



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-10 School Newsletter August 21<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: Faith

- Assenting, through grace, to God's revealed truth

### Virtue for Margaret Mary Term: Truthfulness

- Telling the truth when one ought, as one ought



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

**First day of school - half day, 11:40 dismissal**

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

**First All-School Mass**

August 24<sup>th</sup>

**Special School Altar Boy Training, 3:20-5:00 p.m.**

August 25<sup>th</sup>

**Jeans Day (see updated dress code)**

August 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Info/Feedback Session on EF Mass – School library, 7 p.m. (see below)**

September 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>  
**No school – Labor Day weekend**

September 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Back-to-school night for parents in the parish hall, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**



## From the Headmaster

I am looking forward to having all the students back tomorrow! The teachers and staff have been hard at work to prepare for the coming school year. We had time not only for talking over practical matters and receiving trainings, but also for prayer and discussion. I am excited about our group of teachers this year, especially as I see them coalesce in pursuit of a common mission and vision.

I wanted also to highlight our Active Shooter Training with the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department. This training is governed by the acronym “A.L.I.C.E.,” which stands for “Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.” The training provided teachers a great opportunity to both think through and simulate live shooter scenarios. The overall take-away from the training is that there is no single procedure or set of procedures that a teacher can always rely on. Live shooter situations are highly fluid, and each teacher needs to be able to make decisions in the moment for the students under their care. The one thing never to do is to freeze. Some situations might be best addressed with a lockdown and a potential counter against the threat, others with evacuation. Generally, evacuation is the ultimate goal, but that is not always possible immediately. This school year, we will continue to have both lockdown and evacuation drills, and these will be coupled with ongoing discussion among teachers about various possible scenarios.

## New Choir Teacher

Though I have made multiple offers to strong candidates, I was unable to secure a permanent candidate for the K-8 choral music position. However, Antona Setterholm has agreed to serve as a long-term substitute for the first term of the school year. She was actually one of the candidates we were considering, but she learned during the interview process that her husband had accepted a job in Germany, where they will be moving in November. Antona’s magnificent voice has been a wonderful addition to the parish schola. She has extensive experience singing for church choirs, and her education and experience have given her a deep knowledge and love of sacred music. Antona will be working with the K-8 students to form them in the tradition of sacred music and to train them to sing well together. She will also be working with the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders to form them into a schola that will eventually be singing once a week for Friday school Masses. The position remains posted, and we are continuing to explore our options for when Antona leaves us at the end of October.

## First Day

As a reminder, our first day of school (tomorrow!) is a half day, with dismissal at 11:40. Our first school Mass and full day will be the following day, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, with our new dismissal time at 3:15 (not 3:25).

We are blessed to have our first day on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, which is the octave day of the Assumption! With Father Bill, we will be entrusting the school to our Blessed Mother, our Heavenly Queen.

Last week, I was asked by the staff videographer and photographer from the Diocese of Lansing whether he could come out to do some filming and photography at the

school on our first day. He will be capturing drop-off and some classroom settings, along with potentially doing a couple of short interviews with parents (as well as myself). We will be sure to edit out any “no photo” students. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our school!

## Facts Update

Please see the attached information sheet introducing our new FACTS family portal. We will be sending out instructions for creating a login by Friday of this week. I again ask for your patience as teachers become more adept with the new system and we work out the kinks.

## Baby Announcement

This past Friday, Khrista Boes gave birth to her son Luke Steven! Mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to the Boes family!



## Extraordinary Form School Masses - Updates

I look forward to working with the boys at the altar server training this Thursday. Our start date for having Friday Extraordinary Form Masses is still to be determined. I will be introducing students to its basic structure and meaning, which will build on the catechesis on the Mass that I did last school year with them. As the placard in the church reminds us, both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms are the perfect Sacrifice of Christ offered to the Father; both are forms in which we can grow in love of Our Lord.

As we prepare, I invite any interested parents to attend an information and feedback session in the school library next Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m. I will be sharing more background and explanation about the Extraordinary Form and the way in which it can enrich the liturgical experience of the students. I would also love to listen to any thoughts or questions that you might have.

I am also more than happy to talk individually with any parents about their child's participation at an EF school Mass. It is not our intention to "mandate" over and above parental discretion in this matter, but concerns must be addressed directly to me or Fr. Bill.