



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

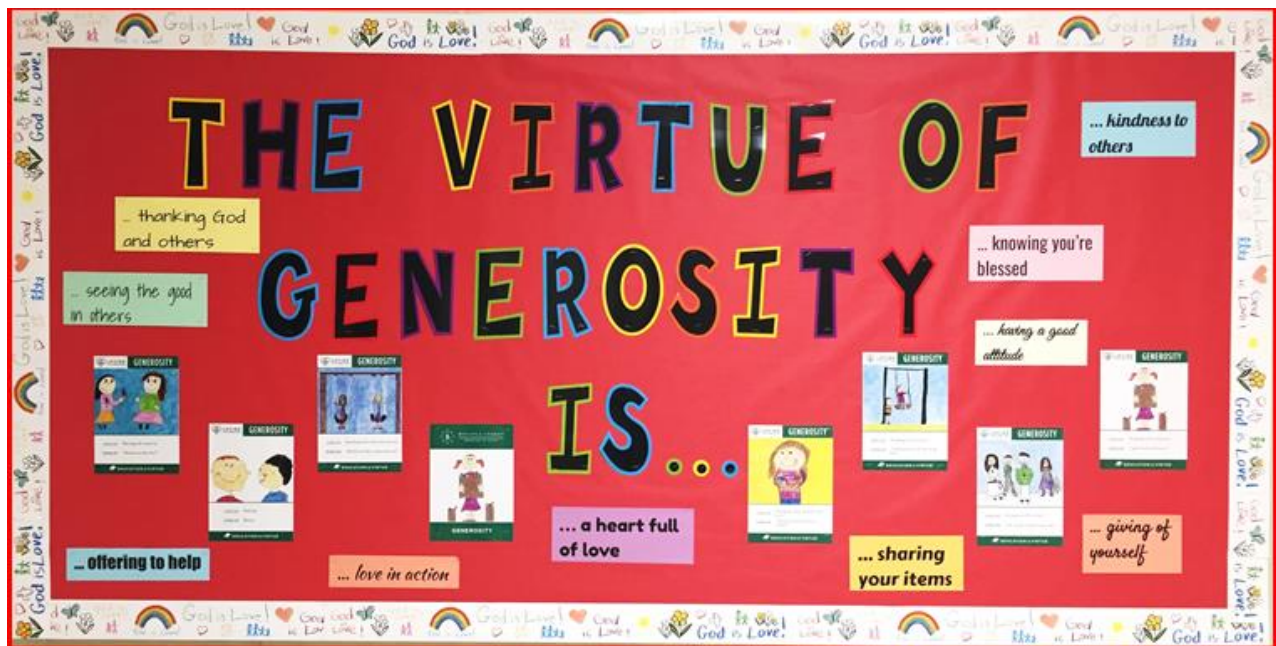
Nascantur in Admirazione
"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter December 7, 2020 *The Second Week of Advent*

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.



Mr. Creaser's main hallway bulletin board helps us all remember the many ways we can practice the virtue of Generosity.



Mrs. Mangan's 4th grade art students (left to right) Samuel Garred, Jude Flores and Sarina Jeyaraj produced from pictures of owls the above works using ink pen, colored pencil and pastel chalks.



Mrs. Mangan's 8th and 7th grade Art students Francis Rutherford (left) and Jasmine Dinh (right) produce touching images of fall beauty.



Mrs. Ortiz's Preschoolers celebrate Advent and are all *Waiting for a Miracle*~



Miss Cullen's Second Grade cooks proudly learn the concepts and practice of measuring by doing just that—by making Applejack cookies~!



*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 7th**. Your items will be available for pick up after 3 pm in the Parish Hall on **Monday, December 14th**. Please use e-Funds to make your payment or attach a check made out to St. Thomas School. **Make your payment by 3 PM today to be assured your ordered can be filled.**



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](#).



Monday, December 7th

St. Thomas Christmas Flower Order Forms Due by 3 PM

Order form attached ~ Pay by [eFunds](#)

St. Thomas Picture Day

Tuesday, December 8th



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

All School Mass

8:15 AM ~ Families Welcome

Wednesday, December 9th



**St. Thomas Student Council Christmas Food Drive
Donations Begin**

Monday, December 14th



St. Thomas School Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

8:15 AM ~ Families Welcome

St. Thomas Christmas Flower Pick up

Parish Hall 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 16th

**St. Thomas Student Council Christmas Food Drive
Donations Due**

Friday, December 18th

St. Thomas Christmas Party

Monday, December 21st – Friday, January 1st

No School ~ Christmas Break

From the Headmaster

Back to Mass ~ Although Bishop Earl has extended [his dispensation](#) from the fundamental responsibility of our faith to attend Mass on Sunday or the Vigil on Saturday to February 16th--the day before Ash Wednesday, he is also encouraging us to return to Mass as our family circumstances allow. St. Thomas and surrounding parishes have all established the diocesan procedures that are ensuring a safe environment for our participation at Mass. Let us remain aware of our fragile humanity and the risk of losing our commitment to weekly participate in Our Lord's Eucharistic offering. If our participation at Mass can't

be physical, observing a live streamed Mass is certainly a means of keeping the Sabbath and receiving the grace this offering of our family time and attention will receive.

Reopening Plan Update ~ Following new guidelines issued by the CDC based on additional research on the transmissivity timeline of the Covid-19 virus, the Washtenaw County Department of Health has adopted a new quarantine procedure as described in the attached update.

St. Thomas Christmas Giving Tree

In conjunction with this season of generosity, St. Thomas School has adopted two of our families who are in need of our help. Please consider signing up at [Christmas Families](#) to purchase one of the gifts listed, or go in on a gift with another family. Please wrap your present and place a removable label stating what the gift is on the outside (for sorting purposes). Please turn the gift cards into the office, wrapped gifts may be placed under the tree by your student. Please turn your gift in by **Tuesday, December 15th**.

Gift a Book to Our Library This Christmas

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! 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

Mrs. Annette Rigan Memorial Mitten Tree

Once again, we honor the memory of St. Thomas classroom teacher Annette Rigan by collecting new mittens and gloves for needy children and adults on our entry way Christmas Tree. Mrs. Rigan taught 2nd grade at St. Thomas from 1988 until she passed away from breast cancer in 1992. She was loved by all her students and delighted in surprising them each year with a pair of hand-made mittens as a Christmas gift. We hope that you will help honor the gift of learning given by Mrs. Rigan and all the teachers of St. Thomas by donating a pair of new mittens or gloves from now until December 17th. Contributions may be turned into the main office or to the homeroom teacher. Thank you~

St. Thomas Marketing Team Update

Last Wednesday's St. Thomas School Marketing Team meeting primarily focused on planning for an open house event in early 2021 and growing our online reach and presence. **As a St. Thomas parent, you can help us out in two easy and important ways:**

1. Prospective St. Thomas parents need to hear from the parents of current students. They want to know if St. Thomas really will help their children grow in faith, virtue, and knowledge. Please record a 30-60 second parent testimonial video answering the question, "Why do you send your children to St. Thomas?" This video should be informal and direct. We would love to share these videos online so that parents considering St. Thomas can hear directly from their peers about the good work that this school is doing. Please send these videos to Chris Russ (cruss@sta2.org) and also let us know if you need any help or have any questions.
2. If you haven't done so already, [please like and follow the St. Thomas School Facebook page](#). Our Facebook page is now being updated with current St. Thomas School events several times per week. Take a look!

Thank you for your help~
Chris Russ, St. Thomas Director of Communications

To Join In~ Please Contact:

Room Parents:

Preschool/3 Year Old: [Katy Kelly](#)
Preschool/4 Year Old: [Pia Gavigan](#)
Kindergarten: [Angela Russ](#)
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 (Friday, April 30th):

[TBD](#)

Timothy J. DiLaura
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www.sta2.org/school