



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](#).*

Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Hot lunches begin**

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

**Leadership/Dress-Up Day**

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Hearing and Vision Screening – see letter sent home**

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

**End of Margaret Mary Term**

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

**No School**

## From the Headmaster

### Definitions Series – Week 4

Last week, I went over the ideas of “teaching” and “education” in the classical tradition. Of course, we are not just a classical school, but a classical *Catholic* school. The Faith is not just something added to what we’ve been talking, but the reality at its very heart. Hence, we need to account for what it means to have a “Catholic education.”

An education that is Catholic is one that is integrated by the Catholic Faith. This means that the worship, truths, and thinking of Christ’s Church inform our entire approach to knowledge, study, and formation. To “inform” means to be a principle of unity and purpose. We are not offering a Catholic education simply by having a religion class, or by having Mass and prayer, or by talking about things of the Faith. These are all parts – and Mass the central one – of having a Catholic education, but, for an education to truly be *informed* by the Faith, all aspects of what we do at school must be part of a broader unity, that common mindset, love, and vision I’ve talked about in previous weeks. All of this is perhaps best expressed as a kind of culture, a way of life that carries with it a set of ideas, expectations, values, perspectives, etc. that, in this case, the Faith provides.

This certainly does not mean that all studies and formation at school are so many parts of teaching or handing on the Faith. Divine Revelation and the workings of grace do not obliterate nature, nor should the natural level and human reason be

collapsed into the supernatural level. These two levels remain distinct while also remaining in unity. Hence, we speak of faith and reason, not as separated ways of knowing, but as, in the image of Pope John Paul II, two wings by which we rise to the contemplation of Truth.

Indeed, the Catholic Faith in its very nature leaves room for the operations of reason and human freedom. What it brings to these is a higher light, an eternal perspective and a proper ordering of values and ideas. What is utilitarian, efficient, measurable, productive, etc. is, in this higher light, subordinated to what is beautiful, sacrificial, and formative of the heart and mind. And this ordering is well-supported by the liberal arts approach, which, as we have already noted, pursues truth and the formation of the mind as goods in themselves, and not for some further product or end.

That is why, in classical Catholic education, we always speak of the “true, the good, the beautiful.” These are some of the “transcendentals,” qualities that every being has simply by existing. Every being is intelligible (true), desirable and valuable (good), and manifests itself as a whole (beautiful). Every being exists by participating in Being Itself, God, Who is Truth, Goodness, and Beauty Itself. When the mind is led to the transcendentals, it is directed to God. Putting transcendent reality first and foremost is a training in wisdom.

Next week, we will close out our series by looking at what we mean by the interrelated terms “Western Tradition,” “Catholic culture,” and “Western Civilization.”

### **October 7<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Procession and Shroud Exhibit Inaugural Opening**

Fr. Bill will process with the monstrance immediately after Mass on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Michaelmas Celebration**

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Michaelmas celebration last Thursday! The students had to suffer through household pictures before getting donuts:



St. Michael House



St. Raphael House





St. Gabriel House

## Upcoming Events – From the Parent Association

### **Fall Festival – Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 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.