



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admiratione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

November 23, 2020

Nicholas Term Virtue: Generosity

School Year Theme ~ *gratia cantantes* (Gratitude)

### *School Mission Statement*

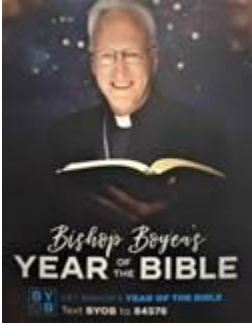
In partnership with families, St. Thomas seeks to forge a diverse community of scholars, leaders and saints. Assisted by the Holy Spirit, we challenge students to grow intellectually through a rigorous curriculum, forming confident youth leaders grounded in virtue. We guide children to become friends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



## Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation Establishing This Day of Prayer as a National Observance

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they [God's manifold gifts] should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States to set apart and observe the last Thursday of

November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."



## 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=jk4VusC4RMU&feature=youtu.be>

## The St. Thomas Turkey Trot Fundraiser~!



Our thanks to all our students, parents, families, our Upper School Student Council with Miss Lorang, and our St. Thomas Parent Association for our school community raising **\$5000 to support Family Life Services**. This morning after our all-school Mass, Mrs. Yari Cherney, Assistant Director, expressed the appreciation of Family Life Services for such a wonderful gift of support to their work with at-risk families in Washtenaw County. Some highlights:

- **Most Laps Run:** 14! Francis Rutherford & Julian Magenau
- **Total Laps Run by the K - 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** 449
- **Classes with 100% Pledge Participation:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Class with High Average Pledge per Student:** 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade (\$128 per student)



- **Schoolwide Participation:** 90%
- **T-shirt Payment:** If you haven't yet, please include with pledge payment or use [e-Funds](#)
- **School Award:** Schoolwide Jeans Day Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>



Mrs. Yari Cherney with the St. Thomas Student Council:  
(Left to right) Jack Skoczylas (7<sup>th</sup> Grade), Micheal Savarino (President), Sophia Savarino (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Francis Rutherford (Vice-President), Stasio Fil (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)



## *St. Thomas Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath & Garland Sale*



Decorate for Christmas and help support St. Thomas School by purchasing Christmas Poinsettias, Wreaths and Roping. Print the attached order form and turn into the school office with payment by **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Your items will be available for pick up after 3 pm in the Parish Hall on **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please use e-Funds to make your payment or attach a check made out to St. Thomas School. **Thank you!**



The St. Thomas Parent Association is selling **St. Thomas School Christmas Ornaments** for \$10 in the school office. If you don't have one yet, hurry while supply lasts!

## ~ Events Calendar

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



Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

**Schoolwide Turkey Trot Award:  
All School Jeans Day**

Wednesday - Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

**No School – Thanksgiving Break**

Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Raphael House Jean Day**

Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**St. Thomas Christmas Flower Order Forms Due  
St. Thomas Picture Day**

Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**St. Thomas Christmas Party**

Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

**No School ~ Christmas Break**

## From the Headmaster

I wish to express our common thanks to all the parents who have come forward to participate in the many different roles that support our St. Thomas School Community. Please feel welcome to contact our parents to support them in their efforts to lead our school forward as a family.

### **Room Parents:**

Preschool: [Katy Kelly](#)

Kindergarten: [Pia Gavigan](#)

First Grade: [Laura Johnson](#)

Second/Third Grade: [Laura Fisher](#)

Fourth Grade: [Victor Jeyaraj](#)

Fifth/Sixth Grade: [Cynthia Rutherford](#)

Seventh/Eighth Grade: [Erin Savarino](#)

### **Team Chairs:**

Curriculum: [Erin Savarino](#)

Library: [Sarah Davignon](#)

Marketing: [Mike Hanley](#)

Parent Association: [Pai Gavigan](#), [Laura Johnson](#)

Spirituality: [Rebecca Pearson](#)

### **Spring Gala Committee:**

???

## St. Thomas Marketing Team Update

The St. Thomas School Marketing Team held our first meeting of the school year last week and I really appreciate that so many people took the time to join and contribute ideas.

As parents and staff we have all witnessed how St. Thomas has helped our children grow in faith, virtue, and academic excellence. To bless as many families as possible and to help our school continue to thrive, we must broadcast this remarkable reality loudly and clearly. We need to serve as advocates and ambassadors for this school! This is the core mission of the Marketing Team.

We covered lot of ground in our meeting! In addition to identifying key target audiences we began to form practical plans and messaging in the following areas:

- Incorporating the school more fully into St. Thomas parish community
- Virtual tours, open houses, private tours
- Fundraising events
- Forming a consistent and engaging presence on social media
- Outreach and advertising leading up to the 2021 enrollment season
- Classical Catholic education thought leadership

In all of these things we will need a lot of help from St. Thomas parents and staff. We hope to use these community newsletters as a place where we can reach out to you. We know that not everyone has time to sit on a committee, so we will be listing many small but impactful things you can all do to help.

The Marketing Team will be meeting again on **Wednesday, December 2nd at 8:00 p.m. [on Zoom](#)** (password: sta2). This meeting is again open to all parents and St. Thomas community members.

If you can't join the meeting but want to share your thoughts for the school, feel free to send them to me via email. I would also be happy to talk on the phone or through Zoom. We want to hear ideas from as many people as possible! My email is [cruss@sta2.org](mailto:cruss@sta2.org) and my cell is 734.358.4598.

*Chris Russ*

St. Thomas Director of Communications

**Timothy J. DiLaura**

Headmaster

St. Thomas the Apostle School

Ann Arbor, Michigan

(734) 769-0911



[www.sta2.org/school](http://www.sta2.org/school)