



# Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education  
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER...

# PIECES

Vol. 15 Issue 8 December 1, 2010

## Christmas Vespers

Our annual Christmas Vespers service for all parishioners and school families will be held on Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Our students, grades 4-8 have active roles in the service. All Saint Thomas families are encouraged to attend and participate. Please join us for a peaceful evening of anticipation, reflection and celebration.

~ Kathy Proulx

## Jean Pass Reminder:

Students may use their Birthday Jean Pass or Hornet Game of the Week Jean Pass on the second Monday of the month IF they turn in the Jean Pass to their homeroom teacher on the morning of that day. Your children must have the pass WITH THEM on Jean Pass Day. We will have students who forget or lose their passes call home for school uniform pants. Thank you for your help with this matter.

~ Suzanne VanderZee

## MAP™ Testing

We are using new standardized tests beginning this school year with the first of two testing periods taking place Jan. 10-27. The second testing period will be in April or May. On Friday of this week, a letter and Parent Toolkit from NWEA™ (the publishing company of the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests) will be sent home with the oldest/only child in grades 2 - 8 from each family. The letter and toolkit contain helpful information about the testing and our decision to use this new process. Please read it carefully and feel free to direct any questions you may have to your child/ren's teacher. We will be instructing the students regarding the new testing during the first week of January. If parents of younger children are interested in having these materials at this time, please contact the school office and we will be happy to send it to you.

~ Suzanne VanderZee

## Christmas Wish List

Due to the amazing success of our Auction With a Twist, we are not publishing a Christmas Wish List this year, as our needs are small. If you wish to give a Christmas gift to your child's Classroom, or any of the other Special Programs in the School, School Office, or Administration, we do have a short list in the school office and in the Welcome and Information Center.

## Attn: Cookie Tray Volunteers!

The Holidays are coming and it's almost time to put together our Christmas Cookie trays for teachers and staff!! The trays will be assembled on Friday, December 17th. Those volunteers who signed up to make cookies or sweet treats will be getting reminder calls closer to the date with details. We always appreciate additional bakers, so if you would like to bake or bring in something, but did not sign up to do so, please call Jennifer Dalrymple at 447-9276 or Lisa Wolf at 682-0552! Thank you for your help!

~ Jennifer Dalrymple

## Thank You, Veterans!

On Veterans' Day, November 11th at 11:00, the exact time Armistice was signed to mark the end of World War I, students and staff shared a very solemn moment with our special guest, Andrea Thompson, honoring our veterans and soldiers who are currently serving in the armed forces around the world. Ms. Thompson, mother of 3-year old preschooler Kaiden Tallarico, led our student body in prayer and shared her personal story of her experience serving in the war in Afghanistan. She explained to our students how important it is to our service men and women that they express gratitude for the sacrifices made. In return, Saint Thomas students created dozens of cards thanking our service men & women and offering prayers of comfort and peace. These cards will be included in the care packages sent by Ms. Thompson and her employer to our troops this Christmas. Thank you, students, for showing respect, honor and gratitude for those who give so much to our country. ~ Mrs. Walch



## ATTACHMENTS

- December Calendar
- December Hot Lunch Menu
- Winter Sports Schedule
- Operation Christmas Child Letter
- Father Jim's Advent Letter
- Advent at Saint Thomas the Apostle
- Superintendent's Quarterly Letter
- Challenge Flyer
- Little Saints Night Flyer & Registration

## With Love from the Principal

Happy New Year! Advent signals the beginning of the new liturgical year, and warrants a bit of celebration of the past year. We have had much to celebrate at Saint Thomas. Our beloved former Principal, David Faber, heard God call him to serve the Diocese as Superintendent, and now he is moving our many Catholic schools in a new and exciting direction. Our own school has experienced many changes... Jeanne Walch and I joyfully love living our first call as mothers and our faith lives with your children. We hope it shows. Our new teachers, Conrad Budzynski and Cheryl Coderre are a pleasure to watch as they weave learning, love and faith into creating thriving communities in their classrooms. The other teachers are amazing in their leadership and support during this year of transition...and Sue Ysasi and Suzanne VanderZee are simply rocks. We do what we do here with the immeasurable help of volunteer parents, Aquinas students, and community collaborators. The synergy in our hallways is tangible. It feeds your soul! Your children are simply surrounded by the protective love of the most dedicated and devoted people available. We are blessed many times over, and it has been a good year!

Now, as we enter the new liturgical year, I am excited about all that is yet to unfold. We have ordered five new Smart Boards to add to the two interactive white boards we already have. We are entering a new standardized testing that will give in-depth information about your child to the teacher, and will allow us to better tailor their learning. The feedback from this test is virtually, the next day rather than months from the time of testing. I have joined a steering committee at the Kent ISD regarding professional development involving the new upcoming Common Core curriculum changes. I want to position us to benefit from the information and training that the public school teachers will receive. This is exciting and important information we need to stay competitive with our public school counterparts. We are continuing to add new and innovative ways to connect our community partners with our children for real-life learning and service learning projects. Aquinas students call and e-mail me weekly to inquire about tutoring, reading to students and volunteering time with them. I invite them to worship and celebrate the Mass with us on Fridays. Liz Aschwege brings more and more community members into our school with her *Reading with the Stars* program. As we reach out to the community, the community gives back and blesses us well.

I suppose that I should worry about the fact that in less than five years we will have one more class in our middle school than we have rooms or teachers for, but I am not...God has placed each child here to grow and blossom and bless us, and He continues to bring them here. I know that He will provide an answer to the space problem. We are a flexible and growing school. Change here, has proven to recommit us to our mission to educate children in a loving environment centered in Christ, and to place our trust in His providence.

God bless you and your families in this busy time. Keep our happy school in your prayers. Take time to get to know the newest families here. As I watch their gifts unfold in the classrooms, in their volunteering in the school and in their ideas, I know truly that God drew them to us for a good purpose. So, as we begin the Advent and Christmas season of our new year together, I wish you and your families wonderful, restful evenings and weekends, and invite you to join in the energy and exuberant joyful life of the school.

~ Suzi Furtwangler

### **Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December 2010**

#### **The Experience of Personal Suffering as a Help to Others who Suffer**

That our personal experience of suffering may be an occasion for better understanding the situation of unease and pain which is the lot of many people who are alone, sick or aged, and stir us all to give them generous help.

### **The Church Speaks**

*"An awareness of Mary's presence can be a great help toward making the school into a "home." Mary, Mother and Teacher of the Church, accompanied her Son as he grew in wisdom and grace; from the earliest days, she has accompanied the Church in its mission of salvation."*

***THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF EDUCATION IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1988***

*– Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education*

# A Personal Letter of Thanksgiving from Our Own Superintendent

Thanksgiving 2010

Dear Christina, Liz, Amy, Michelle, and the hundreds of auction volunteers and participants,

This year at Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings of this past year. Among many changes that have been a part of 2010, and the many graces I have experienced as a result, one of the highlights of these graces was the amazing surprise blessing of this year's auction. While I had every confidence that the four of you and your crews of volunteers would be responsible for an amazing community-building and fundraising event, I hadn't even imagined what would transpire that evening. The fact that we moved from the twist portion having already raised nearly \$50,000, then moving to the live portion with approximately \$50,000 more, and then topping things off with the story of the Trenshaw's followed by another \$50,000, all by 10:00 PM in what seemed like a seamless and simple community-building event; this is truly the mark of professionals!

As I used to tell our most effective and wonderful teachers at Saint Thomas, "The mark of true professionals is that they make the extremely complex appear simple." They make it look so easy! Have you ever watched tennis or golf on TV, and thought to yourself that looks so easy, I bet I can do that. In fact, you get so inspired that you take up the racket or clubs and head out to give it a try; only to find out it certainly is not as easy as they made it look. This is what the four of you did for this event. I know how difficult it is to do what you did, and yet you made it look so easy and each time someone tried to draw attention to your efforts you all quickly deflected the attention to others.

In the midst of this most spectacular event, you took the time to allow for an expression of gratitude that moved me to my core both on the evening of the auction and with each passing day since. The appreciation I experienced that evening surpassed the measure that most people will experience in a lifetime, and often these expressions will not be shared until after a person's death. I feel so privileged and honored to have experienced so deeply the affections of a community I love so much. In fact, it was overwhelming, even disorienting. I experienced emotions so intense that I wasn't sure what to feel or how to express my gratitude. As most people I am so aware of my own weakness, that I feel truly unworthy of the attention, yet I was so grateful for your moving expression of appreciation. I will always feel blessed to have had the opportunity to lead within such an amazing and talented community of faith.

I believe that all good gifts are from God's gracious hands, and although they may be undeserved, I am constantly aware of a scripture passage I remember learning from my dad as a young boy; "To those much has been given, much will be expected". I promise never to forget this amazing and beautiful evening, and it will always serve to inspire the work God has called me to do.

With much gratitude and affection,



## Buff-And-Shine Floor Party with Mr. Ted During Christmas Break

If you would like to volunteer time between Christmas and New Year's Day to help Mr. Ted bring our original marble floors up to the brilliant shine you see in the entrance hallway, please contact Mr. Ted Coon to set up a time to help. We are hoping to continue this new process in the back hallway on the first floor. While this is a time consuming process, it is well worth it in restoring the natural look of this treasured piece of our school's history.



## Spiritual Adoption

The next meeting, for Jr. High students who have chosen to spiritually adopt a baby in danger of abortion, is Monday, December 6th. The meeting will be during the Religion classes. Looking forward to praying with you! Keep up those powerful prayers! ~ Mrs. Valente

## Drop Off/ Pick Up Plea

Several parents have shared their frustration with the number of drivers dropping off and picking up 1st -8th grade students in the preschool and kindergarten lot. Many of these parents have several very small children and infants to tote along as they go upstairs to pick up their preschool or kindergarten child. There simply is not enough room for extra cars and vans back there. Again, we humbly, yet emphatically ask that you respect the safety of our youngest children and drop off or pick up your 1-8th graders in the large lot next to the Church, or the gate line off Fulton. We respect your time, and are moving those lines much faster. ~ Suzi Furtwangler

## Directory Correction:

Robert Hazelton should be listed as Brook Hazelton  
Phone Number correction for the Gell Family: 477-0152

## Save the Date! Carnival 2011 Planned

The St Thomas the Apostle School Carnival is being planned for Saturday, March 5, 2010. Please mark this date on your calendars! Volunteers are always needed to help with set up, clean up, and especially games! Please consider helping out to make this a great event!

Please feel free to contact Sue Kuzee at [slkuz@hotmail.com](mailto:slkuz@hotmail.com) (co-chair), Heidi Schliem at [RHSchliem@yahoo.com](mailto:RHSchliem@yahoo.com) (co-chair) or Carla VanDokkumburg (volunteer coordinator) [jvandokk@yahoo.com](mailto:jvandokk@yahoo.com) if you can help! Much more information coming following the holidays!

## Educational Foundation

Opportunities for helping to make an education affordable this year for our students at Saint Thomas School include: Sunday collection at Mass, Tuition Angel Gifts, Saint Thomas SCRIP Program, Target's Take Charge of Education, D&W School Days, Meijer Community Rewards, and more.

One more important opportunity that helps to make an education affordable for students this year and for years to come is the Saint Thomas Educational Foundation. Any donation to the Foundation is tax deductible according to law. Further, the money is not gone after a month, a year, or a decade. Interest from your gift continues to bless Saint Thomas students with an excellent dynamic education centered in Christ for years to come.



## Focus on Our Faith

### Immaculate Conception-

On December 8, we honor Mary, our Mother on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a Holy Day of Obligation). Our doctrine states that, "the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race." This means that Mary was conceived and born without the stain of sin on her soul, so that she would be worthy to bear and bring our Lord Jesus into the world. A very special mother, to be chosen before her birth to be the vessel of our Savior!



### Advent-



Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent the liturgical season of Advent begins, opening a new year in our Church's Calendar. During the days of Advent, we are called upon to prepare ourselves to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' coming into the world as our savior and God's love in human form.

The liturgical colors of Advent are purple and rose, most noticeable in the candles of the Advent wreath, and banners in Church. The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreens. Attached to the wreath are four candles that represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us that this is a season to repent and prepare. A rose or pink candle is lit for the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday. It is meant to remind us that the end of Advent is almost here, a joyful time! The wreath is a circle, a symbol of eternity, and a reminder that God has no beginning nor end. The evergreen is a symbol of eternal life.

## Campbell Soup Labels

Thank you to all those who have been taking the time to cut their labels for education! They are making it easier for us to earn points by adding the labels from Post cereals, too. Thanks to all for your efforts on behalf of our favorite school Saint Thomas the Apostle!  
~ Kimberly Angelwood

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser

**REMINDER:** 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are to pick up their orders of cookie dough, sub sandwiches, gourmet popcorn, and bundt cakes on **Monday, December 13th at 3:15 p.m.** from the Ministry Center Community Room. Anyone that placed an order during conferences (not from a specific 8th grader) may pick up their order from the Ministry Center as well. Thank you for your order!

~ Lisa Gooch and Margaret Murphy

## Title One

Every Tuesday and Thursday after school, Title One eligible students in grades 5-8 are meeting with Title One Tutor Mrs. Jenna Engel in Mrs. Zoppa's classroom from 3:30-4:30 to participate in an entirely FREE new technology program.

The program is optional and focuses on building reading and math skills through the use of technology. The self-paced programs are from Scholastic, and students use them independently at their own personal skill level. Homework help will also be provided on Tuesdays. If your Title One student has not checked out the program yet, feel free to drop in any Tuesday or Thursday and try it out! The program is flexible and can be attended according to your availability. And it's free! If you have any questions about the program or about Title One, please call or e-mail Jenna Engel, 616-821-8255 or [jennaengel85@yahoo.com](mailto:jennaengel85@yahoo.com).

~ Jenna Engel

## Booster Poinsettia Sale Reminder

Thank you for ordering your Christmas Poinsettias! These poinsettias may be picked up at the Saint Thomas Gym on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30-4:15 p.m. and Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

~ Matt Tietema



## CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL Placement Test (HSPT) for All 8th Grade Students

Check-in begins at 8:00 am.

Testing will be from 8:30-11:50 a.m.

- **The HSPT testing fee is \$20.00**, please make your check payable CC or WC. \*Note: Families who qualify for the MI Free/Reduced Lunch program are not required to pay the testing fee.

**You must Pre-register by mailing this form and payment to one of the addresses below:**

### Catholic Central High School

Attn: Main Office

319 Sheldon Ave. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### West Catholic High School

Attn: Main Office

1801 Bristol Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

### HSPT Contact Information, Questions or Concerns:

Catholic Central: Sue Waldron (616) 233-5810

West Catholic: Lauri Ford (616) 233-5909

## Shout Out from Teachers ~ Hats off to Volunteers!

Thank you to Mindy Klein who comes just about every day to help kids at lunchtime get sanitizer and then walks around and picks up cups and trays. She really is a dedicated volunteer. ☺

## ELECTRONIC Sign Up for the Pieces Newsletter

In an effort to be "more green" and save paper, we are encouraging families to receive the Pieces electronically. In addition to saving paper and ink, the Pieces is much more engaging in color, especially as we continue to include more photo collages of the happenings and community of Saint Thomas the Apostle School. If you receive the Pieces electronically, you can also forward it to family and friends who may wish to follow what your students are doing or view a special picture. Please know that paper copies of the Pieces are always available both in the Welcome and Information Center in the school entrance and in the church basement if you should ever wish to have a paper copy of a specific issue. If you would like to receive the Pieces electronically from now on, please complete the lines below and return to the school office. Thank you!

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**649 BOXES**



**SAINT THOMAS—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—2010**

## Our Own Saint Thomas Star

*Our own Emily Mauren* (gr. 7) is dancing the role of Clara in the production of the “Nutcracker” presented by the Grand Rapids Ballet Company on the following dates: December 4: 2:00, December 5: 1:00 and 5:30, and December 10: 10:00 a.m. She will be dancing other roles during the other scheduled performances. The Ballet Company is offering **\$5 off** individual tickets, or **20% off groups of 8 or more** for any performance. Simply call the box office at 616-454-4771 x13, mention Saint Thomas the Apostle to receive these great deals.

Join us in congratulating and supporting Emily for all of her hard work!



## An Invitation To Pray The Rosary in Church

Saint Thomas School Families and Friends:

Every day at Saint Thomas School you can pray the Rosary with other parents and friends.



You can pray for our School .... you can pray for our teachers ... you can pray for your children ... you can pray for the sick ... you can pray for a special intention ... you can pray for yourself ... 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)

## GRACEAC Lacrosse Parent Informational Meeting

If your child (boy or girl) in grades 5 thru 8 is interested in playing Lacrosse as a GRACEAC sport this spring you must attend this informational meeting. You will learn the nature of the proposed program and the costs involved.

A significant purpose of the meeting is to determine how much interest in playing Lacrosse exists for boys and girls in fifth thru eighth grade in our Catholic elementary schools. If your child is interested in playing this great sport you must attend this meeting.

Date: Monday, December 6, 2010

Time: 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM

Where: Cathedral Square Room B/C  
360 Division Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4501

Contact Bob Wolf with any questions about the meeting.  
(616) 560-2438 or [sportwolf@msn.com](mailto:sportwolf@msn.com)

## A Thank You from Our Faculty

On behalf of the faculty, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the generous and talented people who brought in soups, salads, rolls, snacks and other delightful sustenance for us at Conferences last Thursday. Once again, our Home and School organization has demonstrated their hallmark generosity, thoughtfulness and support of all that we do here at Saint Thomas. Words cannot express how much this is appreciated by the faculty. Thank you and God bless your work in helping us to educate our children. ~ Suzi Furtwangler, Principal

## 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 S.  
Monday, December 6 @ 9:00 a.m.

Saint Mary Magdalen (Kentwood)  
1213 52<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Saturday, January 8, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

Holy Spirit Parish (Grand Rapids)  
2230 Lake Michigan Drive NW  
Wednesday, January 19, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

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## Community Events and Opportunities

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Hark Up Ministries presents.....

Hark Up 2010

### "Christmas Vacation"

"Christmas Vacation" is a Broadway Theatre style contemporary Christmas production that tells the Christmas story in a fresh, exciting, new way! The Drama is a take off of the Christmas Classic "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." In our story, the VanTinglemann family has decided to go on vacation to Graceland to "see the King!" Soon, they come to realize that the King they have been searching for didn't live in Graceland. The King they are really looking for is the one true King, Jesus Christ! The music is very powerful and entertaining and the drama is very funny! The show features an inter-denominational and intergenerational Choir, the Horns of Power Band, singers, dancers, a drum corps and so much more! This year, several St. Thomas family members will be participating in the show including featured soloist **Dean Vernon** and his son **Kenny Vernon** who are joining the show for the first time. **Mike Trenshaw** is singing in the choir and **David Brady**, who has been wowing audiences for the past two years, is also back as one of our very talented principle vocalists. **Julie Finneran-Augustyn** is returning for her 4<sup>th</sup> year as Stage Manager and Drama Producer/Writer!

You won't want to miss this! Please join us at the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship at Grand Rapids Christian High School on December 3, 4 or 5. Tickets are available through any cast member, iTickets.com or at the DeVos Center box office. It will be a blessed evening that you will never forget! Go to [www.harkup.com](http://www.harkup.com) for more info.

### CC Madrigal Dinners

Come enjoy a wonderful evening of great food, good friends and exciting entertainment as Catholic Central hosts the longest running Madrigal Dinners in West Michigan on December 10-12 at Aquinas College in the Wege Center ballroom. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the Catholic Central main office. Ticket prices include a several course dinner, entertainment and a silent auction. Many Saint Thomas alumni are among the performers. Come support a great cause and see our past students in action! It's a wonderful Advent activity for the whole family. Gallery seating is also available for only \$10 which includes the entertainment, snacks, and auction. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Barth at 742-0173.



## Aquinas College Opportunities

The Aquinas College ASCD (Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development) Student Chapter is an education club that focuses on promoting professional development for its members, volunteering in the Grand Rapids community and surrounding schools, and helping the education program at Aquinas College so that it further grows and develops. They are making two programs available for parent and student use:

### After School Tutoring

As a part of our volunteering efforts, we would like to offer tutoring to the Saint Thomas the Apostle students. AQ Students, qualified in all subject areas, will be available to tutor students upon request either after school or in the evening hours.

More information on signing up for tutoring will be available soon. If you are interested in participating in this program, or have any questions or concerns, please email Brittany Bullock, AQ ASCD Student Vice-President, at [bmb003@aquinas.edu](mailto:bmb003@aquinas.edu).

### "Little Saints Night!"

Is a fundraiser to raise money in order to obtain Interactive Whiteboards for classrooms at Aquinas College. The Interactive Whiteboards will especially be used by the AQ Education program students to better prepare themselves to teach in the technological environments of the future. The night will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-9:00 p.m. in the Saint Thomas School. This event will be hosted by qualified, Virtus trained and certified Aquinas education students and faculty along with Mrs. Furtwangler. The event will include different educational and fun activities focusing on math, science, fitness, health and art, as well as snacks being provided. Students and faculty will be presenting these activities in a way that will be age and grade appropriate for all of the "Little Saint" participants!" The cost for the night is: 1 child - \$15; 2 children of the same family-\$25; 3 or more children of the same family -\$35. This is a great opportunity for you and your spouse to have a date night, get some Christmas shopping done, or just relax for a few hours. We look forward to sharing in the experience with you and your children!

To sign up, please fill out the attached registration form located on the back page of this Pieces. Additional flyers and registration forms are available in the Welcome and Information Center. For more information contact Matt Kuch-Aquinas College ASCD Student President at: [MDK002@aquinas.edu](mailto:MDK002@aquinas.edu) or (517) 256-5509.

# Saint Thomas Library News



## Gingerbread House Contest!

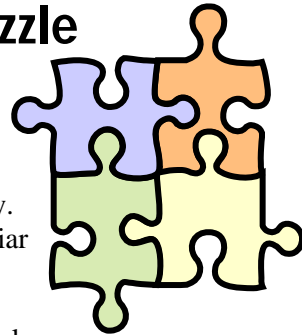
Attention all bakers and creative families...The library is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gingerbread House Contest. A flyer with details and contest instructions went home with students on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you missed the flyer, there are extra copies inside the door to the school. Registration was 11/22 through 11/26, but there may still be time! If you're interested in entering a house please email Sharon Aulbach at [grandaulbach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grandaulbach@sbcglobal.net).

The houses will be on display in the library from December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup>, with the winner announced on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>! Prizes will be awarded in both individual and family categories!

~ Library Coordinators

## National Game and Puzzle Week

The week of November 15<sup>th</sup> was National Game and Puzzle week. To celebrate, classes played games in the library. Everyone had a great time playing familiar games and learning how to play new games. Congratulations to Tess Ens for beating Mrs. White in the card game Blink. Tess is the only person to have EVER beaten Mrs. White!



## Please Return Library Books Promptly Each Week!

Remember, all books are due one week from check-out and students will not be allowed to check out future books until their accounts are cleared. Overdue notices will be sent home via email unless otherwise noted or parent email address is unavailable. It is also important to note that report cards go home with students who have cleared library accounts. In the event a student has an overdue book when report cards are distributed, the report card will be held until the missing book is either returned or the account is settled.



## New Donations

*A special thank you to Erin Mangan and to the Doyle Family for their donations of books to the library!*



## Christmas Books Wanted

Keep your eyes out for Christmas books! We are excited to put them out and visit some old favorites while reading new books, too!

## Saint Thomas Library Info



**Coordinator:**  
Marnie White  
Denise Deveau  
**Contact Info:**  
[libadm@stthomasgr.org](mailto:libadm@stthomasgr.org)

Please have students return their books *on or before* the listed due date. No new books may be checked out until all past books have been returned.

# THE GIFTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED, GIVE AS A GIFT

## *Pictures Removed for Internet Safety Purposes*

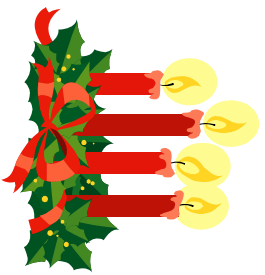
Front Row: Billy Mikolay, Max Lawrence, Matthew Mauren,  
Blake Henry  
Middle Row: Tim Wheeler, Kate Lignell, Ben Dalrymple,  
Luke Braselton  
Back Row: Patrick Fitzgerald, Nick Vrugink, Cody Hermiz,  
Abby Choffel

Front Row: Veronica Treece, Maddie Yuncker  
Middle Row: Pablo Corcoran, Calvin Dent, Max Aulbach,  
Keegan Barth  
Back Row: Claire Salinas, Molly Kane, Molly Fitzgerald,  
Shannon McNeely, Osta Thomson

## *Pictures Removed for Internet Safety Purposes*

Front Row: Audrey Patterson, Jack Rellinger, Lexie Welch  
Middle Row: Natalie Smith, Hannah Redmond, Gabe Skinner,  
Jake Vrugink  
Back Row: Jim O'Neil, Jack Walch, Jeremy Wolf,  
Finn Perdue

Front Row: Mary Grace Doyle, Erin Mangan,  
Nicholas Lourido, Sam DeBruyn  
Middle Row: Olivia Jepsen, Jarred Baxter, Peter Jenkins,  
Tim Lambert  
Back Row: Mike Jepsen, Noah Fetterhoff, Josh Steffes,  
Bo Sneller, Lauryn Syrba



# December 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:40 p.m. Gr. 3 visits Care Resources 7 pm Junior High Band Concert @ Saint Cecilia Pieces home	2 Student Council Theme Day ~ Formal or Opposite Theme	3 9:55 a.m. Mass	4
5 Second Sunday of Advent	6 8:30-2:00 Gr. 1 Pizza, Pottery & Pies 9 a.m. Gr. 5 Metric Olympics	7 Peaceful People-Peaceful Place Presentation 10:30 am (Grs. 5-8) 12:30 p.m. (K-4)	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception 9-11 Parent Catechists 12:30 p.m. All School Mass	9 Vision & Hearing Rescreen	10	11 8:00-12 noon HSPT @ Cathedral Square
12 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Third Sunday of Advent	13 Jean Pass Day Noon-4:15 p.m. 8th Grade Fundraiser Distribution	14	15 12:40 p.m. Gr. 4 visits Care Resources Pieces Home 7 p.m. Vespers	16	17 9:55 All School Christmas Mass 7 p.m. Ed Com Mtg	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	20 Non Uniform Day	21 Last day of school before Christmas	22 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	23 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	24 NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS EVE!	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
26	27 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	28 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	29 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	30 NO SCHOOL NO ASP	31 NO SCHOOL NO ASP NEW YEAR'S EVE!	School resumes on Monday, January 3, 2011.



# Saint Thomas the Apostle Hot Lunch Menu *December 2010*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 Hamburgers Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Chicken Caesar Salad → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Vegetable Rice →	7 Roast Turkey  Mashed Potatoes  Stuffing	8 Pizza  Honey Carrot Coins	9 Otto's Chicken Drumstick  Potato Wedges  Brownie	10 Pancakes  Eggs
13 Tacos Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Grilled Ham and Cheese → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chicken Noodle →	14 Spaghetti  Breadsticks	15 Pizza  Honey Carrot Coins	16 Otto's Chicken Drumstick  Mashed Potatoes	17 Macaroni and Cheese  Cornbread
20 Chili Cheese Nacho Bar Cornbread <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Sloppy Joes → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> White Chicken Chili →	21 Sheppard's Pie  Brownie			

Some Items on the food bar this month:

Lettuce  
 Cheddar Cheese  
 Croutons  
 Carrots

Vanilla Yogurt  
 Homemade Granola  
 Fresh Apples  
 Fresh Oranges

Peaches  
 Hummus  
 Pita Chips



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

### BOY'S BASKETBALL (6TH GRADE-GOLD)

COACH: Steve Shreffers

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	10:10 AM	CORPUS CHRISTI	ST. THOMAS
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	11:20 AM	I.H.M.-WHITE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	1:40 PM	I.H.M.-BLUE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 4	1/8/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ASSUMPTION-WHITE	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
GAME 5	1/15/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ST. PAUL	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 6	1/22/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ASSUMPTION-BLUE	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNIEY	ST. THOMAS
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	10:10 AM	HOLY SPIRIT	HOLY SPIRIT

### BOY'S BASKETBALL (6TH GRADE-GREEN)

COACH: Keith Esslerford

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	11:20 AM	ST. PAUL	ST. THOMAS
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNIEY	ST. JOHN VIANNIEY
GAME 3	12/14/10	TUES	6:00 PM	HOLY TRINITY	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 4	1/15/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 5	1/20/11	THURS	7:10 PM	I.H.M.-WHITE	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 6	1/22/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. STEPHEN	ST. THOMAS
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	11:20 AM	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION	ST. THOMAS
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN	ST. THOMAS
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	1:40 PM	ALL SAINTS	ST. JUDE

\* Game of the Week



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL (5TH GRADE-GREEN)

COACH: Mark Simmat

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNIEY	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	9:00 AM	HOLY SPIRIT	HOLY SPIRIT
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. ANTHONY	ST. THOMAS
GAME 4	1/8/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ALL SAINTS	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 5	1/15/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNIEY	ST. JUDE
GAME 6	1/19/11	WED	6:00 PM	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. STEPHEN	ST. JUDE
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	9:00 AM	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	9:00 AM	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	ST. THOMAS

\* Game of the Week



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

**BOYS BASKETBALL (8TH GRADE)**  
COACH: Doug Murphy

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	10:10 AM	ALL SAINTS-RED	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 2	12/14/10	TUES	6:00 PM	I.H.M.-WHITE	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	1:40 PM	I.H.M.-BLUE	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 4	1/22/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 5	1/27/11	THURS	7:10 PM	ST. PAUL	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN
GAME 6	1/29/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ASSUMPTION	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 7	2/5/11	SAT	9:00 AM	S.J.V.-PURPLE	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 8	2/12/11	SAT	12:30 PM	HOLY SPIRIT	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 9	2/17/11	THURS	7:40 PM	S.J.V.-GOLD	ST. THOMAS
TOURNAMENT	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.

\* Game of the Week



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

**BOYS BASKETBALL (5TH GRADE-GOLD)**  
COACH: Michael Corcoran

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/6/10	MON	7:10 PM	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	11:20 AM	SACRED HEART	ST. JUDE
GAME 4	1/8/11	SAT	8:00 AM	ST. ANTHONY-BLUE	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 5	1/11/11	TUES	7:10 PM	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION	HOLY SPIRIT
GAME 6	1/22/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. CHARLES	ST. THOMAS
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	12:30 PM	HOLY SPIRIT	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	11:20 AM	HOLY TRINITY	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

**BOYS BASKETBALL (7TH GRADE)**  
COACH: Fred McWhin

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. MARY	ST. THOMAS
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. STEPHEN	ST. THOMAS
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 4	1/17/11	MON	7:10 PM	I.H.M.-BLUE	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 5	1/22/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. PAUL	ST. THOMAS
GAME 6	1/25/11	TUES	6:30 PM	ST. ANTHONY-BLUE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 7	2/5/11	SAT	2:50 PM	I.H.M.-WHITE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 8	2/12/11	SAT	1:40 PM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 9	2/15/11	TUES	6:30 PM	ALL SAINTS	ST. THOMAS
TOURNAMENT	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.

\* Game of the Week

**BOYS BASKETBALL (5TH GRADE-GREEN)**  
COACH: Joel Skinner

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. ANTHONY-BLUE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. CHARLES	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	9:00 AM	HOLY TRINITY	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 4	1/6/11	THURS	7:10 PM	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 5	1/8/11	SAT	9:00 AM	HOLY SPIRIT	HOLY SPIRIT
GAME 6	1/15/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. STEPHEN	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ALL SAINTS-RED	ST. JUDE
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JUDE
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. THOMAS

\* Game of the Week



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL (9TH GRADE)

COACH: DAN KORNDYK

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	1:40 PM	ST. ANTHONY	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 2	12/7/10	TUES	8:00 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
* GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. PAUL	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 4	1/18/11	TUES	7:30 PM	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN
GAME 5	1/29/11	SAT	10:10 AM	I.H.M./ST. STEPHEN	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
GAME 6	2/5/11	SAT	12:30 PM	O.L.C./ST. CHARLES	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN
GAME 7	2/12/11	SAT	11:20 AM	HOLY SPIRIT/ALL SAINTS	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 8	2/17/10	WED	6:30 PM	ST. MARY	ST. THOMAS
TOURNAMENT	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL (7TH GRADE)

COACH: JANE LAVOIE

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/7/10	TUES	7:10 PM	ST. MARY	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	2:50 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. THOMAS
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	2:50 PM	ST. PATRICK	ST. THOMAS
GAME 4	1/18/11	TUES	6:00 PM	ST. PATRICK	ST. PATRICK
GAME 5	1/22/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ALL SAINTS	ST. THOMAS
GAME 6	1/29/11	SAT	1:40 PM	ST. ANTHONY	ST. THOMAS
* GAME 7	2/5/11	SAT	12:30 PM	O.L.C./ST. CHARLES	ST. THOMAS
GAME 8	2/8/11	TUES	6:30 PM	ALL SAINTS	ST. THOMAS
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	11:20 AM	HOLY TRINITY	HOLY TRINITY
GAME 10	2/19/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
TOURNAMENT	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.

\* Game of the Week



## ST. THOMAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010/11

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL (8TH GRADE)

COACH: LIS ERS

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	11:20 AM	ALL SAINTS-RED	ST. JUDE
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	10:10 AM	I.H.M.-WHITE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 3	12/18/10	SAT	11:20 AM	I.H.M.-BLUE	ST. THOMAS
GAME 4	1/8/11	SAT	11:20 AM	ST. CHARLES	HOLY TRINITY
* GAME 5	1/15/11	SAT	12:30 PM	ST. PAUL	ST. JUDE
GAME 6	1/22/11	SAT	1:40 PM	ST. ANTHONY-WHITE	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. PATRICK	ST. THOMAS
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	1:40 PM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. JOHN VIANNEY
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	9:00 AM	HOLY SPIRIT/SACRED HEART	HOLY SPIRIT

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL (6TH GRADE-GOLD)

COACH: DAN SELLS

EVENT	DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
GAME 1	12/4/10	SAT	11:20 AM	HOLY SPIRIT	SACRED HEART
GAME 2	12/11/10	SAT	6:00 AM	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	ST. THOMAS
GAME 3	12/14/10	TUES	6:30 PM	ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN	ST. THOMAS
* GAME 4	1/8/11	SAT	10:10 AM	ST. JOHN VIANNEY	ST. PAUL
GAME 5	1/15/11	SAT	9:00 AM	HOLY SPIRIT	HOLY SPIRIT
GAME 6	1/22/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. ANTHONY	ST. ANTHONY
GAME 7	1/29/11	SAT	9:00 AM	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
GAME 8	2/5/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ST. STEPHEN	ST. STEPHEN
GAME 9	2/12/11	SAT	9:00 AM	ALL SAINTS	ST. JUDE

\* - Game of the Week



# Thank-You

## From Operation Christmas Child



Many, many thanks to all those who helped make our 2010 Operation Christmas Child Project a HUGE success! We packed

### 649 shoeboxes

with small items to send to some of God's poorest, most desperate children. That's 649 opportunities for these children to learn about Jesus and receive the message of God's love for them.



The project fit so well with this year's St. Thomas School theme: **The Gifts You Have Received, Give as a Gift.** It was amazing to see how many students and their families took this project to heart and really used their gifts to make it such a success. There was an incredible energy around the project this year and we are very appreciative of all the support we received from the students, parents, faculty and staff of St. Thomas.



There are too many people to thank individually, but we thank those that collected and wrapped empty shoe boxes, donated items or cash, volunteered their time for the November 20 Packing Party, and prayed for the success of the project and the children receiving the shoe boxes.



We hope everyone enjoyed this year's project and that it helped your family get the Christmas Season off to a GREAT start! Thanks again and we look forward to next year.



Blessings,

Maureen Jones and the OCC Committee



*Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak,  
say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.*

*Christmas 2010*

Dear People of Saint Thomas,

These consoling words from God will be found at the heart of our celebration this Advent Season. They call us to new hope by inviting us to send the roots of our faith even more deeply into our relationship with God.

“Be strong, fear not!” How does a person do that? I can think of no other way that fear can be defused in our minds and its grip released from our lives than through the presence of another. The experience of another near us, remaining close beside us, releases the human spirit to embrace the present moment fully and allows us to draw from each moment all the beauty and goodness that it holds. But who can be that person for another? Jesus asked: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the pit?” (Luke 6:39) Can one whose ability to love is in the grip of fear be the confidence of another who is afraid?

Christian faith holds that there is only one source of confidence that can stand firm and remain in place in the face of any danger or threat. That is the confidence of the One who let Himself be crucified and die for those He loved, and who rose to be a Savior for the fearful. Jesus is the source of healing strength for all who call upon him.

But Christian faith is not just about being strong in Jesus in order to face my fear of the misfortune that comes my way or the threat that confronts me face-to-face on the path of life. It is about being strong in Jesus that I might be able to stand by the side of my sister or brother when these things come *their* way – whether it be economic hardship, personal loss or the threat of serious illness. The fruit of Christian Faith is that I am able to serve as an embodiment of a Presence greater than I – a Presence from whom I personally draw my strength, and that I passionately believe stands close to and wishes to embrace my fellow human beings in dire circumstances and fearful straits. What, if not this, does receiving Holy Communion mean for my life in the world? How can I do this except that I, myself, am grounded deeply in my awareness and experience of Christ’s presence?

In this quiet and holy Season let us renew the well-springs of a faith in God that permits us to stand next to our brothers and sisters unbowed by fear as we face the events of our time.



# ADVENT AT SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2010

## Advent Book Study

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Writings Selected With an Introduction by Robert Coles*  
[An introduction to an extraordinary Christian Witness and Martyr at the Hands of the Nazi tyranny]  
Saturday Mornings 8:30 - 9:30 AM in the Ministry Center Faculty Conference Room  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

## An Advent Evening Contemplative Mass: Come to the Quiet!

Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 PM in the Church

## Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM, 12:30 PM (School Mass), 7:00 PM

## A Family Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Church

## Noon Hour of Prayer

Quiet Prayer in the Church before the Blessed Sacrament  
12:00 Noon until 1:00 PM Monday through Friday in the Church

## Community Reconciliation Service at Saint Thomas Parish

Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM

## Individual Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 PM  
Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> from Noon to 1:00 PM and from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

### Christmas Eve Masses (Friday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>)

5:00 PM - Children's Mass

10:30 PM - Pre-Mass Carols & Song

11:00 PM - Mass of Christmas Night

### Christmas Day (Saturday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>)

9:00 AM - Mass of Christmas Day

There will be no 5:00 PM Mass Christmas Day.

### Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - The Feast of the Holy Family

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM ►► and ►► 7:00 PM

New Year's Day (Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>) - It is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God will be celebrated this Saturday morning at 8:00 AM.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Christmas this year falls on Saturday. There will be no 5:00 PM Mass for Christmas or the Weekend. The next day, Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Sunday Evening Mass at 7:00 PM.

January 1<sup>st</sup> this year falls on Saturday. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Weekend of January 1-2 will follow our regular schedule of Weekend Masses



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of Catholic Schools*

November 17, 2010

Dear Friends of Catholic Schools,

On July 6, 2010, I began my position as Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and here we are at the end of the first quarter of school. I am enjoying the professional challenge of this role, and am adjusting to a position that feels like a good fit. Bishop Hurley has given me the opportunity to work with him to provide oversight, leadership, direction, and vision for the future of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. For this opportunity, I am truly grateful.

It has been encouraging meeting so many people who share a passion for the unique mission of Catholic schools. As I visit our schools, there is one feeling that is consistent - our schools are the very best, and as a parent, I would have no less for my children. The complete integration of faith formation, community participation, and academic rigor inspire the efforts of young people far beyond their own personal ambition. This allows students to dig deeper and to reach higher, not simply for their own benefit, but often for the benefit of another and for the common good. What a privilege it continues to be to serve this mission.

Following the conclusion of this first quarter, I am pleased to communicate our progress with regard to a few major initiatives:

- **Vision for Catholic schools** – A draft vision for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids has been compiled and presented to the diocesan school board, pastors, principals, some local school boards and all Catholic school teachers. An on-line survey has been developed to obtain and incorporate feedback from these groups. A survey will also be developed to obtain feedback from the broader diocesan community. All of this will be used to develop a diocesan-wide vision for Catholic schools. This vision will serve as a starting point for both a study of the governance of our schools and a strategic planning effort designed to strengthen the quality and sustainability of our schools.
- **Small schools** – St. Catherine, Ravenna; St. Joseph, Wright and St. Michael, Coopersville, our three smallest Catholic schools, have begun an exciting collaboration to virtually merge under a common administration and through networked technology services with the possibility of maintaining a satellite school at each parish. Each satellite school will retain its own Catholic community culture, and feature right-sized teacher to student ratios, one-to-one computing in blended learning environments, and personally-paced instruction in multi-grade classrooms. These small, virtually-merged, satellite schools will lead the way in a refreshing 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to Catholic education.
- **An urban parish school becomes a regional academy of six parishes** – On November 10, 2010, a significant initiative in Catholic education in the Diocese of Grand Rapids was announced. Six of our urban parishes will come together in support of a newly named Catholic academy at the present Holy Name of Jesus Parish School site. On July 1, 2011, the school will take the name San Juan Diego Academy as a regional collaboration of Holy Name and St. Joseph the Worker parishes of Wyoming, St. Francis Xavier, St. Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Cathedral of Saint Andrew parishes of Grand Rapids. This new regional academy will have a special focus designed to serve the needs of the growing Latino immigrant populations within these parishes.

We have much for which to be thankful during this first academic quarter. As we look toward the future, I invite you to help me serve the needs of our schools by offering your feedback on my performance. An easy to use, on-line survey has been prepared for you. It will only take 2-3 minutes to complete, and it will help me in setting my professional goals. I hope to use this survey both now and in the spring to get a sense of progress over time. The following URL will take you right to the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/supt-survey>.

With gratitude,

David A. Faber, Superintendent of Catholic Schools



# Challenge Christmas Caroling

Grades 5 to 12

DATE: Tuesday, December 21

LOCATION: 287 Quail Ridge (The Lignell Home  
is our meeting place.)

TIME: 7-9:30 pm

WHAT TO BRING: A snack to share and item to donate (optional)



We will be collecting hats, mittens/gloves, scarves for GR Public elementary school children. Other fun activities included!

Remember to dress for cold weather!



## "Little Saints Night!"

*Brought to you by:*

**The Aquinas College ASCD Education Club Members  
&  
St. Thomas the Apostle / Aquinas College**

The Aquinas College ASCD (Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development) Student Chapter is an education club that focuses on promoting professional development for its members, volunteering in the Grand Rapids community and surrounding schools, while helping the education program at Aquinas College further grow and develop.



Members of the ASCD Education Club and AQ faculty advisor, Tim Bennett, at the 2010 National Conference in San Antonio, TX.

**Little Saints Night** is a fundraiser to raise money in order to obtain Interactive Whiteboards for classrooms at Aquinas College. These are extremely beneficial to our school's programs as they are very useful teaching tools for classrooms of all types. The Interactive Whiteboards will especially be used by the AQ Education program students to better prepare themselves to teach in the technological environments of the future. Another goal of the fundraiser is to financially help send several members to an Annual National Conference (this year in San Francisco, CA). The conference will focus on past, current, and future hot topics in the field of education so as to better develop participants' understandings of their future careers as teachers.

**The night will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30- 9pm at the St. Thomas the Apostle School.** Qualified, Virtus trained and certified AQ education students and faculty, along with Suzi Furtwangler, Principal at St. Thomas the Apostle, will be hosting the night. Different educational and fun activities focusing on math, science, fitness, health and art, as well as snacks will be provided. Students and faculty will be presenting these activities in a way that will be age and grade appropriate for all of the 'Little Saint' participants!

The cost for the night is:

1 child -- \$15

2 children of the same family-- \$25

3 or more children of the same family -- \$35

*This is a great opportunity for you and your spouse to have a date night, get some Christmas shopping done, or just relax for a few hours. We look forward to sharing in this experience with you and your children!*

**To sign up, please fill out a form available in the main office of St. Thomas the Apostle or contact by December 6th:**

*Matt Kuch -- AQ ASCD Student President  
MDK002@aquinas.edu  
(517) 256-5509*

Thank-you and have a blessed day!

# LITTLE SAINT'S NIGHT REGISTRATION FORM

Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Number 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns // Allergies // Special Needs:

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Child Number 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns // Allergies // Special Needs:

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Child Number 3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns // Allergies // Special Needs:

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Child Number 4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns // Allergies // Special Needs:

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