Lap Time and Community Coffees more convenient for families with little ones, we have moved the time to 10-11:00 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. **Lap Time** will be held in the Ministry Center Chapel on **1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/6, 3/20, 4/17, 5/1, and 5/15** and



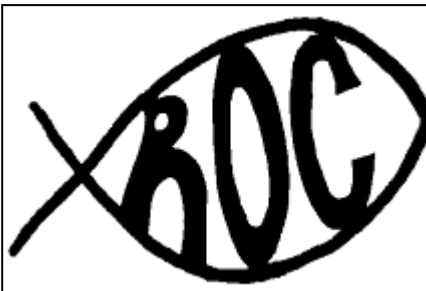
the **Community Coffees** will be held on the opposite Tuesdays in the lower level of the church (Nursery for children) and Room 3 on **1/17, 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, and 5/22.** Come join us!

## Temples, We Are...

As we educate our children in all areas of the curriculum, none is more important, more pertinent to us than Theology. We try to teach children about God and about our faith in all that we do at Saint Thomas. Our teachers try to model servant leadership; we make every attempt to scream our Catholic identity from every wall and corner of the building. We pray often together. Every classroom was blessed at the beginning of the year, and every child who ends up in my office is disciplined, not disciplined. Even our choice of food in our hot lunch program speaks to the importance of keeping our bodies healthy since they are the temples of God. At the beginning of the year, we created a healthy snack policy that addressed two things: Our commitment to your child's health in mind, body and spirit, and to support those parents who are attempting to eliminate unhealthy foods from their children's diets or who have children with food allergies.

Of course, we realize that there will be occasional treats, special celebrations and times of the year when snacks trickle in. The Healthy Snack Policy asks you to try to bring in healthy snacks.

God bless you all for your generosity to our school and our students. They are continually reminded that they are loved.  
~ Mrs. Furtwangler



## YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS...

*Please look for registration forms on the youth bulletin board in the lower level of church:*

**Sunday night R.O.C. Youth Group**, 6:30-8:30 pm, January 15<sup>th</sup> & January 29<sup>th</sup>

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade LOCK-IN** @ at the MAC; Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 pm – 12:30 am (yes, same date as 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade LOCK-IN** @ EAST HILLS; Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 pm – 12:30 am (yes, same date as 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Super Bowl of Trail Mix**, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 pm in the lower level of church

**DYC2012**, Diocesan high school youth conference, Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Cathedral Square Center, 9 am-7:30 pm.

**SHINE Youth Rally**, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, for 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders at IHM, 12:30-8:30 pm.

## Student Stewardship for Catholic Schools Week

Each year the Diocese provides an organization to receive the funds collected from Catholic school children during Catholic Schools Week. This year the Diocese has chosen Holy Child Association, a missionary program that provides food, clothing, medicine, etc., for impoverished children around the globe. Each child will soon be receiving their first newsletter and other materials as part of their subscription to the program, which the Diocesan Office of Missionaries has provided. Please look for materials to come home with your children and encourage them to provide service at home or in the neighborhood to earn change for our school collection. For more information on the missionary program and how the money is used, check out their website at [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org).

## Student Council Update

Student Council officers and representatives, along with other diocesan Catholic school children, will be attending Mass at Saint Andrews Cathedral on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> to honor Catholic Schools Week. Additionally, we will be hosting IHM students and their principal, Mrs. Stacy Slomski for a pizza lunch here at Saint Thomas immediately following our arrival from the cathedral. Council parents, please look for more information to come after our January 19 meeting.

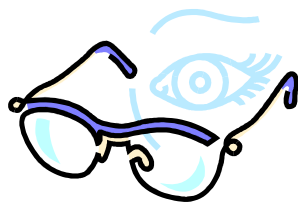
## Thank You!

A big thank you to the Home and School Association, Jennifer Dalrymple, and all her helpers for our delicious Christmas cookie trays! Jennifer organized the reminder callers, the bakers, and the assemblers of these wonderful trays of homemade goodies. The staff and teachers and their families really appreciate this act of kindness!! Thank you to all!



## Found

A pair of eyeglasses with a multi-color frame was found in church after the All School Christmas Mass on Friday, December 16. Please call the school office at 458-4228, if they are yours.



~ Mrs. Ysasi

## Flu Season Reminders



1. **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
2. **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder; not into your hands.
3. **Stay home if you or your child is sick** for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.

## Box Tops for Education News

Congratulations to Mrs. Zoppa's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class for winning the December contest by contributing to our December total of \$170.90 worth of box tops. Their class was awarded a pizza party just before break, compliments of Pizza Hut. Please check out the Box Tops for Education website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for coupons discounted products, opportunities to win \$25,000 worth of box tops for our school, e box tops, a listing of products and retailers who provide box tops and other worthwhile information. In the meantime, please keep clipping.

# R U READY?

## COLLECTION CORNER

**Box Tops for Education**-to help our library  
**Labels for Education**-we are saving for a trombone!  
**Bottle Caps** from glass bottles  
**License plates**



Also, as you purge and reorganize for the new year, please send in your **used t-shirts**

## The Church Speaks

*"The Catholic school loses its purpose without constant reference to the Gospel and a frequent encounter with Christ."*

**THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1977**  
**-Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education**

## Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you are new to our school or still need to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming sessions:

Cathedral Square (Grand Rapids)  
360 Division Avenue S  
Thursday, April 12, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.

(Additional sessions may be made available after the first of the year, please check the website at: [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org))

If you plan to attend one of these sessions, and have not already registered, please register online as follows:

Go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

- Click "Registration"
- Click "Begin the Registration Process"
- Select Diocese of Grand Rapids as the organization.
- You will be required to enter a UserID and password (of your choice)
- Fill out registration form
- Choose a location

## NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

### Library Thank YOU

Thank you to our wonderful parent readers for the month of December. We are grateful to Mrs. Perdue, Mrs. Drees, Mrs. Kuperus, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Rumery, Mrs. Max and Mrs. Rellinger for sharing their love of reading with all our students. Please look for the new winter/spring "Read to Me, I'll Read to You" sign up this week. They are going home with all our P4-5th graders.

### January Dewey Section

Our Dewey Section this month is the 500s which is Science or as I say, "anything created by God but untouched by man". This includes dinosaurs, rain forests, deserts, oceans, planets and ANIMALS! (Remember if the science is touched by man then it's in the 600s. So wild animals are 500s and pets are 600s, planets are 500s but space travel is 600s) Please have your child bring in the original slip from the library with the 500s book circled and name/grade. They get a small prize for a slip and are entered into our quarterly drawing. We will have another drawing for a \$25.00 gift card to Schuler Books at the end of the marking period which is January 27th. Happy Reading!!

## 7th/8th Grade Dance

7th and 8th Grade Parents, please save the date: **Saturday, February 4, 2012** for the annual 7th/8th grade dance. The dance will take place in the Saint Thomas Gym following the 5 p.m. Mass. The dance will go until 9 p.m. Further details will follow.

Please consider chaperoning. If interested, please contact Linda Fetterhoff @ 514-8384.

## Ski Club 2012

On Monday, a price list and registration form for Ski Club was sent home with students. If you would like to sign your child or children up, please return the paperwork by **THIS Friday, January 13**. Ski Club is always a great way to spend some quality time with family and friends. If you have any questions, please call Stephanie Lavoie @ 443-2700.

## Spiritual Adoption

The next Spiritual Adoption (of an unborn baby in danger of abortion) meeting is January 16th during the Jr. High religion classes. Looking forward to praying with you!

~ Mrs. Valente

## Educational Outfitters

Educational Outfitters is having a **10% off Uniform Sale** including short and long sleeve polos, oxfords, blouses, skirts, and girls' and boys' pants. Please order at: [www.educationalfitters.com](http://www.educationalfitters.com).

## An Invitation To Pray The Rosary in Church

Every day at Saint Thomas School you can pray the Rosary with other parents and friends. You can pray for our school, our teachers, your children, the sick, a special intention, yourself or for any reason at all. Please feel welcome to join many other men and women who would like to lift up a Rosary to Our Blessed 'Mother. No prior experience necessary.



**3:00 pm** every **Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
(right before school lets out)

**8:00 am** every **Tuesday, Thursday**  
(right after school starts)



# Saint Thomas Hornet Athletics



## HELP WANTED

### *The Athletic Boosters need your help!*

Please consider taking on the responsibility of Spirit Coordinator for the 2012-2013 school year.

### Spirit Wear Coordinator

The spirit wear coordinator promotes the sale of Saint Thomas the Apostle School spirit wear items that include: sweat shirts, sweat pants, hats and t-shirts, etc. Order forms and checks are returned to the coordinator for processing with a predetermined vendor. Once orders are filled by the vendor, the coordinator distributes orders to the children or makes other arrangements with parents if items will be used as gifts. The total time commitment for this position is approximately five hours per school year.

Please contact me with any questions or if you are interested in taking over. Thanks!

Matt Tietema  
(616) 460-4063

## Video Tribute Online

Check out the AMAZING Video Tribute in honor of long-time football coach, Jim Ens. The video was done by our 7th and 8th grade football players with the professional expertise and talents of our own Julie Line and Bob Line Neumann, as a thank you to Coach Ens for his many years of service to the young men of our school. Coach Ens has spent years developing young men of character so that they would succeed not only on the football field, but as strong Catholic men who stand up as witnesses and leaders throughout their lives. The video tribute can be viewed via the link on our homepage at: [www.stthomasgr.org](http://www.stthomasgr.org) or on our school facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/saintthomasgr](http://www.facebook.com/saintthomasgr). CD's are also available in the school office.

Thank you, Coach Ens!

**Be a Good Fan by Being a  
Good Sport and a Positive Example  
To Those Around You!**

## Boosters Concession Schedule

Below is a list of the families scheduled to work in the gym concession stand. If you are unable to work, please find a sub to switch with you. Please call Helen Vrugink at 459-6910 if you have any questions.



### Thursday 1/19/12

5:45pm Start Up – Fitzgerald

6:30pm 7<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball –Fitzgerald

### Saturday 1/21/12

8:15am Start Up – Bocian

9:00 am 7<sup>th</sup> Boys B-Ball – DeBruyn

10:10am 5<sup>th</sup> Boys B-Ball – Brady

11:20am 7<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball – Dieleman

12:30pm 8<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball – Walch

### Saturday 1/28/12

8:15am Start Up – Pinter

9:00 am 6<sup>th</sup> Boys B-Ball – Henry

10:10am 6<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball/Green – Kane

11:20am 7<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball – Murphy

12:30pm 6<sup>th</sup> Boys B-Ball – LaVoie

1:40pm 8<sup>th</sup> Girls B-Ball – Nicholson



Happy New Year Saint Thomas Families:

We are truly blessed in this New Year as our committees, parents and volunteers continue to plan, prepare and coordinate events to make Saint Thomas a joyful community. In the coming weeks we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week through prayer and adoration. Our Publishing Center has opened and children will start to bring home their published stories. The Morality and Chastity Committee has speakers in place for the month of February for the middle school.

Home and School met January 5<sup>th</sup> to share with members the events that have occurred and to go through the budget. We also approved the minutes from November 2011 that will be put on the website. As of January 2012, we have spent three fourths of our \$35,000 budget. Those monies have gone to Religious and Educational Programming, Hospitality, Field Trips and Classroom Necessities. Committee Chairs please remember to submit your reimbursement forms to Dawn Olney. Our next meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Faculty Conference Room.

Again, the Board thanks everyone for their enthusiasm and commitment. We wish everyone a wonderful New Year!

*God Bless!*

*Lisa Mullen*

Home and School President

## **Save the Date!**

### *Home and School Sponsored Events*

January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Catholic Schools Week
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Home and School Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m., Faculty Conference Room
February	Morality and Chastity Presentations

### **Did you know.....**

We have one person who coordinates all of our volunteers and chairs for the entire school year and this is our Volunteer In Partnership Coordinator, Angela Yondo. Thank You, Angela, for an amazing job!

# **RU AWAKE?**

# Worshipped in Spirit and Truth

PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

**Front Row:** LuLu Horrigan, Owen Horrigan, Maeve Perdue, Claire Buehler  
**Back Row:** Kayleigh Muraski, Chloe Fornetti, Landon Bandlow, Bridget Ladd



**Front Row:** Madeline Sebestyen, Carolyn Lignell, Steven Woodruff  
**Back Row:** Anna Brady, Noah Fetterhoff, Ethan Alfaro

PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES



The First graders made over 1,300 small gifts and Christmas tags for the children of families serviced by ICCF (Inter City Christian Federation). They truly were worshipping in spirit and truth by putting their faith into action through service.

**Front Row:** Tommy Krachenberg, Emma DenBraber, Kyla Robinson, Charlie Lincolnhol, Elijah Shiel  
**Back Row:** Marie Kieras, Henry Dykema, Danny Mikolay, Luke Braselton

# RU ALERT?

# Saint Thomas Hot Lunch Menu

## *January 16-27, 2012*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16 Beefy Nachos Black Bean and Corn Salsa <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Grilled Ham & Cheese → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Tomato Soup →	17 Braised Locally Raised Pork BBQ Sandwich  Sweet Potatoes	18 Whole Wheat Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce  Breadsticks	19 Pizza  Green Beans	20 Macaroni And Cheese*  Honey Carrot Coins*
23 Otto's Locally Raised Chicken Drumstick*  Mashed Potatoes* <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Chicken Caesar Salad <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chili →	24 Sloppy Joes  Potato Wedges	25 Cuban Sandwich  Black Beans and Rice	26 Pizza  Tossed Salad*	27 Grilled Cheese  Sweet Potatoes

\* Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Recipes

**All lunches are served with Moo-Ville milk: a local, family run dairy farm in Nashville, Michigan.**

Items on food bar this month:

Romaine Lettuce  
 Cheddar Cheese  
 Croutons  
 Carrots

Vanilla Yogurt  
 Homemade Granola  
 Fresh Apples  
 Fresh Oranges

Fresh Pears  
 Carolina Slaw  
 Hummus  
 Whole Wheat Tortillas

We will be trying a new sandwich this month, the Cuban sandwich. You can help explain to your child what exactly it is and help get them excited about trying new foods from different places.

The Cuban sandwich is pretty basic and any child given the opportunity should enjoy it. Ours will be a toasted sandwich of freshly made Cuban bread, ham, freshly roasted pork, pickles, Swiss cheese and mustard. Yum!



## **VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK**

Dear Parents,

### **Vocations Awareness Week is in progress!**

Ask your kids about who they saw during the morning announcements so far. They have been treated to wonderful morning speakers who have talked about the vocations of religious life, married life, and the single life. The students are learning to discern and be open to the uniquely special call and vocation that God has for each one of them.

The students will be receiving prayer cards with Father Jim's photo on the front, and a prayer for priests on the back! We invite you to pray this prayer together for our beloved Shepherd, Fr. Jim.

On Friday, Fr. Jim will be our guest speaker for the parent luncheon. Also on Friday, the Trinitarian Sisters of Mary will speak to the children and will be guests at the luncheon so parents can meet them, too.

Be sure to check out the Youtube list of Vocations videos following this letter. They are short, informative, and inspiring.

### **Here's what's happening (or has happened) this week:**

Live morning announcements/interviews:

Monday, Jan 9th - Interview with University of Notre Dame seminarian Tony Oleck.

Tuesday, Jan 10th - Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Casey DeBruyn spoke on the vocation of marriage.

Wednesday, Jan 11th - newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Katherine (Faber) VanderHyde to speak on the vocation of marriage.

Thursday, Jan 12th - Margo Dean will speak on the vocation to the single life.

On Friday, Jan 13th, the Trinitarians of Mary will speak to grades K-4 and 5th-8th grades. They will celebrate Holy Mass with us and then join us for lunch with the parents while Father Jim speaks.

**Thank you** to all of our special speakers and guests this week and a special *thank you to all parents* for your ongoing witness to your children!

In Christ,

*The Vocations Committee*

Here are the Youtube videos for Vocations week. There is quite a variety. Some are just quick and cute and others are more informative. Updated 01/05/2012

**Enjoy!**

~Donna Valente

## Vocations Week Youtube videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNKYbbokY-c> , Fr. Jonathon Meyer Great all ages about 4 min.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UY5sZPU32s> , Quick and cute! all ages

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKu7dYa1DoU> , 2:25 Sister Allison's Vocation to be a nun. all ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSXeWIFBL6Y> . 2:44 Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Vocational Testimony. 4th grade to 8th.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U-M97Vvk3C8> , 5:49 Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dcOK9kaeVg> , 2:44 About discernment of God's will regarding vocations from Life Teen. 4th to 8th.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2B17iI9iTk> , 4:42 Great for reflection. Is Christ Calling You? Instrumental with pictures of different Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS7-NqdLbCw> , 8:14 Vocations to Sisterhood. Dominicans, good overview of being a Sister. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tEJkigu7DA> , 7:11 Passionist Bishop Neil Tiedemann story of becoming priest, his work and becoming Bishop. Excellent! 4th to 8th.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQq4wsWalOw> , .20 Matrix - Catholic, Fr. Jonathon Meyers. Just fun! All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbaUQLp8qV8> , .20 Men in Black - Catholic Priests. Just fun! All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uahunMW7FsyE> , .19 James Bond intro - Catholic Priest. Just fun! All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-YtSfG6nYM> 0:41 Dancing Priest iPod spoof –Just fun all ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trsLA4Y5HAc> 0:29 Star Wars priest Fun for all ages!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iI0HLodSjb4> , 5:34 London England Seminarians talk about becoming priests. 4th to 8th.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9a1DpmCDuc> , 8:41 Fishers of Men Part 1, Same as the DVD the school has. all ages.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_SXSpzx4hY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_SXSpzx4hY) , 9:37 Fishers of Men Part 2, Same as the DVD the school has. all ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sp-BXeYuYI> , 3:35 Leaving Soccer for the Priesthood Fox News Chase Hilgenbrink of the New Eng. Revolution. Excellent all ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc78pMBpwpo> , 2:06 Soccer Player to Become Priest. Story about Chase Hilgenbrink. Excellent all ages

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1\\_SvuiKbEgc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1_SvuiKbEgc) , 1:15 Jesuit Vocation Promotions Part 1. Excellent! all ages.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ\\_COeUYRm0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ_COeUYRm0) , 1:59 Jesuit Vocation Promotions Part 2. all ages.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_jDpxX9UDc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_jDpxX9UDc) , 4:49 A Holy Boldness Jesuit Vocation. Excellent all ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7V3iYeZU0E> , 3:54 Franciscan Friars Vocations video. All ages.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJi\\_wUr0ydk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJi_wUr0ydk) , 1:56 Franciscan Vocation - Being a brother. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBPCTOU3ePg> , 3:10 Franciscan Vocation. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YZPmv8vzSM> , 3:19 Franciscan vocation - becoming a friar. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N69x0Ia096E> , 1:20 Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJ5K1OEWtuM> , 9:04 Sisters of Charity history and current. 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEITmmPNGSA> , 2:18 Franciscan vocation.Music/reflection. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l22I8PIRqzw> 1:55 VisionVocationGuide. Carmelite Friars. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31D3SRRS3P0> 6:53 World Over-From the A's to the Altar. 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QI\\_nA0Jh4aE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QI_nA0Jh4aE) 0:58 Grant Desme cleats to clergy. All ages.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz9I-PaRzqE> 7:50 2010 vocations video excellent presentation & then bloopers. 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>

<http://youtu.be/aXTu35hLhTc> 2:19 Sisters of the Cross.mov. Cloiste order. 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

<http://youtu.be/JO2EmxHtjZY> 6:44 Maryknoll vocations video 2011. 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>.

<http://youtu.be/sMfP985IyH8> 1:16 Former Olympic Skater has no regrets about vocation. All ages.

## **Saint Thomas Athletic Boosters**

### **Athletic Boosters Meeting**

November 15, 2011

Present: Matt Tietema, Keith Barth, Kathy Barth, Michelle Kane, Jennifer McWain, Louis Bandlow, Tracy Bandlow, Mike Trenshaw, Amy Drees

Minutes from last meeting were discussed and approved.

#### **Presidents Report:**

Matt Tietema discussed that the Poinsettia sale needed some ideas to sell more. One idea was to have 8<sup>th</sup> graders man a table at conferences. Since this meeting the Poinsettia sale doubled its sales from last year.

Spirit wear is displayed in the school by the art room along with order forms to take home. Discussion was had about whether or not Spirit Wear was actually "worth" the effort put into it.

Matt offered his Concessions stand concerns. It is getting increasingly more difficult to get parents to work in the concession stand. In addition, we are seeing a pattern where parents do not bother to show up for their time slot. When this happens, someone else has to work longer or if they have to leave, Louis or Tracy Bandlow have to fill in. Parents should be reminded that if we have to close the door we lose a great deal of revenue and maybe more importantly, it does not look good for Saint Thomas to have a full day of games and not have concessions. One of the problems is getting five different families in one day. We need to communicate to everyone that it is their responsibility to help. There were ideas to improve this. Make it easier for the parents to run the stand, like a DVD to watch on a step by step of how to do everything. -Have a binder of instructions. -Pay a fee to get out of it. -Get each team to do a day. -Have two families to do one day together (tag team)

#### **Treasures Report:**

Jennifer McWain reported on the current financial situation relative to last year and at the start of this school year.

Jennifer suggested that Spirit wear is moving along but needs to sell more to cover inventory costs. There was a question if there was enough student items. One idea is to put a display in the gym with order forms to take home. Also do a table at conferences. Matt thanked Jennifer for all of her work.

#### **Athletic Director Report:**

Louis Bandlow presented the fact that Fall sports went well. There were some referee problems that are being addressed at the GRACEAC level. Anyone 16 years or a junior in High School may now be a Jr. Referee for GRACEAC.

## **BOOSTER MINUTES, continued**

Louis suggested that everyone loved the new football uniforms. There is a football committee in place to see what can be done to help with the numbers decrease.

A **BIG** thank you to Coach Jim Ens for 15 years of Christ centered football coaching. The Athletic Boosters presented him with a personalized jersey at the football banquet.

GRACEAC is moving forward with offering Lacrosse. There was conversation about how much equipment we will be able to supply. It costs about \$300 to outfit one player. Could we supply one item? Idea was shared to check out local colleges for used equipment.

Louis passed out MHSAA Recruiting rules for high school sports. We need to be aware of this issue.

Basketball is up and going the gyms are full of practice. The basketball teams will use the SAL again this year. There will be no additional cost for insurance; the rental will be \$200 per month.

Track is still in need of coaches. There are five other schools that practice with us and we need parent help. Training will be at the CAT. Contact Amy Drees for more information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Bandlow (alternate secretary)



*Check out the special video tribute made by our 7th and 8th grade football players, with the help of Bob and Julie Line-Neumann, in honor of Coach Ens as he concludes 15 years of coaching football at Saint Thomas. The video can be viewed by clicking on this button found on the homepage of our website at:*

**[www.stthomasgr.org](http://www.stthomasgr.org)**

*CD's are also available in the school office.*

*Coach Ens did more than help make great athletes, he helped mold great Catholic men.*

*We are grateful for his many years of service and for all the special men and women who volunteer countless hours and seasons to coach our Saint Thomas Hornets.*

Diocese of Grand Rapids  
**Catholic Schools Fair 2012**  
**Saturday, January 28\***  
**10 am - Noon**

\*In case of severe weather, the fair will be held on Saturday, February 4.

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**If you plan to attend, please contact us at:**  
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**616.246.0590**



# ROOTS WILL



# ROCK!

Come together and make music, learn a new instrument, jam with others who love to play, find out what it means to start a band, learn how to arrange music, etc. Join Steve Foote and Jason Proctor, experienced band directors in the Kentwood School District, on Wednesday afternoons and “Roots Will Rock!”

What: Roots Will Rock!

Where: Franciscan Life Process Center Grand Rapids Campus  
640 5th Street NW (former St. Adalbert’s School—3rd floor)  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

When: Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm, January 11, 2012– April 25, 2012

Fee: \$25 (due at the first class)

Age: 13-17 years old

Requirement: Regular Attendance (3 strikes and you’re out!)



Please fill out the registration form below (**deadline is Fri., Dec. 16, 2011**) and mail to: Registrar, Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes Street, Lowell, MI, 49331-9489, or email information to: [registrar@lifeprocesscenter.org](mailto:registrar@lifeprocesscenter.org)

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## ROOTS WILL ROCK!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What instrument(s) do you currently play? \_\_\_\_\_

What instrument would you like to play? \_\_\_\_\_

What styles of music do you like? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to learn/accomplish/do through Roots Will Rock? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_