



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter May 8th, 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: Solitude

- An alertness and watchfulness for what needs to be done



~ Events Calendar ~

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

May 9th, 9 a.m.

Online Systems/Internet Use Parent Discussion with Headmaster (school library)

May 9th-11th

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

May 11th

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

May 16th

Middle/Upper School Science Fair (see below)

May 18th

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

May 25th

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

May 26th

Jeans Day

May 29th

Memorial Day – No school

June 2nd

8th Graduation Ceremony – after Mass in the parish hall

June 7th

Angel House Field Day – details forthcoming

June 8th

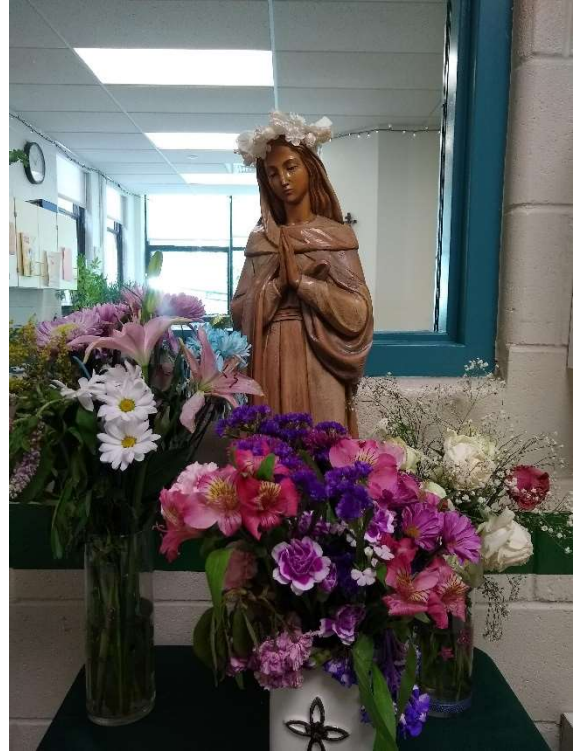
Awards Day – after Mass in the parish hall

June 9th

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



May Crowning – Preschool and Grades K-9!



State Choir Festival

I thought it would be a very difficult thing indeed to top their performance at Districts, but Mrs. Herrmann and the upper school choir did just that at the State level. Not only did they learn new and more challenging repertoire, but they were among the top-performing choirs among a competition largely made up of high-school level groups! Mrs. Herrmann is working on creating a link for the recording, and I will send that out and post it on our website once it's available. Absolutely fantastic job!!



Drama Club Production

And more congratulations to students in the middle school, this time for the drama club's wonderful pair of performances of "All We Need Is a Confidence Man." Mr. Masset and the 6th-8th graders put on an impressive performance for the whole school last Friday, and, while Mr. Masset was attending to other matters (his wife in labor...), the students gave perhaps an even more stellar performance the following evening! I was extremely impressed all around. Great work!!



Declamations Contest

And yet more congratulations...this time to our declamation contestants from the 5th-9th grades! At assembly this morning, top-performers from each of the 5th-9th grades delivered a memorized speech or poem in front of the whole school. Mr. Snyder and I served as judges. At next week's assembly, I will announce the first, second, and third-place winners from among the 5th and 6th grade contestants and from among the 7th-9th grade contestants. All of them did an outstanding job!



Mothers' Brunch

Thank you to Mrs. McClelland for hosting a brunch for mothers to talk about observing the liturgical year, with special prizes and treats included! It was a great success and something we hope to keep going next school year.

New Masset Baby!

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Peter James Masset, born Saturday, May 6th in direct defiance of his father's explicit instructions not to arrive before or on the dates of the play! Mother and baby are both doing well. Congratulations to Dan and Ang!



Hiring Announcements

I am pleased to announce the hiring of a new 5th-grade teacher, Miss Grace Schoenle. This position was re-created due to the 5th grade becoming a self-contained class next school year. Miss Schoenle is currently finishing up a second year of teaching at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Rapids. A graduate of Hillsdale College, she earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Classical Education. Miss Schoenle has extensive experience in theater directing and choreography. More importantly, she has a great love for the beauty of the Humanities and the pursuit of truth. She is very excited to begin her work at St. Thomas and is eager to get to know the students. I look forward to having her as part of our team!



Additionally, I am excited to announce the hiring of a second Math/Nature Studies teacher for the middle and upper schools, Mrs. Claire Jackowski. A graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's in physical science and a teaching certification in physical science, biology, and mathematics, Mrs. Jackowski is currently finishing up her fifth year at St. Catherine of Siena. She is intensely interested in being a part of a classical Catholic school, and her experience and love of the Faith will be great assets for our developing middle and upper schools. I am eager to see her at work with our students next school year!



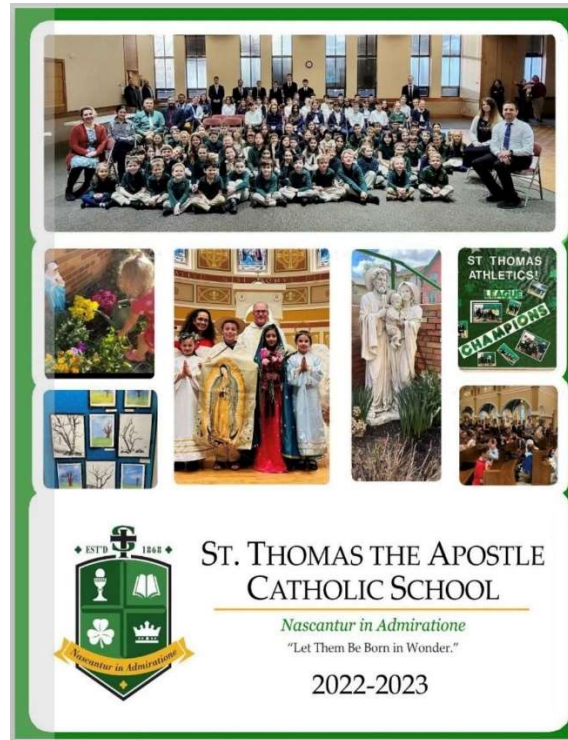
From the Headmaster

The busy month of May continues! Here is a bullet-point list of some further things to note:

- I placed an ad for the parish newsletter and bulletin soliciting donations for the school's purchase of RSV-CE Bibles for all the 2nd-10th graders next school year. These will be the students' to keep! You can use the following link, selecting "St. Thomas School Online, to donate:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stthomasannarbor>
- A reminder about our technology meeting tomorrow. We are switching to using FACTS, which we currently use just for tuition and scholarships, for our student information system, payments, forms, homework-posting, lunches, and more. The switch will take place over the summer, and we will be providing plenty of resources for parents to learn to navigate the new system. I will give more information at tomorrow's meeting and in upcoming newsletters as well.
- I look forward to seeing our students in action again at the Celebration of Wonder on May 18th and the choir concert on May 25th!
- Finally, please see the attached document to read more on the differences between "classical" and "conventional" school models. Some parents have expressed interest in expanding their knowledge of classical education, and this provides an introduction, a list of differences, and accompanying explanations. At the end of the document I have included an annotated book list for further reading. I will post this on our website as well, under "Classical Catholic K-12 / What That Means."

St. Thomas 2022-2023 Yearbooks on Sale!

Hardcover yearbooks are now available for purchase at \$25 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 1st.



Science Fair

The St. Thomas 5th through 8th-grade science fair will take place on Tuesday, May 16th 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 11th 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.

Parish Events

Vacation Bible School

This Summer, we will offer Vacation Bible School, which is an opportunity for children and young teens to grow in a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ through catechetics, prayer, music, crafts, and fun. This year, our theme will focus on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and will run from June 19th through the 23rd.

You can register here: <https://form.jotform.com/231064273898161>
Additionally, volunteers are needed for crafting stations, nursery coordination, decoration, and catechesis.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to our Director of Faith Formation, Alexander Wallo for more details at awallo@sta2.org."

Family Retreat

Saturday, June 3rd 10am-4:15pm

Cost: \$75 for the Whole Family, \$35 per Parent, \$10 per Child

Scholarships are available upon request

"The glory of God is man fully alive" St. Irenaeus

The Office of Evangelization and Family Life is excited to kick off our first family retreat! The theme is centered around St Irenaeus' quote "The glory of God is man fully alive!" This will be a wonderful day for your family to create special memories, have fun together, share a meal, fellowship with other families, and experience God in a deeper way. Our retreat will end with a beautiful time of family prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

Seating for this retreat is *limited* to a 150 people. Pre-registration is required and participants will be accepted on a ***first-come first-served basis. Walk-ins will not be accepted.***

Chris Pagett will be our speaker. Chris holds a Master's degree in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the International Marian Research Institute. He has been doing ministry for over 30 years. He is an author, musician, teacher, comedian, and motivational speaker. Chris has been married to his high school sweetheart for 31 years, and they have nine children. He has appeared on television and radio and has been a regular speaker

and entertainer at Steubenville Youth Conferences. Chris currently is a professor of Theology at Catholic Distance University. The Padgett family lives in Central New York. Check out chrispadgett.com and his YouTube channel, Happy Place Homestead and <https://chrisandlindapadgett.com/home> to learn how to have a stronger marriage.

SCHEDULE

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| 10:00-10:15 | Registration |
| 10:15-11:15 | Opening Session/ Minute to Win It- Parish Hall |
| 11:15-12:15 | Lunch/ Bounce House & Games- Gym |
| 12:25-1:10 | Talk: Fully Alive- Parish Hall (Kids 18 months- 10 years go to their tracks) |
| 1:10-1:55 | Small Group- Parish Hall |
| 1:55-3:00 | Family Scavenger Hunt & Family Activity - St Thomas Campus & Parish Hall |
| 3:00-3:15 | Talk: The Power of a Father's Blessing- Parish Hall |
| 3:15-3:30 | Family Prayer |
| 3:30-4:05 | Eucharistic Adoration |
| 4:05-4:15 | Closing Prayer |
| 4:15-4:30 | Break |
| 4:30-5:30 | Mass- Church |