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Newsletter—August 29, 2025

We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service



Welcome Back!

We are about to wrap up our third week of school and it feels great! Our students, teachers and staff seem to be settling into their schedules and routines. Thank you for having your child/children well rested and prepared to start their school day with us! Your partnership with our school is so critical in making everything at home and school run smoothly. Please never hesitate to ask us questions so we can help you better understand or troubleshoot something.

Our Fall Fundraiser-MegaBlast has begun! Don't forget this is one of the major ways our school raises money for some incredible programs such as Fine Arts Day/Field Day, Accelerated Reader Program, Fine Arts Programming, (helping offset the costs associated with our Art/Music/Band/ Spanish Programs). Did I mention that this also allows our teachers to continue their education through conferences and workshops, as well as additional college coursework? Remember, if everyone helps we can reach our goal! Thank you for your support!

As we begin a new year, I ask God to keep our families healthy and safe and allow our children to develop their faith so that they may possess the courage and confidence to grow their gifts and share those with others.

Blessings,

Maureen Bentley
Principal

MEGA BLAST!

St. Thomas School 2025 Fall Fundraiser
August 27 – September 10, 2025

How to Register:

1. Register online at www.themegablast.com/join/stas
If you registered last year, please scroll to bottom of page and click, "Already Registered? Click here."
2. Upload a Profile Pic.
3. Enter or Reload 10 Valid Email Addresses of Family & Friends per student.
4. Register by 9:00am on August 29 to receive your entry into the Registration Giveaway drawing!

Registration Giveaway – August 29

Pre3-3rd Grade Winner – Bass Pro Bowling Party, Purple Bubble Bar Party, Elevate Party, or Dive-In Arcade
4th-8th Grade Winner – Escape Room Party, Putt Putt Club Party, Spa Truck Party, or Dive-In Arcade
One winner per grade category. Each winner will choose a gift card valued at \$250.



Week 1 Drawing September 3

Raise \$300 or more
to be entered into a drawing for a
Mini Fridge filled with gift cards
and other prizes!

1 winner from grades Pre3-3rd and 1 winner from grades 4th-8th



Golden Ticket September 5

Anyone that has raised \$300 or more gets to pick a chocolate bar from Mrs. Bentley! If your chocolate bar contains a GOLDEN TICKET, you will have your favorite Dairy Queen Treat delivered to you at school, get some extra recess and an out of uniform day for your class!



LAST DAY OF FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 10!

Week 2 Drawing – September 10

Any student that has raised \$400 or more will be entered for a chance to win an Outdoor Picnic with lunch from Chick-Ni-A for your ENTIRE HOMEROOM and TEACHER! You will also earn extra lunch recess that day! (Only 1 winner will be drawn)

Fast Pass Wristband

Top Money Raiser per homeroom receives a pass for the front of the line at Comet Palooza Day on October 10!

Top 5!

The Top 5 earners in the entire school receive a special lunch on the town! They will receive limo transportation to and from lunch (location to be voted on by winners) and will get to bring a friend of their choice with them.

Top Class

The class that raises the most money will earn –

1-8 Grade Classes: Nacho Average Class Party- celebrate with queso and nacho chips and lots of other toppings! Then, enjoy a walk to Stadium Park where you will play a fun kickball game against your classmates! Also – No Homework Today!

Pre-3-Kindergarten Classes: Drop your books and enjoy an afternoon of snacks and a movie! The teacher of the Top Class will be awarded a \$100 gas card & \$100 PTO bonus.

School Milestone Incentives

When STS raises \$20,000, all students will be rewarded with an out of uniform day & those having raised \$300 or more will be placed in a drawing to help tape our mystery faculty member to the gym wall!

When STS raises \$35,000, every student that has raised \$400 or more will be entered in for a chance to Pie (with a special twist) the Principal or other faculty/staff member. Three lucky winners will be drawn for this fun prank!

When STS raises \$55,000, Mrs. Bentley will have to move her office to the roof for a day! Every student that has raised \$500 or more will be entered for a chance to win their class donuts and choose the hot lunch menu for an entire week!

Comet Palooza Day October 10

Celebrate the success of our Fall Fundraiser with Inflatables, DJ, games and fun! More information will be sent closer to date.



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For the weekend of the parish and school picnic two weeks ago, I was very happy to see a large number of our families at our principal Mass at 10 AM. It was a joy to have both older and younger parishioners mixed together especially with the younger children. While many school families came to set up their school supplies in their classrooms, we had many parishioners who attended the picnic. This made for a delightful (even if crowded) cafeteria filled with excitement.

Last weekend, I again saw a full church with school families and parishioners of all ages. I know that so many parishioners take great pride and joy in a large turnout. The presence of children is also a sign of vitality. Parents should not hesitate to bring their children to church. Sometimes children make noise – that's what they do. However, children are a sign of a healthy and living parish.

You should know how much the parishioners share their enthusiasm when we have large crowds at Mass. They are proud of our school and many donate generously to provide financial aid to our endowment and tuition assistance programs. But they are even more excited when they see our young people next to them at Mass. Keep it up!

-Msgr. Gray



SEPTOBERFEST AT ST. THOMAS

September 6th
6 - 10 PM

Back
Parking
Lot

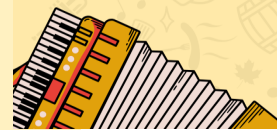
Bratwurst • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs
Beer Cheese Soup • Buckshot Corn
Pretzels • Funnel Cakes

ADMISSION
IS
FREE!

Live music by Will Spicher

FOOD • MUSIC • GAMES

Families Welcome



With the start of a new school year, 4th-8th Grade students have the opportunity to become altar servers. Fill out this [Google Form](#) to submit your information. This is a ministry that can help your child grow in many ways. Students will be trained during the school day in September.

COMETS
NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST
HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY!

Say Cheese!
Wednesday,
September 16th

Retakes Friday,
September 26th

MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE OUT
OF UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOUND IN
THE STS HANDBOOK! THANK YOU!




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Pre-3 celebrated their first full week of school with play time on the hill! There's no party like a Popsicle Party!



HEY COMET PARENTS & FAMILIES

PTO MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER
9TH @ 7PM
ST. THOMAS SCHOOL LIBRARY



ST. ANTHONYS YOUTH GROUP

BACK TO SCHOOL Bash

5TH - 12TH
GRADE



- BRING A TOWEL
- TSHIRT & SHORTS TO GET WET
- NO SWIMSUITS
- OLD SHOES
- DINNER PROVIDED
- FUN A MUST!!!

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
TIME: 2:00PM - 4:20PM PARTY
4:30PM - 5:30PM MASS

309-397-9438
CALL CAROLYN WITH QUESTIONS

ST. ANTHONYS PARISH HALL
BARTONVILLE, IL

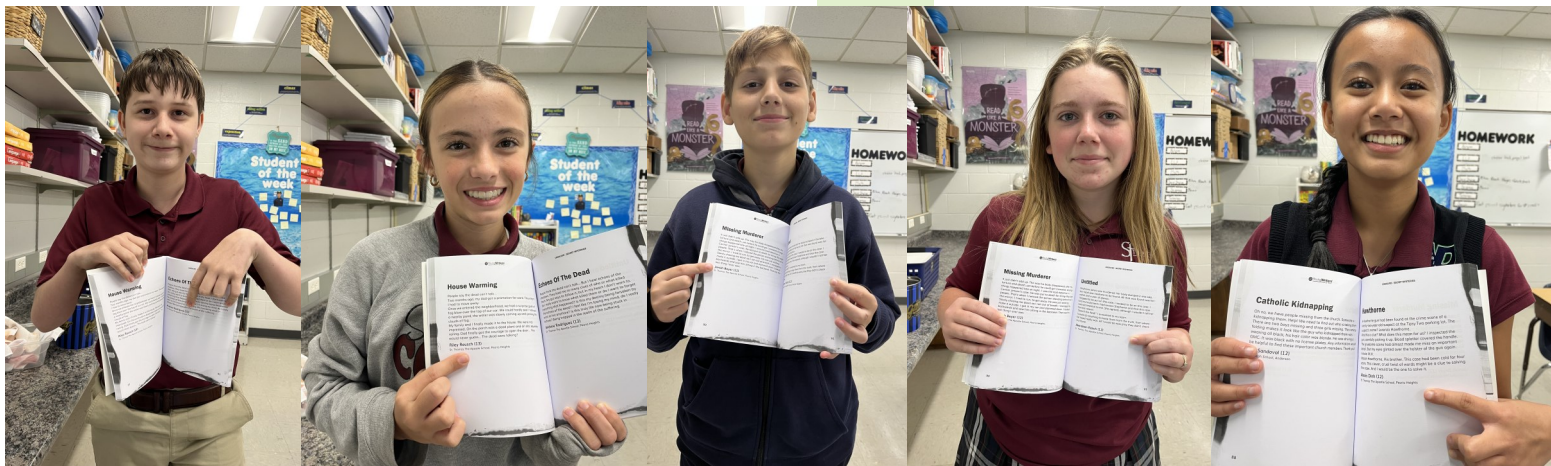
**MASS IS NOT REQUIRED BUT
THE KIDS THAT ATTEND WILL
SIT TOGETHER AS A GROUP**



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Congratulations to these 8th graders who were published after writing a 100 word story with an unsolved mystery theme! They wrote these stories in ELA class in 7th grade, and Mrs. Ward received a copy of the published book this week! Thank you YoungWritersUSA!





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CMGConnect DIOCESE OF PEORIA




End-User Instructions

Getting Started:

1. Go to <https://Peoria.cmgconnect.org/>
2. Create a new account by completing all the boxes under the **Register for a New Account** area. This includes your address, primary parish, and how you participate at your parish or school. If you have questions please contact your parish/school coordinator.
3. Your dashboard will show you the required and optional training curriculums that have been customized for your particular role within the Diocese.
4. Click  under the Safe Environment Training-Peoria to begin.
5. On the last page of the curriculum, submit your background check information.
The curriculum will be marked "Resume" until your background check is processed and reviewed by the diocese. Processing can take up to 7-10 business days.
6. If needed, you can access your completion certificate after you are certified by returning to the training dashboard and clicking **Print Certificate**.



For technical assistance, contact us via the  button found in the bottom right corner of the web page.

Last Updated: 02/13/20

REMINDER: Diocesan requirement for volunteers.

Please check to see if you have expired! Training is good for 5 years.

All volunteers of the school and parish (those who work with or have contact with children) must have completed the Safe Environment workshop prior to working with our children.

To complete the training go to

<https://cmgconnect.org/> online training hub

Find your Diocese - Peoria

Set-up an account

Complete Safe Environment Training for **Volunteers**—not employees

Create ONLY ONE user account. If you have forgotten your log in – email safeenvironment@cdop.org

If you have already completed the online training, it will show as complete when you log in.

If you have expired, you must take the RENEWAL Training – complete the background check and CANTS at the same time. These are uploaded – do not print and send to the office. Follow the prompts to submit.

We appreciate your support by completing these mandatory steps for volunteers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

2025 Saint Philomena Chess Tournament

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

3216 N. Emery Ave, Peoria, IL

Register Here—

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/25StPhills>



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St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial GOLF OUTING

Friday, September 26th
Mt. Hawley Country Club

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 19TH

TICKETS!

DIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE ST. THOMAS SPONSOR A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TANNER'S ORCHARD FAMILY NIGHT

Join St. Thomas School for a
TANNER'S ORCHARD FAMILY NIGHT
MEET US ON THE BACK 40!
Friday, September 12th
5:00–7:00 p.m.
740 County Road 50 E
Sparland

Save the Date Thom's Moms & Friends

Join us for
STS Ladies Night Out
Saturday, September 27th
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Jonah's Seafood House
2601 N Main St.
-East Peoria-
\$25/person
Appetizers and Cash Bar
Friends Welcome!
RSVP to Allexe #309-696-2301 &
PAY IN OFFICE NO LATER THAN SEPT 12TH

St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund
Friday, September 26, 2025 • MT. Hawley Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

GOLF REGISTRATION \$135/Person
Golf Registration includes: Green fees, Cart, Range Balls, and Food + Drinks in the Club House after the event.
Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th
Late registration after September 19th, \$145 Per Person

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

| | |
|--|---|
| TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials. HOT SPOT SPONSOR <ul style="list-style-type: none">Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stationsReception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables | TEE SPONSOR \$150 / 36 Sponsors Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole. BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional). |
|--|---|

• Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
• Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
• Followed by Food & Drinks in the Club House
• Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th
• Late Registration \$145 Per Person

For more information please contact:
Tracey Deponai (309) 688-3446
Email: parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration
REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Golfers

Player 1: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 2: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 3: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 4: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category: _____ Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

Tracey Deponai / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Total Enclosed \$ _____