



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

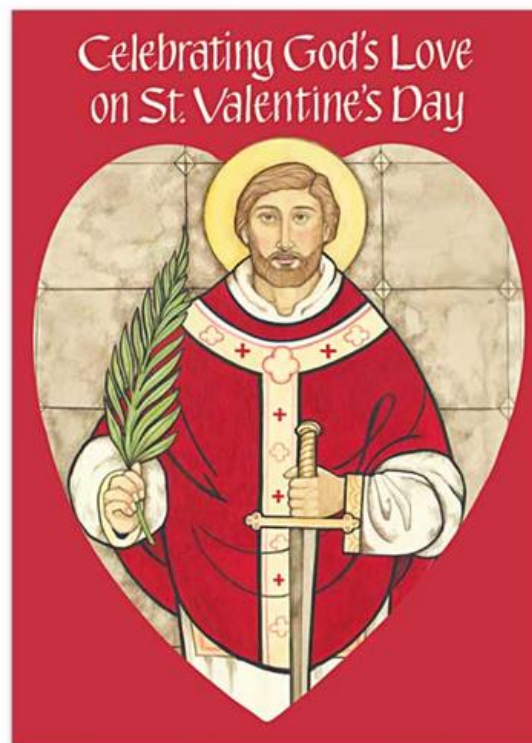
February 15, 2022

Scholastica Term Virtue:
Decorum

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.





Mrs. Steffy receives a **valentine** signed by all St. Thomas students and staff and was presented by our Kindergarteners!

~ Our 2022 Catholic School Week 8th Grade Composition Winner

~

“What have you learned at St. Thomas that is the most valuable to you?”

By Victoria Maszatics, 8th grade

As a student of St. Thomas the Apostle School, I've learned quite a bit. For one thing St. Thomas encourages me to persevere. The rigorous curriculum nourishes a strong sense to aim higher and achieve greater. Everything I target is to help me and many others meet our final destination--Heaven! Volunteering to give assurance to people who are in dire need of it, plays an important role in our school. Everyone at some point goes through a difficult point in their life, and it's at those times when a friend or a close family member is needed the most. Consoling a person is one thing but sticking with that person till the very end is what I see as one of the greatest acts of kindness there is. Yet even taking a little time out of our day to simply console someone might not seem very important to us, but it can leave the biggest imprint on our hearts.





Mr. Pietryga and the Kindergarten students celebrate 100s Day~!

~ Events Calendar ~

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

Wednesday, February 16th

Leadership Dress Day

Nicholas Term Virtue Recognition Ceremony
(after Noon Mass)

Thursday, February 17th

Teachers v Students Volleyball Game
Catholic Schools All School Jean Day

Wednesday, February 16th

St. Thomas School Development Committee Meeting
Parish Hall ~ 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 17th

Michael House Angel Point Winner Jean Day

Friday, February 18th – Monday, February 21st

No School – Presidents' Day Break

Thursday, February 24th

Holy Spirit Talk and Classroom Prayer Ministry
with Mrs. Barbara Yaich and Team

Note New Date~!

Tuesday, March 1st

2022-2023 Enrollment Registration Due

Thursday, March 10th

Michael House Angel Point Winner Jean Day

Friday, March 11th – Monday, March 14th

No School

Winter Break & Teacher Professional Development

From the Headmaster

Our New Mission Statement (proposed):

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educating in the Eucharistic culture and intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, and through the classical scholarship built upon the wisdom and achievements of western civilization, students are led to encounters with the transcendent Good, True, and Beautiful. In wonder, confidence, and virtue, students are prepared to engage our broken world for the glory of God, the good of others, and for their own sanctification.

For the past four years, St. Thomas School has passed through a unique period of transformation and growth. Since the adoption of our Classical Catholic curriculum and culture, St. Thomas has grown from 60 to 100 students--an enrollment increase of 67%. As we know look to the future of St. Thomas School and even greater growth, we have dedicated ourselves to defining more fully and clearly who we are in Christ—doing so through the rewriting of our Mission Statement, the definition of our school culture among students, teachers and parents, documenting the organizational principles of our school operations, and developed a robust marketing and development plan.

This **Wednesday, February 16th in the parish hall at 7:00 PM** we invite all our community parents, staff and parish stakeholder to join the parents and staff committees who have developed these documents for any additional input and to confirm a consensus for their acceptance for presentation to Fr. Bill for final approval and adoption.

Please feel welcome to join us as we together lay the foundation for the next phase of the Lord's work among us at St. Thomas School. Please also feel welcome to contact me if you have any questions or input you would like to share on our current document versions.

2022-2023 Enrollment Registrations

New family registrations will begin being accepted Wednesday, March 2nd, please be tracking your plans to complete your 2022-2023 Enrollment Registration by Tuesday, March 1st to reserve your child(ren)'s seat(s) and have your registration fee credited toward your tuition. Details are below. Please feel welcome to contact me if you have any questions about enrolling next year.

Extended School Program Coordinator Position Opening

St. Thomas is seeking a five day per week coordinator of our afterschool care program who will supervise our ESP team of tutors, serving each day from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. The position will work closely with the school administration in scheduling tutoring, monitoring our program resources, and reviewing program effectiveness while supervising with another team member the ESP children during the afternoon ESP program hours. Relevant experience in child care and appropriate communication skills are required. Contact the school office for additional information.

St. Thomas School Bookkeeper Position Opening

Mrs Teresa Ordiway will be moving on from her position as our school book keeper by the middle of April. Applications will be accepted through February. Please see the attached position opening for a description of the responsibilities. Interested parties may send a resume and letter of introduction to apply to Mr. DiLaura.

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 School Year

Current families will have been provided enrollment registration materials due March 1st. **Registration fees will be credited toward tuition only for those registrations received by March 1st.** Beginning March 2nd, enrollment will be open to new family registration with classroom sizes limited to 16 students in Kindergarten and 18 students in 1st through 8th grades.

Please feel welcome to contact Mr. DiLaura if you have any questions about your child's enrollment at St. Thomas School next school year. We appreciate your informing us of any changes in your family circumstances affecting your 2022-2023 enrollment at St. Thomas. Please also feel welcome to call the school if you have any questions on the completion of your registration materials.

St. Thomas School Library & Reading Room Update

Our school library has transformed over the past three years. During this Catholic Schools Week, we want to thank all who have donated books, furniture, and art to our library. We are creating a space that blesses our children from pre-K through to 8th grade. If you would like to donate and be a part of shaping our school community, please consider donating to our Library through the wish lists below:

Our Book Wishlist -

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/65KG2HEG9SD3?ref=wl_share

Our Art/Furniture Wishlist - <https://www.myregistry.com/organization/st-thomas-school-library-ann-arbor-mi/2658281>

COVID Update:

The Washtenaw Department of Health has issued **new isolation and quarantine protocols for children in the preschool/childcare setting**, effectively changing a required 10 day positive isolation to a 5 day isolation with symptom improvement, and the

10 day exposure quarantine to the 10 day/no test, 5 day/test and mask, or stay-at school-with testing options.

- **Positive COVID Case Protocols:**
 - Isolate at home for at least 5 days after symptom onset: Day 0 is the day symptoms started or test sample was collected.
 - On day 5, does case have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving?
 - If yes, can stop isolation on day 6. *Continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others through day 10.*
 - If no, should NOT stop isolation - continue isolating until symptoms resolve or 10 days have gone by since tested positive or first developed symptoms. If case has a fever, continue to isolate until fever goes away.
 - "Resolving symptoms" means symptoms have gotten noticeably better. Some symptoms (like fatigue and loss of smell) may last a longer time
- **COVID Exposure Protocols:**
 - If exposed in a lower-risk school setting no contact tracing is required. This includes most in-school contacts, including classrooms, buses, lunch, and most extra-curricular activities. Individuals should closely monitor symptoms for 10 days.
 - If exposed in a higher-risk setting, complete contact tracing and 5 day quarantine per above.
 - Household contacts of a positive case.
 - Outbreaks: if part of outbreak class/group.
 - NOTE: High risk exposure is also eligible for the 'Test and Stay' quarantine with 10 day masking and testing based on vaccination status, previous COVID-19 illness (within last 90 days).
- **Current St. Thomas Cases:**
 - 5th Grade Student (1) – No Exposure

School wide information is available on our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

COVID Case History:

Week of:	Number of Cases
JAN 3	2
JAN 10	11
JAN 17	1
JAN 24	2
JAN 31	0
FEB 7	0