



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter January 11, 2021

Nicholas Term Virtue: Generosity  
School Year Theme ~ *gratia cantantes* (Gratitude)

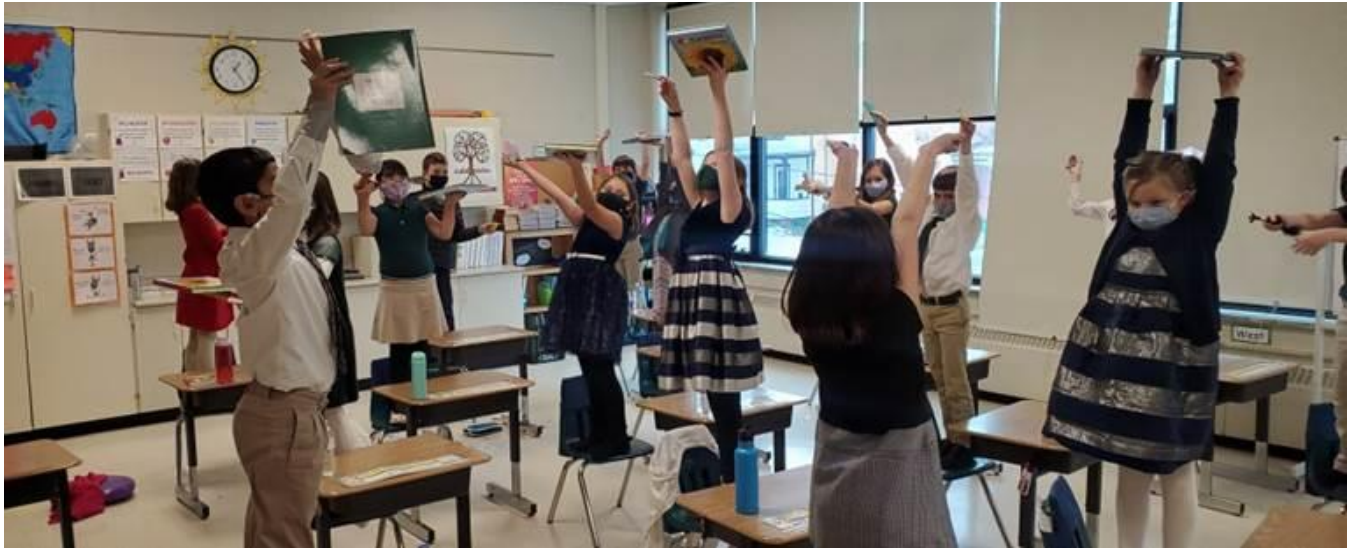
### *Proposed School Mission Statement*

[See explanation and feedback opportunity below~]

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



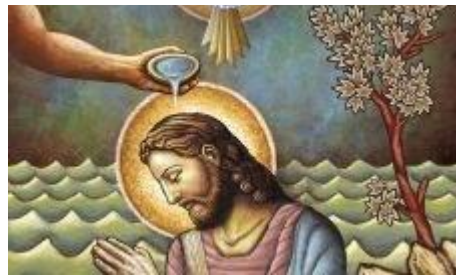
Giving thanks to God for the many graces our observance and celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation brought to our families and our school community!



Miss Cullen's second and third grade scientists test Galileo's law of motion that, free of air resistance, all bodies fall at the same rate.

## ~ Events Calendar

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



Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

### **School Picture Make-up Day**

(Students having pictures taken may dress in better than dress code apparel.)

Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### **Half Day of School**

Dismissal at 11:40 AM

**Note:** Due to COVID conditions we will not conduct half day ESP after school. All students are to be picked up at 11:40 AM ~ Thank you.

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Virtual Open House**

Preschool ~ 1 PM

Kindergarten ~ 2 PM

Lower School ~ 3 PM

Upper School ~ 4 PM

See details below.

## From the Headmaster

*“The world is a different place through the eyes of faith. Learning becomes an adventure to discover meaning, purpose, order, connection and beauty in Creation. All knowledge is one in Jesus Christ, the Logos in Whom all things cohere.”*

As headmaster it is my responsibility to guide the formation of our students, provide professional development to our teachers, and to also support parents in their role as the primary educators of their children. In supporting you, I would like to ask that all our parents read the attached article written by Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, Elizabeth Sullivan, entitled *Reclaiming an Education of Joyful Hope*. This article, in relating the educational vocation of our children to the current celebrations of this holy season of the year, gives clear expression to a fundamental intuition about children and their education that I believe all our parents share at St. Thomas—this article will help you understand that conviction more deeply and allow you express it to others more clearly. Thank you for taking the 10 minutes or so needed to read through it.

## New Family Welcome

We are happy to welcome the Jack and Lisa Johnson family, their first grade daughter Poppy joins our St. Thomas community of faith and learning today!

## Virtual Open House Information

We are happy to announce and provide information on upcoming virtual Open House opportunities—four, in fact—one for Preschool, Kindergarten, Lower School and Upper School! We are hosting these Virtual Open Houses on Sunday, **January 31 from 1-5 p.m. on Zoom**. Please tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this important event so St. Thomas can continue to grow. Attendees will have a chance to meet teachers, ask questions, get virtual classroom tours, and learn more about the scholarships that we have available. Anyone who is interested in attending should sign up now at this link: [sta2.org/school/openhouse](https://sta2.org/school/openhouse)

Parents can earn a \$750 tuition credit by referring a family who enrolls at St. Thomas School. Help us to spread the good news about classical Catholic education. [Send the registration link \(sta2.org/school/openhouse\)](https://sta2.org/school/openhouse) to anyone you know who might be interested. To learn more about our tuition credit referral program, please call the school office at (734) 769-0911. Attached is a poster for the Open House. Please share this as well!

## Our Mission Statement

This spring St. Thomas will participate in a **school accreditation process** that will involve our entire staff in a collaborative self-study and site-visit by representatives of the Diocese of Lansing and Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools from whom we receive our accreditation status. The review will involve the evaluation of our performance with respect to the thirteen [National Catholic Schools Standards](#) and their benchmarks.

At right is Standard One which references the school's mission statement. Since our transition to a classical Catholic school, our St. Thomas mission statement has not been updated since that adopted in 2017. That collaborative effort communicated a clear, strong identity and mission which our classical Catholic transition has only deepened. With the upcoming accreditation process, it is an appropriate time to review our mission statement, maintain its current strength, while specifically reflecting our classical Catholic identity. To that end, proposed is a development of our present statement with wording adopted that reflects our new identity. Please email me any comments or suggestions. The proposed statement with adaptations in bold, reads:

An excellent Catholic school is guided and driven by a clearly communicated mission that embraces a Catholic Identity rooted in Gospel values, centered on the Eucharist, and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.

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

## New Flynn O'Hara Spirit Wear with St. Thomas Crest Available



High quality, dress code compliant quarter zip pull overs are now available through [Flynn O'Hara](#) bearing the St. Thomas crest emblem on flocking material. (Heavy fleece and sport styles are shown at right.) All St. Thomas apparel available through Flynn O'Hara now bears our standard crest emblem. Flocking emblems are due in this week to Flynn O'Hara after which apparel will be immediate shipped.