



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione
"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

December 3, 2019

Nicholas Term – Week V

December Virtue: Orderliness

School Year Theme: *Beatudinem* (Happiness)



Sixth grader Anne Maki displays her report on a Spanish speaking saint as Mrs. Lashaway has her students focus on our Church's saints during the month of November..



~ Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath & Garland Sale ~

Decorate your home and support our St. Thomas Rome Trip by purchasing Poinsettias, Wreaths and Roping.

Order forms are due to the school office by **Tuesday, December 10th** for delivery on **Tuesday, December 17th**.

Use e-Funds to make your payment or attach a check made out to St. Thomas. **Thank you!**

~ Events Calendar ~

View the complete St. Thomas School Calendar [here](#).



Monday, December 2nd

St. Thomas Parent Association Meeting

6:30 PM ~ Parish Library

Wednesday, December 4th

St. Thomas Christmas Decoration Pickup

3:00 – 5:00 PM Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 10th

St. Thomas Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath & Garland Sale Orders Due

Order form attached—For delivery on **Tuesday, December 17th**

Thursday, December 12th

St. Thomas School Christmas Choir Concert

6:30 PM in St. Thomas Church

Monday, December 16th

St. Thomas School Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Noon ~ St. Thomas Church

Wednesday, December 18th

St. Thomas Winter Celebration of Wonder

6:30 PM in the St. Thomas Parish Hall

Friday, December 20^h

Half Day – Dismissal at 11:40 AM

St. Thomas Christmas Party

~ Attachments ~
Weekly Parent Schedule
Christmas Decoration Order Form

From the Headmaster

Introducing a Theology of the Body Curriculum for our Kindergarten through 8th Grade

The Diocese of Lansing introduced to all school principals a new **Theology of the Body** Kindergarten through High School curriculum published by Ruah Woods Press. The teaching of **Saint Pope John Paul II** presents a biblically grounded **Catholic anthropology**—an answer to the question of who the human person is, which is providing the modern Church with a sure antidote to the confusion, error and ignorance regarding human identity. The urgency to communicate this teaching is underlined in realizing that most of modern life's ills can be readily traced to false anthropologies and to our loss of appreciation and respect for the true mystery and nature of the human person.

In order to make this teaching available to our students and families, we will be adopting the Ruah Woods Press curriculum for the 2020-2021 school year. This curriculum will link both our literature and faith formation areas of study as the Ruah Woods instruction utilizes classical works of children's and youth literature to present the key insights and understandings of the Theology of the Body in an age appropriate manner. More information will be provided on these materials.

For our Faculty: The Diocese will be offering a full day training in the implementation of this curriculum on Thursday, March 19th to which our faith formation faculty (homeroom teachers) will participate. In order to make this possible, we are introducing a day of no school for Kindergarten through 8th grade on Thursday, March 19th (preschool will still meet on this date) and moving the currently scheduled winter break day of Monday, March 16th to Friday, March 20th. This will create a four day winter break for our K – 8th grade families from Thursday, March 19th to Sunday, March 22nd.



For our Parent & Parishioners: On **Saturday evening, February 8th at 7 PM**, St. Thomas School will host a wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert evening for couples and singles at which **Fr. Tom Wray**, chaplain of Ruah Woods Press will present an adult introduction to the Theology of the Body. This will also be an occasion to view student curricular materials, obtain a free book on the Theology of the Body for further study, and deepen our shared understanding of this mystery of our identity as man and woman--as human persons made in the image and likeness of God. Tickets are available online at [Eventbrite](#).



St. Thomas Library Collection Wish List Donation Program

From our Library Committee: As we look to develop our collection to better support our classical Catholic curriculum, the Library Committee is sponsoring a Wish List Donation Program where our families can donate a book from our classical curriculum reading list that our collection does not currently have available. We invite all our school and parish families to visit our [St. Thomas School Online Wish List](#) and make a purchase of a book for our school's collection. Students for years to come will be able to enjoy rich and rewarding reading through your generosity which will be noted with a special label placed inside each donated book. Thank you for your participation in building up our library collection at St. Thomas.

Internet School Review Update Initiative

From our Marketing Team: As we draw closer to Catholic Schools Week and our Open House on Sunday, January 24th, families outside our parish are turning to the internet searching for schools that best fit their needs. In addition to our beautiful new website, we'd also like to offer prospective families more information about our school community. Online school reviews give families an important glimpse into the life of our school. *If you enjoy writing online reviews, please consider taking a few moments to share your experience at St. Thomas with others by posting an online review at one of the websites linked below.*

Here are a few tips about how to write a helpful online school review:

- Say something about yourself. Are you a current parent? Alumni parent? Former student? What grades are your children in? How did you come to be part of St. Thomas?
- Say something particular about your family's experience at St. Thomas. What is something that your family appreciates about the school? Do your children love daily Mass, a particular subject or class, or special school experiences?
- Tell us why other families should consider joining the St. Thomas community. What impact do you see St. Thomas having on your children and family life? What do you think other families should know about our school?

Please consider posting a review to one of these popular online school review sites: [Great Schools](#), [Private School Review](#), [Google Reviews](#).

Thank you~!