



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admiratione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-10 School Newsletter August 28<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: 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 29<sup>th</sup>

**Ordinary Form Altar Boy Training – 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the church  
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 6<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-up Day**

September 7<sup>th</sup>

**Back-to-school night for parents in the parish hall, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**



## Girls' Household Scavenger Hunt!

The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-grade girls kicked off the year by doing a scavenger hunt around the school with their household sisters!



## Altar Boy Training

We had a wonderful turnout of 29 boys to begin learning how to serve at the Extraordinary Form! Ordinary Form training is tomorrow after school.



## From the Headmaster

It was a great joy to welcome the students back last week. If you haven't already, check out the great [video](#) produced and published by the diocese last week featuring our school! Thank you for entrusting your children to St. Thomas. As we pursue what is most worthwhile together, I commend us all to the Blessed Mother, placing this school year in her hands. I also pray today for the intercession of St. Augustine, that the students will be led more deeply into Truth Himself.

I have been very impressed with the students' discipline and cheerfulness during these first days of school. I feel that, for those returning, they've hardly missed a beat, and for those who are new, they are quickly joining in with what the rest of the students are doing. For example, on the first day, we all had to wait patiently for the Kindergarten, who understandably took a little longer to make it to the parish hall



for assembly. The students' quiet and discipline impressed the videographer, who confessed he'd never seen such an orderly school, especially on the first day! That's a testament to the students themselves, to your continued parenting at home, and to the teachers' immediate influence in establishing a contemplative and cheerful school culture.

As a note, parents are always more than welcome to attend all-school assemblies and Masses. If there ever are assemblies where we need to address students without parents, we'll be sure to let the parents there know.

Though our day off last Friday was an unexpected interruption, the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade boys still had the opportunity to attend their opening-of-the-year retreat at the Tar Paper Shack with Mr. McCoy and Mr. Lennon, our new Latin teacher. The boys had a great time immersing themselves in the basic story of the Faith and bonding with each other to set the year off on the right foot!

This Thursday, the middle and upper school students will have a chance to meet and listen to Dom Chrysostom Maria, a monk from Silverstream Abbey in Ireland on a home visit. He is my good friend of many years and a former teacher at St. Augustine's. He'll be talking to the students about the monastic life and I'm sure add plenty of insights on the Christian life! Parents are welcome to join too – we'll be in the school library after Mass.

## School Texting Communication

Last Friday, I used our mass texting service to announce the school closure. I have since updated the list to include all new families as well. **Tomorrow, Tuesday, I will be sending out a test text around 2 p.m. to ensure that everyone is receiving it. It will come from the number 844-575-7393.** I will be sure to identify the school and/or myself in the message. While we also send out email alerts, give notice to local TV and radio stations, and/or post on our website, the text is really the chief way by which we hope to reach people for emergent situations.

## Facts Is Live

Last Friday, I sent out information to parents detailing how to create a login for the family portal. This portal will link you to all the services we use through FACTS (incidental billing should be live beginning September 6<sup>th</sup>). I am attaching the same information sheet to this email. Our district code is STSA-MI.

## Dress Code Notes

Thank you for your cooperation in purchasing proper shoe ware! I want to clarify/reiterate a couple of things:

- Boys should wear only blue or black crew socks. Girls may wear white crew socks, along with the other options listed in the dress code. Socks, which must be worn, must at least cover the ankle bone.
- Even if they are otherwise dress-code compliant, shoes should not come past the ankle bone in height.

We had a day off instead of a dress-down day. Our next special dress day will be Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, which will be a mandatory dress-up day.

## Volleyball Update

Volleyball is officially paused until Mr. Miller is able to arrange coaching, something he still hopes to be able to do soon. Please look for further announcements and information on sports this fall from Mr. Miller in the coming days.

## Extraordinary Form Parent Meeting Tomorrow

I invite any interested parents to attend an information and feedback session in the school library tomorrow, August 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8 p.m. Fr. Bill and 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, and Father and I are happy to listen and respond to any concerns you might have.

## Men's Monday Basketball

Dan Mishler, a St. Thomas parishioner, along with myself, are organizing a casual men's league at the St. Thomas gym. This group has existed for a number of years and recently switched to playing at St. Thomas. It currently consists of a number of St. Thomas parishioners and other Catholics, and we are hoping to broaden its membership to bring on board other St. Thomas folks. Games are on Mondays, beginning at 8:30 p.m. and ending at 10:30 p.m. Beginning this evening, St. Thomas dads are welcome to come out to play. Please let me know or Dan ([dpmishler90@gmail.com](mailto:dpmishler90@gmail.com)) if you would like to come. We will begin with an open gym/pick-up format over the next few weeks, after which point we will organize committed players into set teams of around 7 players. We'll then get a set schedule and game times. This is an invite-only group, so please do not invite other players without checking with us first.

## Parish Events

Please consider volunteering for the parish picnic on September 10<sup>th</sup>. I will be monitoring the gym and would love help there, but other positions are needed as well. Please contact the parish if you have some availability between 1:00 and 3:00 that Sunday.

Also, please note that the Play and Pray group will be restarting in mid-September. It is open to anyone and will meet on Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. More information to come.