



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

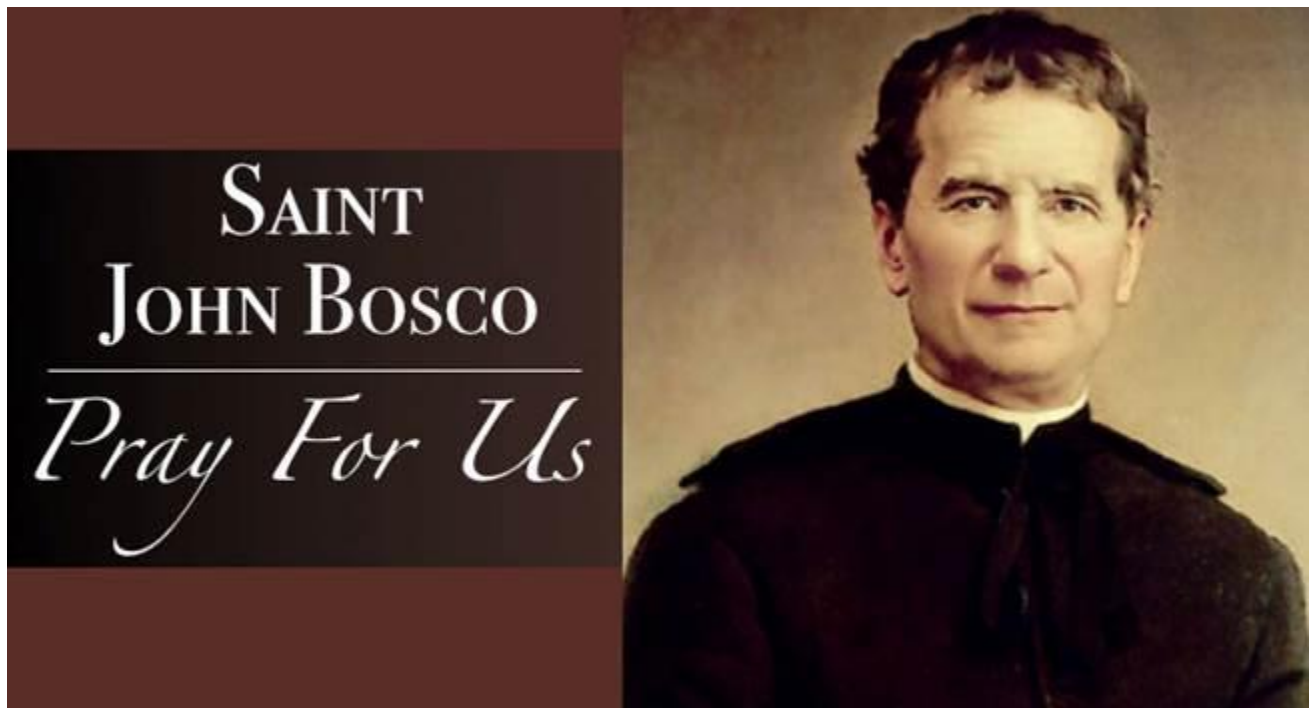
Nascantur in Admiratione
"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

March 23, 2020

Scholastica Term – Week IX

March Virtue: Industriousness

School Year Theme: *Beatudinem* (Happiness)



"Pray when it's time to pray.
Work when it's time to work.
Study when it's time to study,
Play when it's time to play."

St. John Bosco

~ Events Calendar ~

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



Tuesday, April 14th

Current Return to School Date

Dear St. Thomas School Parents~

I pray our families remain in peace even during this time of our possibly having our accustomed sources of interior peace be disrupted. Its times like these that allow Our Lord to prove to us that prayer is a sure source of that peace 'surpasses all understanding.'

This morning Governor Whitmer announced a [stay at home order](#) that is currently in place through Monday, April 13th. As she stated, this thereby includes an extension of the current school closure order through that date as well. Presently, we will plan on our return to school on Tuesday, April 14th. She also mentioned that an announcement regarding schools will be forthcoming which will likely address school closure and its timeframe.

Under these circumstances, our St. Thomas faculty and staff seek to provide a reliable support to our students and families by our continuing to lead and support your children's 'school at home' during the closure. The continuity of our relationships, our instruction, and interaction with our student will offer experiences of both community and responsibility that will allow them to continue to grow and remain in a healthy attitude about themselves, their circumstances and, most importantly, looking forward.

Our current schedule:

- **Monday, March 23 – Friday, March 27:** Daily Distance Learning/Last week of Scholastica Term
- **Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3:** Easter Break/No Distance Learning
- **Monday, April 6 – Wednesday, April 8:** Daily Distance Learning
- **Thursday, April 9 – Monday, April 13:** Easter Triduum/No Distance Learning
- **Tuesday, April 14:** Return to School/Scholastica Term Report Cards Available Online

Last Friday the Michigan Department of Education issued a decision that all virtual learning activities during the school closure period would not be counted as official instructional time. The same day the Diocese of Lansing issued the following statement noting that our Catholic schools are not subject to this decision.

Statement from Diocese of Lansing Office of Catholic Schools:

Earlier today (3/20/20) the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced that public schools cannot count virtual learning towards instructional time. This does not directly impact our Diocese of Lansing Catholic Schools and our ability to offer and/or count online and modified instruction. We will continue our current practice of providing online and distance learning opportunities to our students.

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lansing are accredited through the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MNSAA). During this unprecedented time, our Catholic schools remain committed to serve our students, families, and parish communities by providing the best possible learning opportunities. I am grateful for the continued dedication of our administrators and teachers and for the true partnership we enjoy with our families as we travel this new journey together.

We will therefore continue to develop and conduct our preschool through 8th grade distance learning activities for the engagement and instruction of our students as we continue to fulfill our professional responsibilities, work to support our learning community of students and parents, and seek to bring out the best in them and ourselves.

2020 St. Thomas School Parent Survey

Our thanks to all our families who responded to our second annual parent survey—each class had all families respond and so we can look forward to an all school Jean Day upon our return! Results from the survey will be shared as we have more information on our school schedule for the year. Thank you again everyone for your feedback!

2020-2021 St. Thomas School Enrollment Update

Our thanks to all our families for providing us your enrollment registration/status for the 142 upcoming school year. We are happy to know that our current registered enrollment, based on our full Kindergarten, is 70—our enrollment at the start of the current school year. We have several families, and expect more, who are interested in joining our school community, and so we plan on an increased enrollment for the 202-2021 school year over the current year's level.

Suggestions for School at Home Distance Learning

- **Schedule Your Day:** A daily, repeated structure to the day provides students with the mental framework for committing themselves to their responsibilities both with home chores and school responsibilities. Predictability supports an attitude of readiness to follow through on scheduled activities. Here is a sample daily schedule: <https://catholicliberaleducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Routine-for-Home.pdf>
- **Teacher Lesson Communication:** Teachers are continuing to explore the most efficient method of communicating lesson activities, resources and video-conferencing days/times. For the time being we will continue to have our classroom portal pages be our direct source of lesson activities and Zoom emails providing links to schedule video conferencing lessons. Upper School English and Math assignments are all in students' Google Classroom—parents are asked to use the student password to review all assignments and work accordingly.
- **Send us your 'School at Home' Pictures:** We would love to share your pictures and descriptions of your experiences of distant learning at home with our school community! Send them to me and I will share—thank you.
- **Distance Learning Feedback:** Please email me any feedback, needs, concerns, and suggestions you could offer based on your experience thus far at home. We are uncertain of the timeframe that we will need to continue this format of learning and I appreciate your feedback that will help us implement this format more effectively should we need to further rely on this collaboration between school and home.
- **Informal Reading and Math Resources:**
 - [EPIC](#) is a digital library for students. It provides access to books, quizzes, videos and more. [Parent Resources](#).
 - ABC Mouse is a comprehensive program that supports phonics, reading, and writing. [Click Here to Access PDF that will guide you through installing ABC Mouse](#).
 - [Reading IQ](#), part of the ABC Mouse Family is a site that provides thousands of digital books to kids from ages 2-12. [Access PDF that will guide you through installing Reading IQ](#).
 - [Adventure Academy](#), the 3rd resource in the ABC Mouse family give access to high-quality learning games and videos. [Access PDF that will guide you through installing Adventure Academy](#).

- [PBS Learning Media](#) provides reading, writing, and foundational skills for students. [Parent Resources](#)
- [Storyline](#) provides popular stories read aloud by famous people.
- [Scholastic Kids](#) provides books, videos, and games from kids favorite series.
- [Read Theory](#) Provides passages for reading comprehension with reading questions. It will track reading comprehension progress.
- [Greg Tang Math](#) is a resource with online games and math challenges
- [Splash Math](#) is a resource for online games and skill practice. [Parent Resources](#)
- [Khan Academy Early Math](#) has Khan Academy videos for early childhood broken down by skill. [Parent Resources](#)
- [Prodigy](#) is an online math game that parents can sign up for a free account or students can access with their Google account [Parent Resources](#)
- [Mathopolis](#) has online games, skills practice, and a story problem of the day
- [Numberock](#) is a collection of math videos
- [Multiplication](#) is basic facts practice. [Parent Resources](#)

While We Are Unable to go to Mass

[Making a Spiritual Communion by Dr. Scott Hahn](#)

Be assured of our faculty's and staff's prayers for you and all your intentions at this time. Please feel welcome to share with us any special intentions that we will include in our prayers.

Trusting in Him Who is worthy of our trust,
TJD

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www.sta2.org/school