

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

NOVEMBER VIDEO MOMENTS

Dear Families,

Welcome back from Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves with a safe and prayerful Thanksgiving.

The holiday break ended with some in downtown Crystal Lake with the lighting of the Christmas Trees and the Festival of Lights Parade.

Stop by the gazebo near the train station to see our tree.



Thanks to second grade for representing STS in the parade!



[Video Monthly Moments](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

Reminder: School Masses can be offered for someone special. Please stop in at the school's main office to make your request. The suggested offering for a Mass intention is \$10. These funds do not go to the school but become a part of the overall parish Mass intention fund. Please contact Ms. Boppart in the main office of the school to make a request.

24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Planning for the new school year is in progress. Please complete the attached survey regarding your intentions for next school year.

## LITTLE SAINTS PRESCHOOL NEWS

Parents

Thank you for all your contributions to our Food Pantry donations.

We will be celebrating Advent, The Nativity and Christmas this month, along with making some very special projects!

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH, PEACE AND GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.”

LUKE 2:14

Contact Us

By phone: (815) 459-0496 (absences)

Preschool Direct Line- 815-261-3833

Or email

Mrs. Simms- [ssimms@stthomascl.org](mailto:ssimms@stthomascl.org)

Mrs. Siggeman- [ksiggeman@stthomascl.org](mailto:ksiggeman@stthomascl.org)

Mrs. Bonczyk- [cbonczyk@stthomascl.org](mailto:cbonczyk@stthomascl.org)

REMINDERS:

**14-Preschool Christmas Concert**

**19-PJ's Day for the Threes**

**20-PJ's Day for the Fours**

**21-All School Christmas Sing Along**

**ALL DAY CHILDREN DISMISSED**

**AT 11:45**

**22-Jan.5-Christmas Break**

**NO SCHOOL**

LITTLE SAINTS and ST. THOMAS  
KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
CELEBRATION

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>

OAK STREET CHURCH at 6:00

---

**SERVICE PROJECT**

**This month we will be collecting new socks of all sizes, for PADS shelters.**

**Thanks you for your generosity**

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO GO OUTSIDE AS THE WEATHER ALLOWS US TO ☺**

**HOWEVER, SNOWPANTS ARE NOT NEEDED UNLESS ASKED BY TEACHERS FOR AN OUTSIDE SNOW DAY.**

**OUR ENTIRE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A NEW YEAR THAT WILL BRING HOPE, HEALTH AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.**



**JANUARY -2024**

**8-Classes Resume**

**15-Martin Luther King Day-No School**

**Hearing and Vision Testing**

## ATHLETIC NEWS

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. When it comes to athletics, we have so much to be thankful for! We are thankful for our athletes, our coaches, our volunteers, our refs, our sponsors, our conference, our beautiful gym and equipment, and our great uniforms 😊! We are grateful for the chance to play together, the friendships because of sports, the new skills learned, the lessons learned and most especially for the community created – Thank you our good Jesus for all of these blessings!

## PTO EVENTS



**December PTO Meeting!**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023  
8:00AM  
MRS. HOUSTON'S OFFICE

Feel Free to Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 816 5903 1189  
Passcode: 335423

Hot Topics this month:  
Teacher Christmas Gifts  
St. Nick Christmas Shop  
Open House/Fun Fair  
Winter Fun-raiser

Please contact Jen Abraham with questions or ideas.  
jjsabraham@gmail.com or 815-307-5370



**Sir Fun Bear's HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP**

COMING SOON TO OUR SCHOOL  
**December 13, 2023**

Students will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for everyone on their Christmas list! Gift list and details coming soon!



**sts**  
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Felix & Fingers  
Dueling Pianos!**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

<https://www.auctria.com/Event/STSWinterFunRaiser>

**ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY  
NIGHT OUT WINTER FUN-RAISER!**

Get tickets now!  
Scan Below:



*Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos  
The Vixen  
1208 N. Green Street  
McHenry, IL  
auctria.events/STSWinterfunraiser.com*

DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM  
SHOWTIME: 7:00PM - 10:00PM  
\$50 GENERAL ADMISSION, STANDING ROOM  
\$100 VIP ADMISSION, TABLE OF 4  
\$125 BALCONY VIP

*This is a 21+ event. Cash Bar with STS Signature Drink Available for Purchase  
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres Provided  
Feel free to bring your own appetizers and sweets*

## PARISH EVENTS



*St Thomas the Apostle*  
**Chocolate, Wine & Jazz**  
**December 2, 6PM**



**STANDARD JAZZ PROJECT**  
DIFFERENT EVERY TIME



A fun evening of community, friends, dancing, jazz, hors-d'oeuvres, wine, and Chocolate. Cost is just \$20. Registration is on the parish website, QR Code or at the parish office.

451 W. Terra Cotta Ave. | Crystal Lake, IL

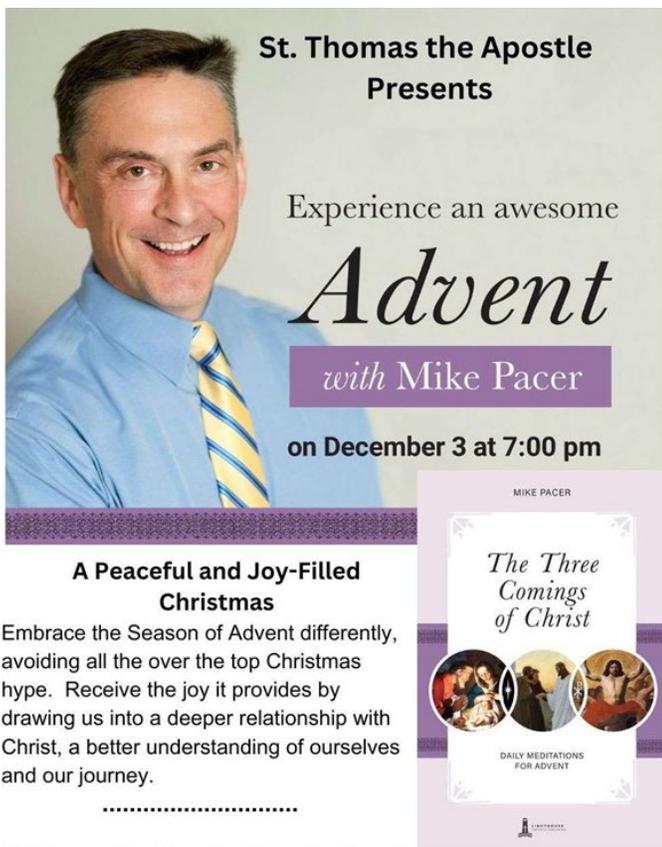
---

## ADVENT WITH MIKE PACER

Join us next month, December 3rd for our Advent Mission, as we welcome, Mike Pacer, a gifted speaker, and author, who will share with us how to experience

Mike is from Batavia and is the dad of our recently ordained priest, Fr. Nate Pacer (2022). He is also president of 5 Stones, a Catholic Distribution and Resource Company in Sycamore.

Mike will have 3 books for purchase, including "Mercy and Hope" (\$5), "Prayers for Catholic Men" (\$5), and "The Three Comings of Christ" (\$10).



**St. Thomas the Apostle Presents**

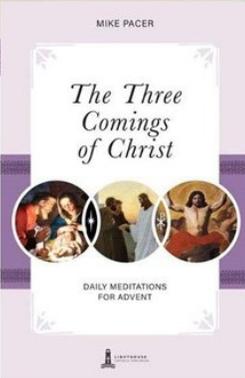
Experience an awesome  
*Advent*  
with Mike Pacer  
on December 3 at 7:00 pm

**A Peaceful and Joy-Filled Christmas**

Embrace the Season of Advent differently, avoiding all the over the top Christmas hype. Receive the joy it provides by drawing us into a deeper relationship with Christ, a better understanding of ourselves and our journey.

.....

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church**  
451 W Terra Cotta Ave, Crystal Lake, IL



MIKE PACER

*The Three Comings of Christ*

DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

---

## NEWS FROM ROCKFORD

Catholic Spirit Radio is now in the Harvard, Belvidere, Loves Park, Rockford, DeKalb and Sycamore areas! Catholic Conversations, a program on Catholic Spirit Radio, will feature Bishop David J. Malloy giving highlights of the Rockford Diocese on November 25 and 26 and December 2 and 3 at 3 p.m. Catholic Spirit Radio can be found at 88.9 FM in the Rockford Area and online at [www.catholicspiritradio.com](http://www.catholicspiritradio.com)

The program will also be available as a podcast at [www.catholicspiritradio.com](http://www.catholicspiritradio.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**Dec. 6**

Grades 3 & 4 Christmas Carol @ Fair Oaks



**Dec. 7**

Grades 5 & 6 Christmas Carol @ Sunrise



**Dec. 8 & 9**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB Tournament hosted by St. Thomas** – mark your calendars! Sign-up spreadsheet to follow in the coming weeks.



**Dec. 14**

Grades 7 & 8 Christmas Carol @ Crystal Pines

PK-K-1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Concert @ Oak St. Church 6pm



**Dec. 15**

Grade 2 Christmas Carols @Encore Memory Care



**Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night for Boys Basketball and Cheer



**Jan 19 & 20 –**

7/8 Grade Girls Basketball Tournament hosted by St. Thomas. Volunteer sign-up coming soon.



**Feb 3 –**

K of C Free Throw Competition ... times and further details to come.

See full Athletics calendar here:  
<https://sites.google.com/stthomascl.org/stsathletics/monthly-calendar-nscg-game-schedules>

## LEND A HAND



Virtus password to set up a new account: 2train!

Volunteer at Recess:

[Grades 4 & 5](#)

[Grades k & 1](#)

[Grades 2 & 3](#)

[Junior High](#)

Volunteer at the Thomas Trading Post: - [Thomas Trading Post Volunteer signup sheet](#)

Support the **Thomas Trading Post Wishlist:**  
[Amazon.com](#)

Donate \$10 gift certificates for the Thomas Trading Post (Julie Anns, Five Below, Target, Amazon,



### Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Preschool Classroom Assistant

Little Saints Preschool of St. Thomas the Apostle School is in need of a classroom assistant for our 4-year-old classroom.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. [ghouston@stthomascl.org](mailto:ghouston@stthomascl.org)



McDonald, etc.): send to school office marked Thomas Trading Post

Sign up for [scorebook/scoreboard/admission/& concessions](#)

Monthly Family Mass: [shelby@theyounges.com](mailto:shelby@theyounges.com)

December 8 & 9:

8th Grade BBB Tournament hosted by St. Thomas – mark your calendars! [Volunteer sign-up found here](#)

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

–**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night for Boys Basketball and Cheer**, looking for a non-8<sup>th</sup> grade parent to help decorate, plan snacks and get flowers for parents. email colleen @ [colleen@nieckula.net](mailto:colleen@nieckula.net)



**Please send in Clorox sanitizing wipes for the cafeteria**



### Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Extended Time Care Supervisor/Manager

St. Thomas School offers after school care from dismissal at 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

Students begin extended care with large motor activity recess; go to cafeteria for snack and then return to the ET Classroom for quiet games, G-rated movies, homework time, or quiet reading as they wait for their pickup.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. [ghouston@stthomascl.org](mailto:ghouston@stthomascl.org)



Diocese of Rockford Catholic Schools

# DECEMBER

*Jesus, joy, and jingle bells!*

For unto us a child is born. - Isaiah 9:6

## Faith + Family Tips:

+ Advent is the 4-week period leading up to Christmas. We burn candles to remind us that we are preparing for Jesus, the light of the world. This month, intentionally light a candle while you read a story together, play a board game, say a prayer, eat dinner together, etc. As you light the candle, remind your family that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season.

+ Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6th. Have your children leave their shoes outside their bedroom door on the evening of the 5th. It is customary to have parents stuff them with treats: small oranges, chocolate coins, or an ornament for the tree. Share how Santa Claus can be traced back to this saint.

+ The star led the shepherds and wise men to the place where Jesus was born. Take a star and hide it each day for your children to find. On Christmas, hang it over your nativity or at the top of your tree!

## Teaching:

Wreaths were a teaching tool in the early Church. The circular shape represents the circle of life from Jesus' birth till death. Pointy holly leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and the berries signify His blood and sacrifice for us. The enduring evergreen branches tell of His victory over death and forever love for us. As you see Christmas wreaths this year, stop for a moment and share this message!

## Prayer:

Dear Jesus, this month we remember your birth in a simple stable, to a young mother, on a silent night. You came to teach us what true love is. Help us to live that Christmas love out loud! Happy Birthday, Jesus!  
Amen.

FAITH + FAMILY  
*collective*

## Best Hot Chocolate Recipe:

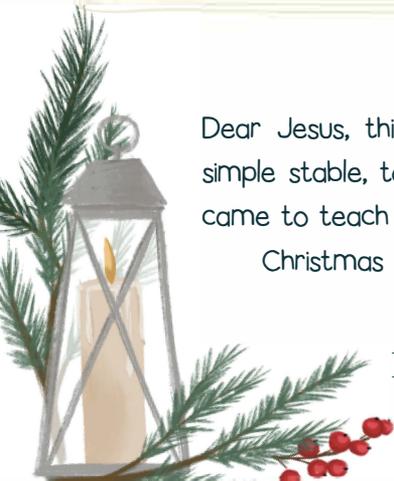
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 1/4 cups cocoa powder  
1/2 - 1 1/4 teaspoon salt, to taste  
3/4 cup hot water  
1 gallon milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1/4 tsp cinnamon



In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, and salt. Slowly add in hot water, mixing well. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Boil and stir for 2 minutes. Add milk, stirring occasionally. Do not boil. Remove from heat and whisk in vanilla and cinnamon.

## Family Adventure: Christmas Cards and Caroling

Make some handmade Christmas cards, pack up the car, fill a thermos with hot chocolate, and head out to bless your family and friends. Encourage your children to ring the doorbell and start singing or humming Christmas carols. Present your loved ones with a card and wish them a Merry Christmas! Jump back in your car and do it over and over again.



# December Food Pantry Collections

## Friday December 1

Please help us stuff the box with:

### Baby Food

- Cereal
- Formula
- Jars
- Snacks
- . . . .

### Paper Products

- Napkins
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Paper towel
- Diapers

### Canned Meats/fish

- Tuna
- Salmon
- Chicken
- Ham
- Spam

### Cereal

- Variety packs
- Oatmeal
- Cream of wheat



Remember--

if you participate in the no uniform day, you need to bring an item for the food pantry collection bin.

Dec-23			GBB begin week of Dec 4th Benchmark testings k-8 12/4-12/15			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					NO Uniform--bring an offering for the Food Pantry Ladies Advent Night Community Center	Chocolate Wine & Jazz @ Oak St 6pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Mass 1045 3rd & 4th to Fair Oaks 1-2J		Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8 BBB Tournament 1045	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			St. Nick Wkshop Shopping event Mass 1045 Athlete Blessing @ Mass	PK4-K-1 Christmas Concert @ Oak St. 6 pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Communal Penance Service @ Oak 7pm	Mass 1045	12:00 Dismissal no buses no lunch Christmas	NO School	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SCHOOL Closed Christmas Holiday  
Parish Center Closed 24-25-26

As always, I will be --  
Praying with you and for you,  
Mrs. Houston