



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

January 24, 2022

*Scholastica Term Virtue:*

***Decorum—***

**Behaving with the courtesy and good taste proper to one's dignity.**

School Year Theme ~ *Beneficentia* (Generosity)

### *School Mission Statement*

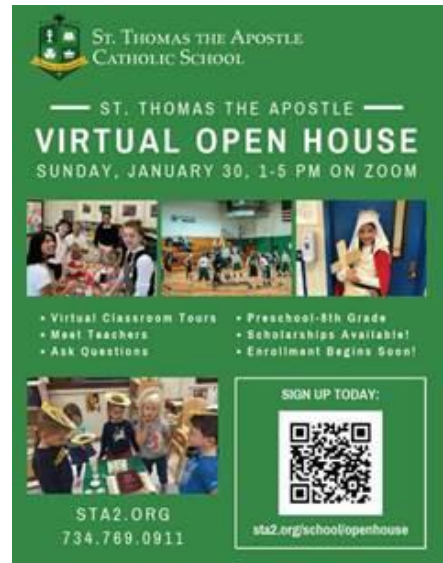
In partnership with Catholic families, St. Thomas seeks to nurture future Catholic scholars, leaders and saints. Assisted by the Holy Spirit, we inspire students to grow intellectually through a classical Catholic curriculum, forming confident youth leaders grounded in virtue. We guide children to become 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. Scholastica***—we ask the blessing of your most powerful prayers which flow from your heart of love for God and for souls. Pray that the Lord brings us this term health and perseverance in our duties as we see to give glory to Him in all we do.

See details below on registering for the upcoming St. Thomas Preschool, Kindergarten, Lower School and Upper School online Open Houses on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

To receive an access link sign up at:  
[sta2.org/school/openhouse](https://sta2.org/school/openhouse)



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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



Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

**2022-2023 Enrollment Registration Packets Sent Home**

Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

**Nicholas Term Report Cards Available Online**

Beginning at 3 PM – See Directions Below

Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

**February Lunch Orders Due**

(see attached order form)

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

**St. Thomas School Online Open House**

[Sign-Up](#)

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

**Catholic Schools Week**

Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

**St. Thomas School Development Committee Meeting**

*Note New Date~!*

Parish Hall ~ 7:00 PM

Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

**No School – Winter Break**

Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

**2022-2023 Enrollment Registration Due**

## From the Headmaster

### **On The Virtue of *Decorum***

The true dignity of the human person—a child—is their capacity to respond *inwardly* to the *outward* experience of the good, the true and the beautiful—a capacity flowing from their being an image of the divine nature. This capacity for wonder, inspiration and joy in this encounter with the transcendent *is* our humanity.

Yet we live in a social culture where this capacity--this dignity, is being eroded in children. They are commonly exposed to banal, crass and degrading experiences and behaviors which can be filtered but not eliminated. To leave a child's vulnerable human spirit exposed to this contemporary ethos hardens their sensitivity to the transcendent and obscures the self-awareness of their own and others' dignity.

Classical Catholic Education intentionally creates an environment that is indeed counter-cultural—a radical departure from prevalent norms of complacency, the mediocrity of the casual, and unformed spontaneity. The environment of a classical Catholic school is intended to be a setting where a child's human dignity is taught and celebrated. Such an environment flows from the training of children in the lived virtue of ***decorum***.

Decorum, formally, is 'the behavior that is proper, befitting, or suitable for a particular setting'. Classical Catholic education takes up the question 'What behavior befits my dignity and that of this place?' or 'What norms of behavior reveal to children their full dignity as *human*?' Etiquette and manners are common forms of decorum. Training a child in grace and courtesy toward other children and adults is an important focus in education. While decorum in a school takes on positive qualities: self-possession, sincerity, manners, deference, and grace. it may also be made concrete in identifying its absence: e.g. foolishness, sarcasm, self-promotion, and disrespect.

Does a climate of decorum permit the spirit of play that is also essential to the human spirit? Play is a key quality of our humanity and of any healthy human community. The spontaneity and creativity of play are naturally interwoven in the child and are informed by a climate of decorum. Indeed, a child can experience all things as play when informed by decorum because the first and immediate result of creating an environment of decorum is *interior peace*. Where decorum resides, there is psychological and spiritual order, a communion and wholeness that allows a child to be him or herself--with their self and with others. And thereby, in play and in work, the fruits of the Spirit take hold--love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is indeed only in such a climate that a child discovers in themselves and through others their true identity – that they are a reflection of the divine perfection!

## Enrollment Registrations Come Home Today!

Oldest or only students will be bringing home the family 2022-2023 enrollment registration packet today. 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. ***Registrations are due by Tuesday March 1st to have your registration fee of \$150 counted toward your 2022-2023 tuition.***

## Margaret-Mary Term Report Cards Available Online

Beginning this **Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**, St. Thomas Nicholas Term Student Achievement Report Cards will be issued to parents through their online PowerSchool account access. Parents will be able to view, and if desired print, their child(ren)'s report card following the instructions:

1. Log in to your PowerSchool parent portal account. (Note: Online report cards are not accessible via the mobile app.)
2. If you have more than one student, select a student from the upper left menu.
3. Click on Report Card link from the left-side menu.
4. With the report cards displayed on the screen, click on the printer icon in the top blue bar.
5. Use the browser print window to select the printer and print the report card

## 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/ls/65KG2HEG9SD3?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/65KG2HEG9SD3?ref=wl_share)

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

## 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.

## St. Thomas 2022-2023 School Year Open Houses

We are hosting a Virtual Open House on **Sunday, January 30 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. Our schedule of sessions are:

Preschool: 1 PM  
Kindergarten: 2 PM  
Lower School (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade): 3 PM  
Upper School (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade): 4 PM

Receive an access link to attend by signing up at: [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~

## COVID Update:

Based on revised CDC guidelines, the Washtenaw County Department of Health has issued **new requirements** in regard to isolation of positive COVID-19 cases and quarantining of exposure individuals.

- 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:**
  - Upper School Faculty (1)—low risk exposure

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