

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



SCHOOL MASS INTENTIONS

The school Mass is each Wednesday at 10:45 AM. The students prepare and serve the Mass as altar servers, lectors, gift bearers and choir. Parents are always welcome to attend these Masses. We ask that you arrive by 10:45 as we do lock the doors as a measure of security and safety. If you would like to have a school Mass said for a special intention, we ask that you stop in the front office to make this request. The suggested donation for a Mass intention is \$10.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are always welcome. Please check with your child's teachers for volunteer opportunities. We welcome you into the school to partner with you in your child(ren)'s education.

Please complete all the safe environment forms for the Rockford Diocese. These include background checks by our school office. There is a fee of \$15 for background checks.

[Virtus](#) password to set up a new account: 2train!

As a clarification from last week, it has become apparent through review of the required volunteer hours policy, that we will take this year to suspend the policy. With the FACTs system just being introduced and not fully up and running, we still encourage you to become involved by volunteering. However, there is **NO VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT THIS YEAR**. While the Gospel calls us to serve, we want to make sure that we are able to respond to this call in a logical and sensible way for the 24-25 school year.

For this year, if you would like to send your completed hours to me, I will gladly submit them to the system but that is not necessary at this time.

TONIGHT!!

St. Thomas Girls Volleyball is hosting

**BRING
JOY**
NIKSWISH.ORG

NIGHT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th

Proceeds from this fundraising event will go to the **Nikolas Ritschel Foundation**, an organization dedicated to bringing joy, love and FUN to young adults fighting cancer and their families.

5:30 5th/6th GVB game

6:30 7th/8th GVB game

Bake Sale

50/50 Raffle

[NIKSWISH.ORG](#)

OKTOBERFEST THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Oktoberfest and Oktoberfest Raffle a success.

400 Raffle Tickets were sold with around 320 of those tickets being sold by school families.

Our very generous grand prize winner decided to donate their winnings back to the school. Our second-place winner donated half of their winnings back to the school. After expenses of \$600 for our ice cream treat day and mini-Oktoberfest, the Raffle had a profit of

\$18,400!

Once event numbers are finalized, we will announce net earnings of the event and raffle, but as you will see on our event website, we were very close to hitting our goal of \$50,000.

All of this is possible because of you.

We had many school families sponsor our event through personal or business donations.

The Oktoberfest Committee also wants to give a huge shoutout to everyone who attended and volunteered over the past two weeks.

We had moms work really hard to assemble over 400 pretzel necklaces for both the students and event attendees.

Mini-Oktoberfest would not have been a success without the help of the moms and dad who served food and helped the kids with their hot dogs and ice cream.

THANK YOU!

ELECTIVES

Grades 5-8 are offered electives at the end of the day. If they choose not to participate in an elective, they remain in a study hall environment. This first trimester, we are presenting the following options.

KIDWIND CHALLENGE



Mr. Reiva will coach the students in renewable energy through the use of wind turbines. Students will design wind turbines, windmills, and test them for energy output. We are hoping to put a few teams together to compete in the regional competition at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Read more about this exciting option at [KidWind — Teaching the World about Renewables](#)

Mondays and Wednesdays 1:45 – 4:00 with Mr. Reiva

BAND



This elective also includes 4th grade. Mrs. Holland will be directing students with various instruments for the newly formed STS Band! Currently, we are not taking on new instrumentalists.

Thursdays 1:45-2:30

READERS THEATER

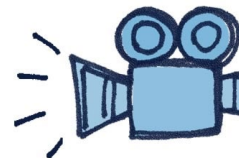


Readers Theater is a group technique for telling stories. Actors read from a “script” and parts are divided. There is no memorization, costumes, movement, props or special lighting required. The focus is expressive voices and facial gestures.

Readers Theater will allow students to interpret the text, use their own voices, expressions and essentially become the character that they are reading. We are hoping to be included in the first edition of Video Moments!

Tuesdays 1:45 – 3:00 with Mrs. Houston

VIDEO MOMENTS



During the Video Monthly Moments elective, students will write and produce a monthly news video highlighting all the exciting things happening at STS. Students will write stories, interview students, staff, and parents, and assist with the production of the video. We hope to have the first video produced and shared with all STS students and families by Halloween.

We are currently in need of a green screen. Please contact Mrs. Wittenberg – awittenberg@stthomascl.org for further information.

Thursdays 1:45 – 3:00 with Mrs. Wittenberg

Readers Theater and Video Moments registrations will remain open until next week's meeting time.

DONATION LINK

Donations can be made at any time of year. Please continue to share this link with friends and family that may be looking for a way to make a donation for tax purposes.

[Make a One-Time Gift Now - Faith Direct](#)

HALLOWEEN



ST THOMAS PTO PRESENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT

DRESS IN YOUR HALLOWEEN BEST

OCT 20
4:30PM TO 6PM

STS GYM
PARKING LOT

PRIZES FOR BEST DECORATED CARS

REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATING VEHICLES REQUIRED
TEXT CLAIRE 815.347.8197

PARTICIPATING VEHICLES MUST BE PARKED BY 4:15 PM



Please note that due to limited space in the gym parking lot, we are requiring you to register your car prior to the event.

FUNDRAISER



RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER NIGHT!



We will be having a Restaurant Fundraiser at the Crystal Lake Culver's (400 Pingree Rd. location) on

Wednesday, October 11th.

We will receive 15% of ALL sales between 5:00pm and 8:00pm!

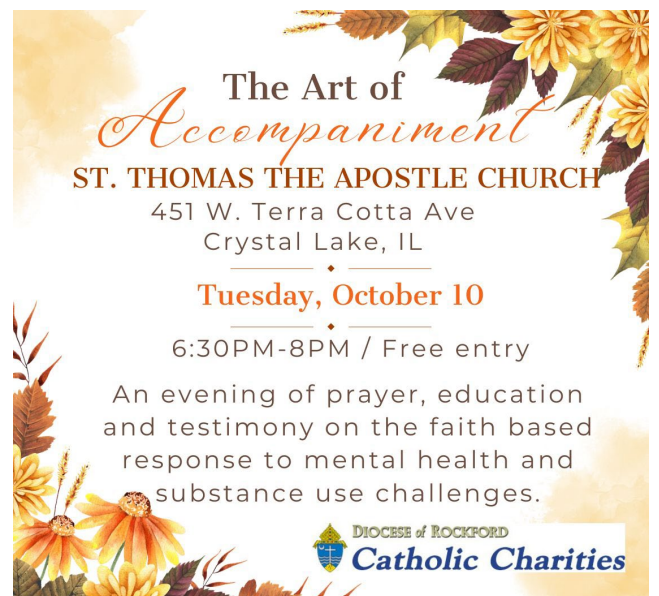
- Some of our wonderful staff from St. Thomas will be running the food to your tables! The children LOVE seeing their teachers outside of school!
- Please tell your families and friends, so that we can raise money for our wonderful school!
- Drive thru or Dine in!

Please bring this coupon with you or simply mention St. Thomas to Culver's!

If you have any questions, please email Karly Fisher at karlymgfisher@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!!!

PARISH EVENTS



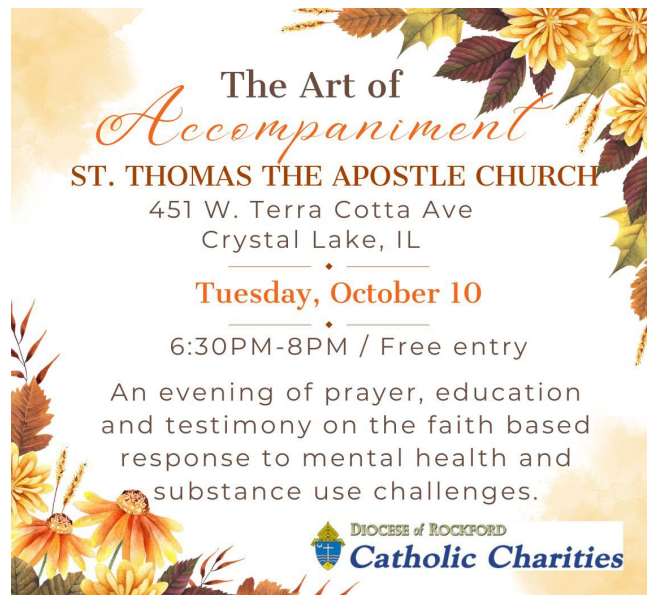
The Art of
Accompaniment

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave
Crystal Lake, IL

Tuesday, October 10
6:30PM-8PM / Free entry



An evening of prayer, education and testimony on the faith based response to mental health and substance use challenges.

DIocese of ROCKFORD
Catholic Charities



MONTHLY PTO MEETING

St. Thomas the Apostle
Eucharistic Revival
 Christ Among Us
 Source and Summit of Our Faith

Sept. 26 | Kickoff Event with Fr. Linkenheld
 Oct. 17 | Upper Room: A Eucharistic Encounter
 Nov. 14 | Discipleship Evening with Fr. Fitzpatrick
 Dec. 3 | Advent Mission with Mike Pacer
 Jan. 16 | Upper Room
 Feb. 20 | Discipleship Evening
 March 17-19 | Parish Mission with Fr. Michael Sparrouh
 April 16 | Upper Room
 May 14 | Discipleship Evening
 June 11 | Upper Room, followed by a communal dinner for all!
 ~All events begin at 7PM~

St Thomas the Apostle Parish
 451 W Terra Cotta Ave | Crystal Lake, Il.



October
PTO MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

OCTOBER 6, 2023
8:00AM
MRS. HOUSTON'S OFFICE

HOT TOPICS!
 -TRUNK OR TREAT
 -DAUGHTER DANCE
 -WINTER FUNDRAISER
 -MARKETING PLAN
 -SLICE THE PRICE

WE WILL ALSO BE OFFERING A ZOOM OPTION FOR ANYONE WHO IS UNABLE TO JOIN IN PERSON, PLEASE SEE LINK BELOW:

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83183638023?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183638023?pwd=B19ROUXFB3DURHJLAHFMBUFOSKORUT09)
 PWD=B19ROUXFB3DURHJLAHFMBUFOSKORUT09

MEETING ID: 831 8363 8023
 PASSCODE: 258754

Please contact Jen Abraham, President,
jjsabraham@gmail.com (815) 307-5370 with questions



MONTH OF THE ROSARY

During the month of the Rosary, October, St. Thomas School will pray the Angelus Prayer every day at 12:20 together. On Friday October 6, the day before the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, we will gather together as a community in the Pierson Street Church at 1:30 to recite the Rosary. Parents are invited to join us but remember, the doors will be locked for safety.

REQUIRED DRILLS

During October we will have two observed safety drills.

Monday October 2, the Crystal Lake Fire Department will be observing our fire drill evacuation.

Thursday, October 5 the Crystal Lake Police will be observing our intruder lockdown drill.

The students have practiced each of these drills and have done a great job.

Praying with you and for you,
Mrs. Houston

Oct-23

BBB & Cheer begins October 1
 GVB 8th Grade Night sometime the week of Oct. 9
 Angelus Prayer at 12:20 each day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prolife Sunday Hispanic RE in Cafeteria			Mass 1045	Kindergarten to All Season Orchard	NO Uniform--bring an offering for the Food Pantry 1:30 Rosary @ Church	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Hispanic RE in Cafeteria	Indegenous People/Columbus Day NO School	Parish Retreat @ Oak 9-2 NO School	Mass 1045		7/8 GVB Tournament	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
McHenry Deanery Youth @ MCCHS			Mass 1045 1:00 Dismissal with Buses, NO ET		Trunk or Treat 4:30-6; Gym parking lot Preschool Fall Family Fun Day-Stade's Farm	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Mass 1045			
GVB Conference Tournament Week						
29	30	31				