



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

February 28, 2022

Scholastica Term Virtue:
Decorum

School Year Theme ~ *Beneficentia* (Generosity)

School Mission Statement

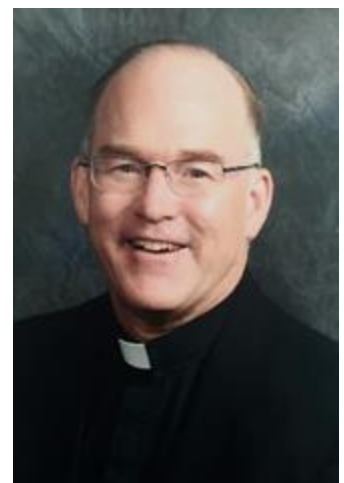
In partnership with Catholic families, St. Thomas seeks to nurture future Catholic scholars, leaders and saints. Assisted by the Holy Spirit, we inspire students to grow intellectually through a classical Catholic curriculum, forming confident youth leaders grounded in virtue. We guide children to become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



St. Thomas the Apostle Classical Catholic High School

Dear Parents,

St Thomas School continues to grow. As this year began, some parents approached me to share that the benefits of classical Catholic education for their children were so great, that they asked if it could continue into the High School years. It was an excellent question, and after prayer, thought, and further inquiry with Mr Tom Maloney, our Diocesan School Superintendent, and Bishop Boyea, **I am glad to announce that we will, beginning this coming fall 2022 begin a Classical Catholic High School with the opening of a 9th grade.** I am happy to be able to serve this parish community and our students who enjoy being here and are hungering for more. In this endeavor we will be looking for opportunities to collaborate with Fr. Gabriel Richard High School and lift both schools up as great choices for families seeking a Catholic education for their high school students.



There is a need in our Ann Arbor community for a specifically Catholic Classical effort. We have many homeschool families and good co-ops in our area, but not a full Catholic Classical High School. This effort is in line with Bishop Boyea's vision of education in the Diocese which sees each region being able to offer a Classical option for its students.

I hope you are as happy to hear this news as I am. We will be forming an Advisory Council to help us continue finalizing the curriculum and other aspects of this high school. I would like to present to you the work of this Council in a **Town Hall meeting of interested parents and stakeholders on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7 PM in the Parish Hall**. Bring your friends and all who you might feel would be interested in such an effort.

God bless you,

Fr Bill Ashbaugh

~ Our 2022 Catholic School Week 6th Grade Composition Winner

~

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

By Charlotte Hanley, 6th grade

At St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School the most valuable thing I have learned is how to use my God-given ability to learn. I have come to understand how I can use the power of reason to think about things at a deeper level. I have learned many facts but also processes of learning, such note-taking and identifying key terms, ideas, or themes. These and other processes will help me now and in the future to teach myself something or to learn when my teacher does not tell me exactly what I need to know. I have learned and began to understand how the truth, goodness and beauty in all my subjects points me to God. The idea that we do things with a purpose because God created us with a purpose and with the knowledge that the way we do things matters, is an important idea impressed upon me at St. Thomas School. The ability to take surface-level ideas and think about them in a deeper way is a skill we exercise regularly and I am grateful to be able to further develop it. It is a blessing to be able to learn and grow closer to God at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



~ Events Calendar ~

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

Tuesday, March 1st

2022-2023 Enrollment Registration Due

Wednesday, March 2nd

Leadership Dress Day

(NOTE: March Crazy Hat Day will be next week!)

Thursday, March 10th

Michael House Angel Point Winner Jean Day

Friday, March 11th – Monday, March 14th

No School

Winter Break & Teacher Professional Development

Tuesday, March 22nd

St. Thomas High School Town Hall

7:00 PM in the Parish Hall

Thursday, March 31st – Saturday, April 2nd

St. Thomas Parish Lenten Mission

BLESSED + BROKEN + GIVEN

~ See attached flyer for details ~

From the Headmaster

Please read below the instruction provided by Archbishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee, Jerome E. Listeki published as a concise **Catechesis on the Theology of the Body**. This week we present the second of four installments, Catechesis—Part I.

CATECHESIS

The Church teaches that the human person, created in the image and likeness of God, is a “unified creature composed of body and soul.” The soul is the spiritual principle of each human person and the “subject of human consciousness and freedom.”⁶ Yet man is truly himself only “when his body and soul are intimately united.”⁷ The human person is not a soul or a mind that *has* a body merely as a biological accessory. Rather, the human person *is* a body formed by a soul.⁸ Human life and love are “always lived out in body and spirit,”⁹ and thus the body is a “vital expression of our whole being.”¹⁰ So integral, in fact, is the body to who we are as human beings that the body and soul *together* are fashioned and “destined to live forever.”¹¹ The creed expresses a belief in the “resurrection of the body,” or the belief that all persons will “rise again *with their own bodies* which they now bear.”¹² The body which will one day rise is the very body which each person received as a gift and in which each person lives out his vocation to holiness.¹³

Our biological sex, expressed by our body, is a gift from God and is unchangeable. A person’s biological sex is expressed in and through the body. It cannot be changed because it is bestowed by God as a *gift* and as a *calling*, and “the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.”¹⁴ Biological sex is a *gift* because in the very act of creation, God bestows upon each human person a biological sex—“Male and female he created them”¹⁵ —two sexes that are *different, equal, and complementary*.¹⁶ It is a *calling* because we work out our salvation via our masculinity or femininity. In other words, human persons do not experience the

freedom and joy of salvation despite their biological sex, but only in it and through it. [Citations below.]

2022-2023 Enrollment Registrations—Due Next Tomorrow, Tuesday—March 1st

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.



March Is Reading Month is Here!

Please see the attached March is Reading Month 2022 Calendar of activities, dress up days, reading opportunities and also the start of our Who's Reading competition and Parent Association Fund Raiser. Materials to participate will be send home and students will be launch into the competition at next Monday's school assembly.

Last year we had a **Little Free Library** book cart at the school entrance for students to use to find new reading material for the month. If you would like to donate any books or book sets to the Little Free Library, used or new, please drop them off at the front office.

St. Thomas School Bookkeeper & ESP Coordinator Positions

Mrs Teresa Ordiway will be moving on from her position as our school book keeper by the middle of April. Applications for **School Bookkeeper** are currently being accepted. This is a fifteen hour per week position, working in the school office providing budgeting, purchasing and billing support to all school financials. Please see the attached position for a detailed description of the responsibilities. Interested parties may send a resume and letter of introduction to apply to Mr. DiLaura.

St. Thomas is seeking a five day per week **Extended School Day Program Coordinator** 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.

NOTE: These two positions can be combined into one position for eligible candidates.

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

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

COVID Update:

Washtenaw County Department of Health has rescinded its mask mandate for schools effective Monday, February 28th. Schools and school districts are to choose their masking protocol. St. Thomas School has been following the legal status of masking as currently established in state law, with parents having the option to have their student wear or not wear a mask. All adult staff and visitors will now have the same option to wear or not wear a mask.

Isolation/quarantine requirements for positive cases remain in place. Individuals testing positive may either quarantine for 10 days, or return on day six with improving symptoms, wearing a mask through day ten. Reporting requirements of positive cases remain in place. Regarding exposures, the amended protocols remain in place that low risk settings (all settings at St. Thomas School) do not require contact tracing or quarantine. As usual, all community members are expected to monitor health and test (either PCR or rapid antigen) when having either one high risk symptom or two low risk symptoms per below:

- 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:**
 - None

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

COVID Case History:

Week of:	Number of Cases
JAN 31	0
FEB 7	0
FEB 14	1
FEB 21	0

Timothy J. DiLaura
 Headmaster
 St. Thomas the Apostle School

Theology of the Body Catechesis Citations

⁶ Glossary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—Libreria Editrice Vaticana English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000).

⁷ Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, 5.

⁸ St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, I, q. 76; St. John Paul II, *General Audience of October 24, 1979*; CCC, 365.

⁹ Pope Francis, *Lumen fidei*, 34.

¹⁰ Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, 5.

¹¹ St. John Paul II, *Message to Health Workers*, Phoenix, Arizona, 1987.

¹² Fourth Lateran Council (1215), DS, 801.

¹³ St. Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses* 5.13.1. International Theological Commission, *Some 14 Current Questions in Eschatology* (1992), 1.2.5.

¹⁴ Romans 11:29.

¹⁵ Genesis 1:27.

¹⁶ CCC, 355, 369.