



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

November 16, 2020

Nicholas Term Virtue: Generosity

School Year Theme ~ *gratia cantantes* (Gratitude)

School Mission Statement

In partnership with families, St. Thomas seeks to forge a diverse community of scholars, leaders and saints. Assisted by the Holy Spirit, we challenge students to grow intellectually through a rigorous curriculum, forming confident youth leaders grounded in virtue. We guide children to become friends of Jesus—to love as He loves, and join our community's rich tradition of proclaiming the Kingdom and bettering our world.



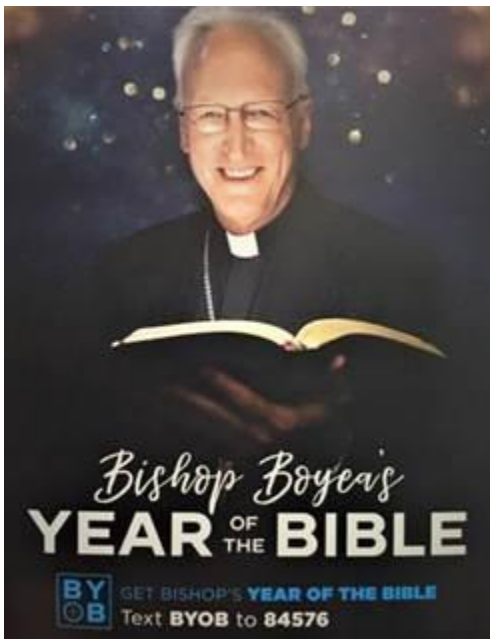
The Year of the Bible

(Beginning this Advent)

Grow in your knowledge of and relationship with Jesus through the reading of The Word.

Listen to Bishop Boyea explain how you can participate with him in the Diocesan Year of the Bible (1:50 min):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk4VusC4RMY&feature=youtu.be>



The St. Thomas Library Collection is Growing...



Our school library has been a place of discovery and joy this year! Mrs. Davignon, our school librarian, is grateful for the gift our parents have made of many new books to our collection.

There are so many voracious readers at St. Thomas, and she wants to continue cultivating the joy of reading in our students! As Thanksgiving approaches, please consider making a donation to our library in thanks for all that the Lord has accomplished in us so far. We have a wish list of many books that would support our curriculum and bring new stories of meaning, character and joy to our children.

Please visit our St. Thomas Amazon Wishlist to make a donation:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/65KG2HEG9SD3?ref=wl_share

In the Classroom...



Preschool students Gordon Derderian in Mrs. Ortiz class and Gabriella Khan in Mrs. Gruetzmacher's class participate with the preschool in a tour of the church guided by Mrs. Maureen Galloway, the St. Thomas Parish Director of Liturgy.

~ Events Calendar

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



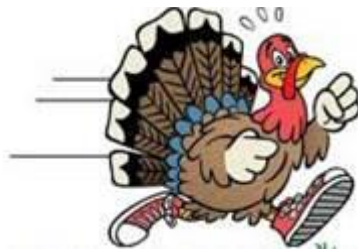
Wednesday, November 18th

Marketing Team Meeting

Join us at either occasion to participate in promoting our school community~!

In Person: 8:05 AM in the Parish Hall after drop off

Online: 8:00 PM via [Video Conference Link](#)



Friday, November 20th

St. Thomas Turkey Trot Fundraiser

(see attached pledge sheet)

Wednesday - Sunday, November 25th – 29th

No School – Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 4th

Raphael House (only) Jean Day

Monday, December 7th

St. Thomas Picture Day

Mark Your Calendars!

From the Headmaster

COVID-19 Update

- Based on this weekend's Michigan Health Department order, St. Thomas will suspend its Boys Basketball Season through December 8th per current MHSAA recommendations. We look to reschedule the 3 games impacted.
- Since our first day of school to the present, St. Thomas has incurred no cases of COVID-19 among our students or staff.
- St. Thomas will continue to conduct in-person instruction through Tuesday, November 24th with our Thanksgiving break beginning Wednesday, November 25th.
- Based on current condictions, we will return for in-person instruction on Monday, November 30th.

- The format of instruction for the three weeks of school between our Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks will be determined based on our local conditions. If our conditions remain as present, we will plan on continuing in-person instruction through December.
- Per our St. Thomas Reopening Plan, please:
 - Monitor your child's temperature daily.
 - Report any probable or confirmed COVID cases to the school office. (See guideline below).
 - Insure your child has a clean, fitted face mask for wear during each school day.
- The following guideline may be used to determine appropriate actions steps based on symptoms of illness:

Lower Risk Symptoms~

Headache
Sore Throat
Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
Congestion/Runny Nose
Fatigue

If yes to **one** of the lower risk symptoms stay at home and monitor for resolution or development of additional symptoms.

If yes to **two or more** of the lower risk symptoms isolate symptomatic individual and seek medical evaluation. Notify school.

High Risk Symptoms~

Fever--temperature 100.4 F or higher/chills/body aches
Cough--new onset or worsening
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
Change in ability to taste or smell

If demonstrating any **one or more** high risk symptoms, isolate individual and seek medical evaluation. Notify school.

- We ask all our families to take responsible precautions over the Thanksgiving Break to stay healthy as households make plans for holiday activities.

School Financial Update

As we complete our first term of the school year, St. Thomas has established a healthy financial foundation for a successful school year. We are grateful to our families for their timely tuition support through the year. While we are unable to conduct our fall fundraising event this year, we are looking to be able to still host our spring scholarship gala as a means of bring our community together to celebrate and support our Catholic school mission.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Status
Income	\$ 155,998	\$ 160,490	(\$ 4,492) Unfavorable
Expenses	\$ 315,957	\$ 323,731	\$ 7,774 Favorable
Parish Subsidy	\$ (159,959)	\$ (163,241)	\$ 3,282 Favorable

St. Thomas Marketing Meeting

St. Thomas School Parent, **Chris Russ**, our St. Thomas Parish Staff as Director of Communications, will lead our **St. Thomas Marketing Team** meetings this Wednesday: in-person after pick up in the parish hall and at 8:00 PM [online](#). All are welcome to contribute to

the planning of our reaching key Catholic audiences who can contribute with us in building up our classical Catholic school community of faith and learning. Join us~!

The St. Thomas Turkey Trot!

Please join the St. Thomas Upper School Student Council in a "Turkey Trot" on Friday, November 20th. During their Physical Education class, students will trot laps around the school--weather permitting, or the gym, class by class for pledges that will go directly to a charity chosen by our student council.

Sponsors may sign up to pledge a flat dollar amount and/or a per lap donation. Laps will be counted on the day of the event and your child will come home with the number of laps. Please return the pledge forms along with \$6 for the "Turkey Trot" t-shirts that students will wear during the trot. Thank you all for your support!



St. Thomas Youth Group Fundraiser ~ Catholic Socks!

For the next few weeks our youth ministry is holding a fundraiser for scholarships to send three or four youth ministry teens to a Catholic leadership camp next summer. To raise the money, we are selling socks! Not just any socks, but Catholic-designed socks from the company Sock Religious. A percentage of every sock order will go to our scholarship fund. The youth ministry team will be selling the socks after Mass on the weekends of **November 15 and 22**.