



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admiratione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

November 30, 2020

### *The First 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.



#### **A Gift from St. Nicholas...**

In celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, the St. Thomas Parish Council 587 of the Knights of Columbus would like to deliver fruit, candy, and holy cards to the children of St. Thomas the Apostle School before the morning of Sunday, December 6, 2020. We are happy to deliver anywhere in Washtenaw County. We ask that you leave shoes on your front porch by 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and expect that they will be filled by 6 a.m. on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Interested families should sign-up

via: [bit.ly/shoedropsignup](https://bit.ly/shoedropsignup)



# *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!



Miss Kreifels' hallway bulletin board teaches our students the Nicholas Term virtue of *Generosity* through the example of a seed's gift of self...

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



Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Marketing Team Meeting ~ All Welcome**

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

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

**Raphael House Jean Day**

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

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

(Order form attached)

**St. Thomas Picture Day**

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**St. Thomas School Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**

8:15 AM ~ St. Thomas Church

**St. Thomas Christmas Flower Pick up**

Parish Hall 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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**

As we begin this new liturgical year of grace, we continue our prayer of gratitude in the spirit of this entire school year's theme of Gratitude. Gratitude is the secret of our holiness, for in this virtue we discover and live by the deepest truth about ourselves and about God—that all is *gift*. We are a gift to ourselves from God, and He calls us to make ourselves a gift to others as He has made of Himself, and in doing so we participate in the deepest mystery of love that is the very substance of the divine nature—and we indeed, as St. Peter exhorts us, become 'partakers of the divine nature' (2 Peter 1:4).

In gratitude we find in ourselves an inexhaustible source of strength, we begin to see the world around us as God Himself beholds it. And we respond with the gift of self that is the only true response that makes sense as we behold The Gift that makes the present moment possible and full of the divine favor. This mystery survives even the most grievous loss and is triumphant over every wound of heart we have suffered, it is the very power that rose Jesus out of death itself. And as we begin this Advent Season we open up our hearts to such a sanctifying mystery as is Gratitude, to Jesus Himself, Who is generosity Itself.

*We give thanks Lord for the gift of each other, of this time and place in which you have placed us, and for the calling of love and courage which you have placed upon each of us—a calling for which, in this season, you equip us to fulfill in You.*

## St. Thomas Marketing Team~ Next Meeting Wednesday

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.

The next Marketing Team meeting will take place this **Wednesday, December 2nd at 8:00 p.m. [on Zoom](#)** (password: sta2). This meeting is 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

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>. Contributions may be turned into the main office or to the homeroom teacher. Thank you~

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>):**

[TBD](#)