



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter

May 1<sup>st</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: Solicitude

- An alertness and watchfulness for what needs to be done



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Mothers' Brunch: 9-10:30 a.m.**

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Dress-up/Leadership Day; May Crowning (see below)**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.

**Upper School Choir State Choir Festival Competition**

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 a.m. and May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

**Drama Club Performances**

May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Student Declamations – Monday Morning Assembly (see below)**

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.

**Online Systems/Internet Use Parent Discussion with Headmaster (see below)**

May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

**Classical Learning Test – Grades 3-8 (see below)**

May 11<sup>th</sup>

**Parent Association Meeting – 8:05 a.m. (see email)**

May 16<sup>th</sup>

**Middle/Upper School Science Fair (see below)**

May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Celebration of Wonder (Art and Poetry Night): 6:30-8:00 p.m. (parish hall)**

May 25<sup>th</sup>

**Choir Concert: 6:30 p.m. in the church**

May 29<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day – No school**

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**8<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony – after Mass in the parish hall**

June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Angel House Field Day – details forthcoming**

June 9<sup>th</sup>

**Last day/Half day – All school picnic at Southeast Area Part**



## **Latin Exam Awards**

In March, the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders all took the National Latin Exam. At assembly this morning, 9 students received an award for their score out of 40 total questions. Both Mrs. DeRocher and I were very proud to have so many to recognize in front of the school. Congratulations and well done!

**Cum Laude:** Aidan McClelland

**Magna Cum Laude:** Amelia Eustice, Julian Magenau, Owen Dauw, Cecilia Walusek, and Paul Restuccia (not pictured)

**Silver Maxima Cum Laude:** Charlotte Hanley, Fulton Deemer, and James Hiester



## St. Thomas Gala

Many thanks again to all those that organized and attended the Gala last Friday. Thank you to Pia Gavigan, Chris Russ, and Linda Schneider for putting organized our wonderful evening! Thank you also to Bob DiMattia for launching his career as an auctioneer with us, green suit and all! Thanks to Fr. Bill for his presence and many words of wisdom and support! And, finally, thank you to all who contributed in any way to supporting our students! Your support helps us make this school affordable for anyone who wants this education for their child.

As a special note, please see the picture below of the proud owner of the puppy that was offered as an auction item. Thank you, Fils!



## New Carter Baby!

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Peter Longinus Carter, born Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8 lbs 6 oz.! Mother and baby are both doing well. Congratulations to Chris and Emily!



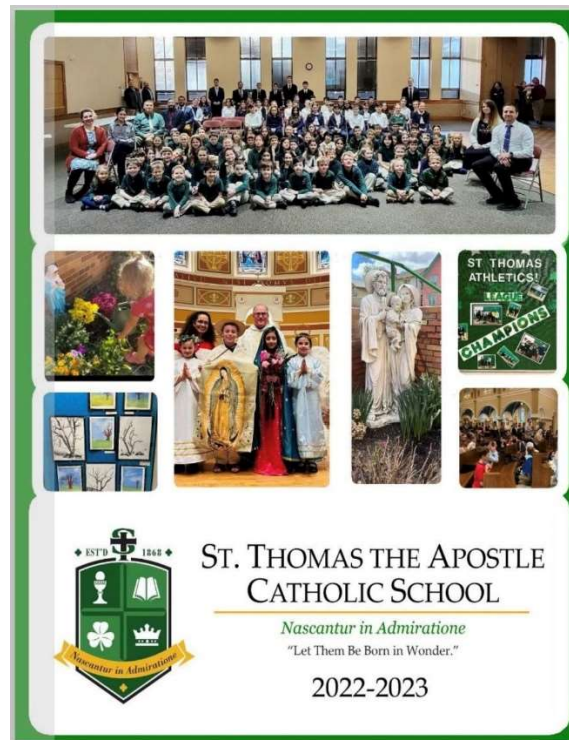
## A Busy Week Ahead – From the Headmaster

Now we enter the busy month of May! Fittingly, we will be crowning Mary before Mass this Wednesday. Thursday is the day that our 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders make their way to the State Choir Festival, and our drama club will perform this Friday and Saturday.

I also want to mention that, during next Monday's assembly in the parish hall, top performers among the middle and upper school will deliver memorized speeches or poems in front of the school. Mr. Snyder has been working with them to create this presentation. Parents are more than welcome to attend. Parents of individual performers will be contacted directly during this week as well.

## St. Thomas 2022-2023 Yearbooks on Sale!

Hardcover yearbooks are now available for purchase at \$20 per copy. Payments can be made via eFunds or check. Orders will be accepted while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. Yearbooks will be distributed on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.



## May Crowning – May 3<sup>rd</sup>

The month of May is the month of Mary. The school's May Crowning will take place right before school Mass next Wednesday (May 3<sup>rd</sup>). Each student is invited to bring one flower from home to present to Mary. Parents are welcome to participate as well!

## Classical Learning Test (CLT)

With support from the diocese, I volunteered our school to pilot the newly developed CLT for grades 3-6. Additionally, I signed up our 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders to take the CLT-8, designed for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. This test was created as an alternative standardized assessment for classical schools, and the original CLT, taken by 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, is increasingly being recognized and accepted by colleges and universities. We will not only be looking at how we do, but also at the usefulness of a test like this for future school years, including the upper (high) school. See <https://www.cltexam.com/> for more information about the test.

## Online System/Internet Use Parent Meeting

I would like to extend an invitation to meet and talk about the alternative online systems route we are pursuing, school and teacher communication, and student use of online platforms on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, after Mass in the school library**. I would like to address both the practical side of what will work best going forward, as well as the broader, school-related implications of student use of email and other social media.

## Science Fair

The St. Thomas 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade science fair will take place on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. All parents and family members are invited to view the fair between 9:00 and 3:00. There are many interesting experiments that will be showcased this year and students have been working very hard. We hope you can make it! Please note that as judging will be taking place on the same day, there will be no names on the displays.

## Moms' Book Club

Come join other moms at St. Thomas as we develop a book club! We hope to broaden our knowledge about classical education, as well as to have an opportunity to support and foster relationships in our school community. Our first meeting will be Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm to discuss the paper "The Lost Tools of Learning" by Dorothy Sayers (this is a short read, available [here](#)). We will meet at the St. Thomas library, but please check in with the front office. Come join us if you are interested, even if you aren't able to read the paper! Little ones are certainly welcome, but childcare will not be provided. Please contact Laura Hess (MrsLauraHess@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.