



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter November 29, 2021

Nicholas Term Virtue: Foresight
School Year Theme ~ *Beneficentia* (Generosity)

School Mission Statement

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.



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School 2021 *Winter Celebration of Wonder*

Friday, December 10th

Parish Hall, 6:30 – 8 PM





~ All Student Studio Art Display ~

~ Upper School Instrumental Ensemble Performances ~

~ Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Class Poetry Recitations ~

~ Refreshments for the Family~



Christmas Poinsettia, Wreath & Garland Sale!

Decorate for Christmas and help support St. Thomas School by purchasing these beautiful and long lasting Christmas Poinsettias, Wreaths and Roping from Pinters Flowers.

Order forms with payment are due to the school office by **Monday, December 6th** by 12pm.

Your items will be available for pick up on **Tuesday, December 14th in the Parish Hall from 1pm to 4pm.**

Please use e-Funds to make your payment or attach a check made out to St. Thomas to your order form which is attached.

Thank you!

~ Events Calendar ~

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



Picture Day

Wednesday, December 1st

Leadership Day

School Year Picture Day

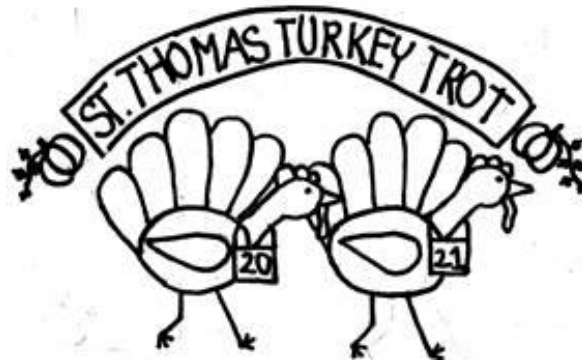
*Picture day order forms will be sent home
and are to be turned in on picture day~*

Thursday, December 2nd

St. Thomas School Development Team Meetings

NOTE: This meeting has *been rescheduled*—
New date will be announced next week.

Friday, December 3rd



St. Thomas 2nd Annual Turkey Trot & Jingle Bell Jog~!

Raising Funds for Family Life Services Pregnancy Counseling Center

You can still support this work using the attached pledge sheet~

Pledge sheets are due Thursday, December 2nd to the homeroom teacher

Friday, December 3rd

First Friday 3rd – 8th Grade Confessions

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Monday, December 6th

St. Thomas Christmas Flower Orders Due

See attached order form for details.

Wednesday, December 8th
No School
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 10th
Upper School Advent Retreat
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Theme: Knowing God's Plan for Our Life

Winter Celebration of Wonder
6:30 PM ~ St. Thomas Parish Hall
Upper School Instrumental Music Ensemble Concert
St. Thomas Strings Ensemble
Kindergarten – 8th Grade Classroom Poem Recitations
Kindergarten – 8th Grade Studio Art Show

Tuesday, December 14th
St. Thomas Christmas Choral Concert
6:30 PM ~ St. Thomas Church

From the Headmaster

As beautiful is the Christmas Season itself for our children, Advent is so full of special graces for them as they anticipate all the joy of Christmas. We are calling our students to allow this unique experience of anticipation to influence their actions, helping them receive and mature in the grace of *foresight*—the grace of stopping our hurried, unthought activity to reflect, to plan ahead, to act now in anticipation of something to come—all the graces of this Advent season.

May all of us take special time this Advent to enter into that contemplative reflection of Our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Heart, and allow us to experience the Lord's call on our lives at whatever point we are at on our journey. We have only just begun to experience His love and the consolation, strength and meaning of His favor upon us.

Thank you for your prayers for our Upper School students as they experience the graces of an Advent Retreat on Friday morning, December 10th with Dawn Hausmann and Fr. John Whitlock—Diocesan Directors of Women's and Men's Vocations, who will witness and minister to our students, helping them to reflect on God's plan for their life and the meaning of the vocations He calls us to discover our greatest happiness and love within.

We do very much look forward as all the school prepares for this year's Winter Celebration of Wonder, Friday, December 10th at 6:30 PM. We are grateful for everyone's participation in this very special evening of community and celebration of what our students and teachers are accomplishing.

COVID-19 Update:

- Per our community wide protocol, **parents are to closely monitor their child's health** and use the symptom profile below to assess the need to test for COVID. Parents are asked to immediately notify Mr. DiLaura of any positive test result.

- Given our current increase in instances of COVID, beginning next week, we will use the following **communication protocol**:
 - Parents of a classroom/grade will be notified of a case in the classroom.
 - COVID cases are personal health information and names of individuals will not be communicated.
 - Any student or staff potentially exposed to a positive COVID case will be notified immediately of the exposure and procedures for quarantine.
 - School wide information will be available on our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).
- **Quarantine Option for a positive COVID case:** 10 days at home quarantine counting from the first day of symptoms or date of positive test.
- **Quarantine Options for an exposure** are:
 - Option 1: 10 day at home quarantine without test with no onset of symptoms.
 - Option 2: 7 day at home quarantine with a negative test on day 5 or 6 with no onset of symptoms.
 - Option 3: 14 day in-school quarantine with masking (not available for lunch room, choir or household exposures).
- **Our case timeline** is following that of [Washtenaw County region](#) which has had a recent downturn. This peak very closely follows the same case profile for this time last year, with cases peaking the last week of November.
- **Masking** may provide protection from contracting or communicating illness and is generally recommended under current conditions.



Boots for St. Nicholas

In celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 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 Monday, December 6th. We are happy to deliver anywhere in Washtenaw County. Details available [via the sign-up form](#). We ask that you leave shoes or boots on your front porch by 9 p.m. on Sunday, 12/5, and expect that they will be filled by 6 a.m. on Monday, December 6th. **Interested families should sign-up by Friday, December 3rd** at bit.ly/shoedropsignup