



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admiratione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter

November 28<sup>th</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 Nicholas Term: Studiousness

- A keen and moderated desire to know



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-Up Day**

**Celebration of Wonder: 6:30 in the parish hall**

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession/Performance before 8:00 School Mass**

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Christmas Choir Concert: 6:30 in the church**

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>-Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**Christmas Break**

## Mrs. Annette Rigan Memorial Mitten Tree

Once again, we honor the memory of St. Thomas classroom teacher Annette Rigan by collecting new mittens and gloves for needy children and adults on our entryway Christmas Tree. Mrs. Rigan taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at St. Thomas from 1988 until she passed away from breast cancer in 1992. She was loved by all her students and delighted in surprising them each year with a pair of hand-made mittens as a Christmas gift. Please consider donating a pair of new mittens or gloves from now until December 19<sup>th</sup>. Contributions may be turned into the main office or hung directly on the Christmas tree. Thank you!

## Giving Tree

St. Thomas School has adopted one of our families, who is in need of our help. Please consider purchasing one of the gifts listed [here](#), or go in on a gift with another family. Please wrap your present and place a removable label stating what the gift is on the outside (for sorting purposes). Gift cards may be turned in at the office; wrapped gifts may be placed under the tree by your child. Please turn in your gift by **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## From the Headmaster

### **Diocesan Plan for Schools**

Next Wednesday at a meeting in Lansing, the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) will introduce principals to a Catholic Liberal Arts vision. This is part of a diocese-wide effort to transition all diocesan schools towards a liberal arts' focus by having schools work with ICLE, whose conferences our teachers have attended in past years. Obviously, St. Thomas is already centered on the liberal arts, so we are ahead of the curve on this one! This, I think, confirms once more that the bishop really wants a classical/liberal arts education to be available all over his diocese, and that the model of tacking on religious instruction to an otherwise conventional public-school style of education is neither integrally Catholic nor ultimately meaningful.

## **Library Wish List**

[St. Thomas Library Wishlist](#)

[High School Reading Room Wishlist](#)

I have been working with Sarah Davignon, our librarian, and the classroom teachers to continue to improve our library collection, develop reading lists, and generally develop the reading culture at our school. As we begin Advent, please consider donating to our school library or the High School Reading Room. Please note that both wishlists will be expanded in the coming weeks as well. You do not have to use Amazon to purchase your donation. We only ask, if books are being donated used, that they be in very good or excellent condition. You can drop any donation off at the school or mail them directly to us at:

St. Thomas School Library  
540 Elizabeth St  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

## **Events/Updates**

### **Celebration of Wonder**

I am looking forward to seeing what the students have prepared for our Celebration of Wonder evening on December 7<sup>th</sup>, including poetry, music, art, and drama! As a reminder, we are inviting families to bring two dozen Christmas cookies to share. Please see the attached flier from the Parent Association.

### **Playground Update**

As you may have noticed, the wall around the playground is nearly complete and looks sharp! Many thanks to Steve Johnson and his crew. The project might be completed as early as this week, so we should be able to get the kids back outside soon!