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# Newsletter—November 12, 2021

*We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service*



## Count Your Blessings

### St. Thomas School Food Drive

The fourth graders of St. Thomas School are hosting the annual school food drive for the parish pantry. The school children will be collecting canned goods and boxed goods during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Our parish pantry is low on food and needs everyone to help restock the pantry for the winter months. Please be generous. I can, you can, and we all can make a difference! Thank you for your generosity!



7th Grade art to honor our Veterans!

# ST. THOMAS • ADVENT • MARKET

ENJOY THE FUN AT THE  
ST. THOMAS ADVENT MARKET!  
FREE ADMISSION

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA** | **ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS** | **SHOP LOCAL**

## We're excited to announce that the Annual Advent Market is back!

The event will be held Saturday, December 4th from 9am-12pm.

The event will include Visits with Santa, Kids Craft Corner, Local Shopping, Wreath Sale, and Refreshments. The holiday season is just around the corner! We cannot wait to see you there!

### There are multiple ways you can participate:

1. Donate items for the Kids Craft Corner or make a monetary donation for supplies. **Craft Corner Supply Donations** Please have the donations at the school office no later than November 19th.
2. Help recruit more local vendors to showcase our community. Please see attached vendor application form to forward to anyone interested in participating. We will also be including Kids for Cause vendors again this year.



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## STS Tumbler Fundraiser

Stainless Steel 30oz Tumblers with the St Thomas Logo \$20 each - \$5 from each cup will be used for new Sports Equipment. Please fill out 1 form per cup order. Orders and payments are due by **November 15th.**

Payments can be sent to the school - Kimberly Cogdal or thru Venmo @Kimberly-Cogdal

Cups will be delivered to the school by November 30th.

**[FILL OUT FORM](#)**

## Shop Black Friday deals with AmazonSmile

You shop, Amazon donates





The holiday season is just around the corner and Black Friday is on November 26. Remember to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) or in the Amazon mobile app with AmazonSmile ON under Settings.

Your holiday shopping can help make a difference, at no additional cost to you!

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), or in the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned on within Settings, you'll find the same products and same low prices as the Amazon you already know - plus, they donate a portion of your purchases to your chosen charity.

You can select STS as your AmazonSmile charity by visiting: [smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0662587](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0662587)

## The Comet Cash Program

is offered all year as part of our PTO fundraising. We encourage all families to sign up to be a part of this great opportunity, to help you with your tuition as well as the PTO. For those who are active already, make sure you download the new RaiseRight mobile app.. If you have never signed up for the mobile app., it is easier and better than ever to use. Our school code is BA38E9AD7759.

*We stock cards listed on the order form in RenWeb/FACTS. Additional retailers and card denominations can be viewed at [shopwithscrip.com](https://shopwithscrip.com). You can send your orders through school, email [aebuckardt@gmail.com](mailto:aebuckardt@gmail.com) or purchase after weekend masses.*



Fr. Chase visited to talk with our grade 5-8 boys about vocations. He also played some dodgeball!





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## Yearend Tax Planning-Invest in Kids Program through Empower Illinois

As 2021 winds down it is not too late to take advantage of the 75% state tax credit associated with a donation to the Invest in Kids Scholarship program through Empower Illinois. All donations pledged and paid for by November 30, 2021 will be awarded to eligible St. Thomas students for the current school year.

Through your generous donations 28 students have already received scholarship awards from Empower Illinois. We still have 17 students on our waiting list who are eligible to receive scholarship awards if we receive additional contributions. Any donations pledged and paid from Dec. 1- Dec 31, 2021 will still give you the 75% state tax credit for 2021 but the funds will be awarded to students during the 2022/2023 school year. New this year is that Caterpillar will match donations made through the Invest in Kids Act.

Your continued support of Catholic education through the Invest in Kids Program as well as our St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Program is deeply appreciated. Our students and their parents are exceptionally grateful for the support provide by our very generous parishioners.



5th graders construct *The Mayflower* that floats and holds 12 passengers!

**We will be on break** November 24, 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29. Happy Thanksgiving!

**We will have a Christmas Band Concert** on Monday December 6th in the gym from 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Please join us!

**Pre3-4th grade Christmas Sing:** Our Pre3--4th grade Christmas sing will take place on **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.** We look forward to your being with us! You are welcome to bring other siblings to enjoy the program with you, but we ask that they **sit with you** during the program. This will allow our performers to enter & exit the gym easily.

## MORNINGS AT PND



DECEMBER 1  
@ 8:15 TO 9:15

Parents of K - 8th graders, join us in our Commons for coffee and donuts to learn more about the highly praised AP Capstone Diploma Program.

For questions or to RSVP, call Admissions Director Matt Blackford at 309-691-8741.



**Student Council Angel Fund—  
Supporting the Neighborhood House  
Christmas program.**

**Bring in \$3.00 to be out of uniform  
on Tuesday, November 23!**

**Thanks for your generosity!**

**The Student Council**



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## Join us for some “Christmas Cheer” at the 2021 STS Holiday Cheer Clinic!

- Who:** St. Thomas School Girls Pre-3 through 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Where:** St. Thomas School Gymnasium
- When:** **Clinic: Saturday, December 11, 2021 | 8:30-10:30 a.m.**  
**Performance\*: Wednesday, December 15, 2021**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game Halftime  
(Game starts at 6:00 p.m.)
- Cost:** \$15 per student

The girls will learn a basic floor cheer and a simple, fun Christmas-themed dance to be performed live at a St. Thomas basketball game\*!

*\*Performance at the game is not required to participate in the clinic, but girls MUST participate in the clinic in order to perform at the game. Participants will be granted free admission to the basketball game on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Family members attending will be required to pay regular admission to the game.*

*Brought to you by your St. Thomas 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheerleading Squad  
~Proceeds support the St. Thomas Athletic Program~*

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### STS 2021 Holiday Cheer Clinic Registration – Saturday, December 11, 2021

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15 per student payable at time of registration

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, December 8th