



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### *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 Scholastica Term: Perseverance

- Enduring a delay in when a good may be accomplished or realized



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Registration Materials Due**

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>-Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

**Presidents' Day Break**

## Faculty/Staff vs. Students Basketball Game

It was a close and intense match-up last Friday, but the faculty and staff pulled through, 29-27! If we'd played a full game, it might have been a different story – there was a noticeable slowing down among the older folks as the second half progressed...







## From the Headmaster

On the administrative side, this is the time of the school year when next school year becomes a central focus. This is especially this case with the added challenge of a growing high (“upper”) school. Our upper school next year will consist of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. It will still very much be a transition year and a time of ongoing discernment. After the registration deadline (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>!) passes and we begin to have a clearer picture of our enrollment for next year, I will be involving parents in that discernment process, through discussion and feedback. The hope is that, over time, this school will more and more be experienced as a full PreK-12 school, rooted in families committed all the way through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There is, of course, work to be done to get there!

I understand that much surrounding the upper school is still uncertain or largely a matter of rumor and hearsay. There are a number of things that are needed to flesh it out, but these are three of the foremost: *pioneers*, *patience*, and *personnel*.

“*Pioneers*” are the families willing to be among the first, even before an upper school is clearly discernable. *Patience* will be needed because the upper school will only come through time. It must begin mainly on paper, ideally. As ideas are incarnated, they are usually tempered, modified, or even reconsidered. That is a process we must be willing to “suffer” through together for the first years. It is uncertain, but also exciting! Finally – and this is perhaps the most important – we need to retain and find the right *people*, including the wonderful teachers we already have and also those we have yet to find. It is as much about keeping and finding the people that fit our curriculum as it is forming the curriculum around the people that we already have and are able to find. This is because a curriculum is something “embodied” in real people and relationships.

## Ave Regina Caelorum and the Virtue of Perseverance

Today at all-school assembly, I talked about our new after-Mass Marian chant and the virtue for Scholastica term: perseverance. The Ave Regina caelorum (“Hail, Queen of Heaven”) is traditionally sung from the close of the Christmas season (February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Candlemas) through Holy Week. As I told the students, we are already transitioning to the season of Lent – Ash Wednesday is on February 22<sup>nd</sup>!

It’s a season that requires perseverance. This virtue doesn’t just mean gritting our teeth to get through something unpleasant, but enduring a delay in when something good can happen. It’s a virtue that clearly ties in a number of other virtues, such as constancy, long-suffering, patience, and hope, and it’s one particularly relevant “at the hour of our death” – i.e., final perseverance. I told students to pray to Mary this

week to help them grow in this virtue. I also read them a story of how St. Scholastica practiced the virtue. Ask them about St. Scholastica and the thunderstorm!

## Tutors

I have had a number of people come forward who are interested in being a tutor for the school. I am hoping to have a starter list out next week, either in the newsletter or via a separate email. The list will include tutor contact info and fields of specialty. Once the initial list is released, I or the teachers would be happy to help facilitate getting you connected with a tutor on the list, or you can feel free to contact them directly.

## Note on Building Use During Basketball

If, while attending a basketball practice or game, you or your child(ren) need to use the bathroom, please use the yellow/orange doors that lead from the gym to the K-1 hall. Our custodial staff will be closing and locking the double green doors that separate the school office hall area from the K-1 hall. Please also monitor children so that they are not wandering school hallways unattended. Thank you!