



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

March 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.





March is Reading Month's Dress as a Shakespearian Day brought many personages from William Shakespeare's plays to St. Thomas!

## ~ Our 2022 Catholic Schools Week 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Composition Winner

~

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

By Luke Eustice, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

I think that most important thing at St. Thomas is religion and work. At St. Thomas our religion is very strong and valuable, it is worldwide, it's the first religion and there is proof that our God is real. It feels nice to be surrounded by Catholics. At all school Masses there is a connection that I feel, there is peace, joy and praise. When we say the same things in Mass I can feel God. Classical education is nice because it makes our work more of a challenge and it deepens our faith in the Lord. I love this school because we always key our doors to come in. The teachers are so friendly they always have a smile on their faces, they always will help you. The teacher care about you. At lunch it is cool to see all your friends. You can meet new people. When our work is hard, teachers will walk you through it. Mr. DiLaura is a very kind principle, he is always welcoming everyone into our wonderful school. When we have goals we follow them and we accomplish them. That is because we done every give up. Because we are St. Thomas.



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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



Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**April Lunch Order Due**  
(order form attached)

Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**St. Thomas 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Expansion Town Hall**  
7:00 PM in the Parish Hall

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**St. Thomas Parish Lenten Mission**

**BLESSED + BROKEN + GIVEN**

~ See attached flyer for details ~

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Easter Break – No School**

## From the Headmaster

I share this week the last part of the concise instruction written by Archbishop of Diocese of Milwaukee, Jerome E. ListECKi in his **Catechesis on the Theology of the Body**. This week we present Catechesis—Part III.

### CATECHESIS

**Respect for creation is also a respect for one's biological sex.** As Pope Francis writes, "It is enough to recognize that our body itself establishes us in a direct relationship with the environment and with other living beings. The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology. Also, valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment. It is not a healthy attitude which would seek 'to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it'." <sup>25</sup> [Citations below.]





## St. Joseph Table—This Week!

St. Thomas will honor St. Joseph on March 16-18, as we approach his feast day on Saturday the 19th, with a traditional devotion called the "St. Joseph Table". The devotion began in Sicily during a terrible drought and famine, with intercession to St. Joseph bringing the famine come to an end. In thanksgiving for his miraculous help, the people set up beautiful tables in his honor which were covered with food that was blessed by the priest. Everyone was welcome, especially the needy, to come and pray and bring home food from the table. An article with photos you may find interesting is available [here](#).

Our table will be set up at the main entrance by Mrs. Erin Deemer on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> with students making a scheduled visit to the table as a class on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> to learn more about St. Joseph, pray, and receive a treat. St. Thomas families can share in this devotion by sending non-perishable food items to school with your children, which can be placed in the basket at the St. Joseph Table. These food donations will be given to the needy of the local area.

Some families may want to prepare for the feast day by praying a [St. Joseph novena](#) starting on March 10, asking him to intercede for your needs as well!

## Here Comes the Book Fair!

It is that time of the year again! We are having our annual book fair. This year we have partnered with Our Lady of Grace Bookstore in Ann Arbor. During their regular library time, students will be able to browse the many children's books Our Lady Grace offers and create a wish list. They will bring their wish list home and parents can make orders here:

<https://ourladyofgracebookstore.com/category/st-thomas-apostle-school>

Please be sure to select "Free Pick-up at School" so that you will not be charged shipping and so that the Bookstore knows that the orders are for St. Thomas. 10% of the total sales will be donated to the St. School Library.

## St. Thomas School ESP Coordinator Position

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.

## COVID Update:

Washtenaw County Department of Health has rescinded its mask mandate for schools effective Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Schools and school districts are to choose their masking

protocol. 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
FEB 14	1
FEB 21	0
FEB 28	0
MAR 7	0