



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter September 26th, 2022

School Mission Statement

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educating in the Eucharistic culture and classical intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, students are led to encounters with the transcendental 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.

Virtue for the School Year: *Devotio* (Devotion)

- Having the will to give oneself readily in the service of God

Virtue for Margaret Mary Term: Sacrifice

- Offering something to God by setting it aside out of reverence for Him



~ Events Calendar ~

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

Thursday, September 29th

Michaelmas celebration in the playground area after all-school Mass - parents welcome!

Friday, September 30th

Jeans Day/Last day for shorts until May

Sunday, October 2nd

**Bake Sale for Library Improvements (organized by the Parent Association)
after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses – more info to come!**

Monday, October 3rd

Hot lunches begin

Friday, October 7th

**All-school Eucharistic procession and rosary: After 8:00 Mass, parents
welcome!**

Friday, October 14th

Fall Festival (organized by Parent Association): 12:00-4:00

Friday, October 28th

End of Margaret Mary Term

Thursday, November 3rd

Half Day (11:40 Dismissal) – Parent-teacher Conferences

Friday, November 4th

No School

From the Headmaster

Definitions Series – Week 3

Last week, I talked about the meanings of “liberal arts” and “integrated.” These in turn lead us to broader considerations of what it means to educate and teach in the liberal arts/classical tradition.

To educate is to “draw out” (“educere” in Latin), that is, to draw out the mind of a student to see what is true, good, and beautiful. This vision is by nature formative of the whole person, for it calls for a way of thinking, feeling, and living. So we can say that true education is first and foremost concerned with the mind, but that it is necessarily connected with the heart, for the formation of the mind is only integrated and coherent when its beginning and end is love. A vision and love of the truth demands a way of life – a *culture* – such that what is known and loved becomes incarnated in a whole way of being. Succinctly put, then, we can say that education passes on the ideas of a culture. Hence, it is necessarily tied to a tradition that passes on a way of seeing and loving.

A teacher is the one who draws out the mind of students by showing them the beauty and goodness of truth. The goal of teaching is not merely to help students think for themselves, form habits of critical thinking, or develop self-knowledge. All of these, properly understood, are laudable and important things, but they do not and, indeed, cannot constitute *ends*, that is, the perfection or fulfillment of education. As we have seen, education is aimed at a transformative participation in what is true, good, and beautiful, and that participation will certainly include a sharpening of the mind and a greater self-knowledge. Indeed, the whole point of beginning in wonder (“Let them be born in wonder”) is to first direct the minds of the students to a reality that is not merely themselves, in light of which they see themselves more truly than they ever could merely by gazing at themselves. A teacher stands as someone who directs their gaze, teaching them how to be a seeker and a lover of God.

The only way that teachers can do this is by being seekers and lovers themselves. And this is the great secret of an integrated education, a “drawing out” that truly immerses students in something intelligible and *whole*: the teachers themselves must carry a shared vision of reality. Their work is the business of passing on ideas and a training of the mind that they themselves have received as part of a coherent tradition. And the work of passing these on is something shared, for, at its heart, a school is a community of teachers bound together in a common faith, a common love, and a common work. Ideas are universal, but their transmission is particular. If ideas and ways of thinking are to be retained, they must be embodied in a tradition that is worth preserving and developing.

The classical approach to education was formed around basic assumptions about the nature of reality and the mind, including especially that reality is intelligible, good, and beautiful in itself, and not merely insofar as we perceive it. Thus, pursuing the 7 liberal arts provides a foundation for a teacher to open up the mind of the students to the real and loveable beauty of what they study.

Next week we will explore what we mean by “Catholic education,” again in light of what we have laid out so far.

Salve Regina

This year, beginning in October, students will be singing one of the four Marian antiphons after the St. Michael prayer at Mass. Currently, we are learning the *Salve Regina*, the antiphon for the season from Pentecost to Advent. From Advent through the season of Epiphany, we will sing the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. During the pre-Lenten and Lenten seasons, we will sing the *Ave Regina Caelorum*. During Easter, we will sing the *Regina Caeli*.

October 7th Eucharistic Procession and Shroud Exhibit Inaugural Opening

Fr. Bill will process with the monstrance immediately after Mass on Friday, October 7th. He will walk through the entire school, blessing the classrooms. The whole school will process behind him while praying the rosary together. Parents are most welcome to join us! The feast for that day, Our Lady of the Rosary, marks the anniversary of the great Christian victory at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571.

Additionally, the shroud exhibit that Mrs. Maki and others have worked so hard to create will be opened on October 7th. I am currently working to involve the students in this great addition to the parish. For parents coming at dismissal, you are welcome to visit the shroud room (next to the parish hall) with your child(ren) after the school is dismissed on the 7th.

Upcoming Events – From the Parent Association

Bake Sale for the Library – Sunday, Oct. 2nd after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses

The St. Thomas Parent Association plans to update our library to create a fresh space that is orderly, inviting, and cozy to read in. We are kicking off the fundraising for this effort by hosting a Bake Sale. The funds raised will be used for fresh paint, seating and area rugs, and new educational decor. We would love your help in making this happen. There are many ways to get involved, the most important being baking & donating something delicious! Please see the attached flier for more details.

Fall Festival – Friday, Oct. 14th from 12-4

The plan for this year is to have a petting zoo between 12:00 and 4:00 and a balloon twister between 1:00 and 3:00, both in the parking lot. Students will participate with their classes during the school day.

School Reminders/Updates

School Improvements

As you have probably noticed, the steps from the street to the parking lot have been redone. Next up will be the State Street steps!

Handbook and Family/School Agreement Forms

Please remember to turn in the handbook agreement page and the family/school agreement form to the office by this Friday, September 30th.