



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-10 School Newsletter September 18<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 ~

September 25<sup>th</sup>

**October Lunch Orders Due (see below)**

September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Michaelmas celebration (details to come); Signatory pages at the back of handbook due**

October 6<sup>th</sup>

**First Extraordinary Form School Mass**

October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Technology at Home - Presentation and Discussion, 7:00 p.m. (see below)**

October 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Fall Festival**

November 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Turkey Trot**

November 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Upper (High) School Open House, 7:00 p.m.**



## All-Schools Diocesan Mass in Lansing

Today, Mr. Masset took our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to St. Mary's Cathedral in Lansing for an all-schools Mass with Bishop Boyea!





## From the Headmaster

We have had lots to talk about at assemblies of late. Our virtue for the year is faith, one of the three “theological virtues” that we receive at baptism. I have emphasized that faith is a gift, something not earned but received through a working of grace with which we cooperate. I have also pointed out the important connection between faith and truth. To believe is not merely to have an experience of changed convictions or life goals, but an assent of the mind, moved by the will through grace, to revealed truths, including mysteries that we cannot fully comprehend. This assent is a special gift of grace enabling our intellect to hold with supernatural firmness and certainty to revealed Truth, Who is Christ Himself (see CCC 153-158). This is why teaching the Catholic Faith well is so critical. Questions of culpability aside, simply teaching in a misleading or erroneous way can damage faith if it causes someone to hold to a falsehood, to hold to a “false Christ.” We call the gift of faith a virtue, and, as with other virtues, it can grow through our practice of it. I relayed to students one simple way to grow in the virtue of faith: pray an act of faith. A traditional act of faith, such as the following, also provides further material for catechesis, which we will be exploring in coming weeks:

O my God, I firmly believe  
that you are one God in three divine Persons,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
I believe that your divine Son became man

and died for our sins and that he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe these and all the truths  
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches  
because you have revealed them  
who are eternal truth and wisdom,  
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.  
In this faith I intend to live and die.  
Amen.

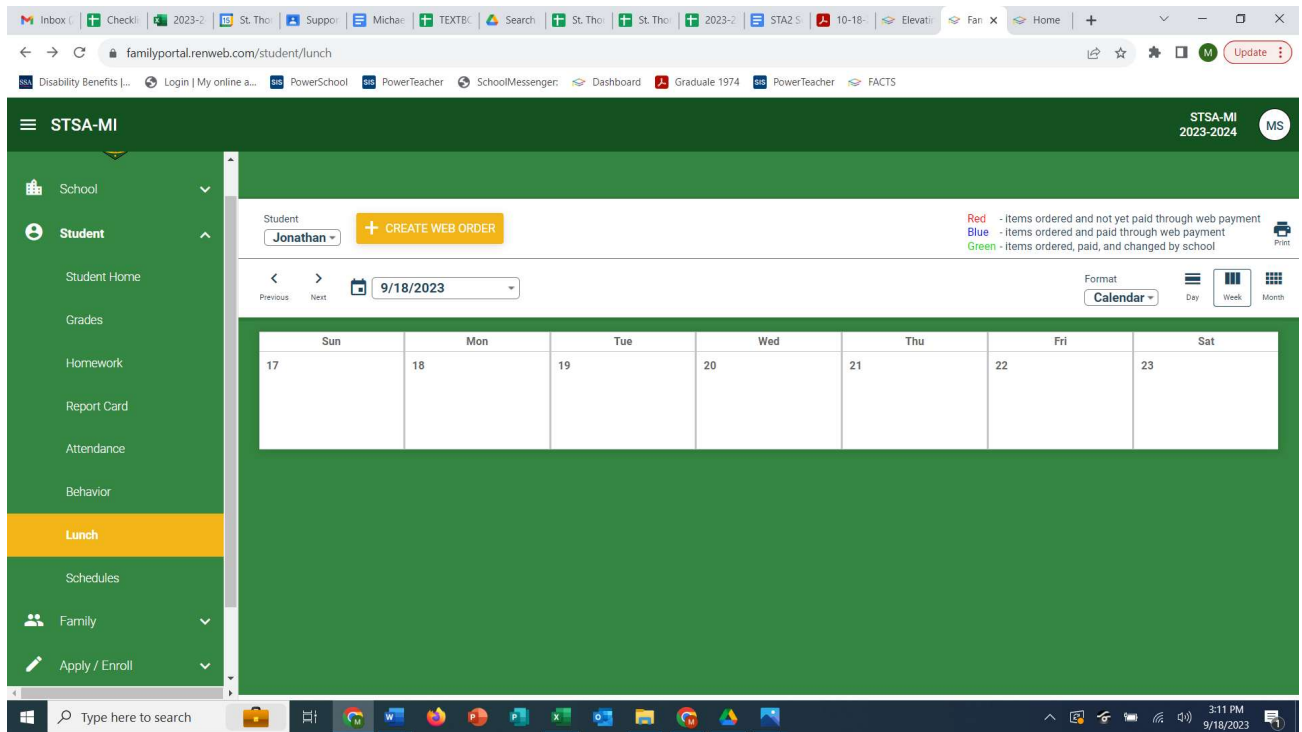
Today we continued to work through a video of the EF Mass to help prepare students for our first EF school Mass on October 6<sup>th</sup>. We are noticing the obvious similarities between the two forms of the Mass, as well as the aspects of the EF Mass that will feel or sound different. One point of emphasis in speaking to the students about their participation at either form of the Mass is that they should seek to unite their hearts and minds to the basic action of the Mass, which is the offering of perfect worship and love to the Father in, with, and through Christ. During the parts of the EF Mass when it is more difficult to know “what is happening,” students can always return to that most fundamental and important aspect of their participation and prayer. As we continue to work on our bodily postures at Mass, we will also continue to emphasize the way in which our outward acts are naturally tied to our interior disposition.

You may have noticed my St. Thomas bulletin entry this past weekend. As we continue to work to strengthen ties between the parish and school, I plan to write a column every month to keep the parish informed about the school, both to highlight school events and to continue to clarify our identity and mission as a classical Catholic school.

I have settled on a date for our upper (high) school open house in November. As we work on advertising and getting the word out, please do spread the word among families that you know and who might be interested!

## Lunch Orders for October

For October, due to our current volunteer availability, we will be able to offer hot lunch every day except Wednesdays. Mrs. Boes will be opening the lunch ordering on FACTS, which can be accessed through your family portal, under Student > Lunch > Create Web Order (see screenshot below). Please let Mrs. Steffy know if you still are having trouble accessing your portal. All lunch orders need to be placed through FACTS. Among other reasons, this is immensely helpful for our accounting and payment tracking!



## Presentation and Discussion Night – Technology at Home

I invite all parents to attend an evening presentation and discussion on technology use at home. Mike Hanley, a parent with extensive experience in online security, will provide parents with resources, strategies, and background on using devices at home. By giving you information and concrete actions that you can use to monitor your children’s use of the internet and screens, we hope to support you in having an informed and effective plan, something increasingly needed in a bewildering digital world. I am still working out some of the details for the evening, including the possibility of childcare. Please seriously consider making this night a priority. As I indicated already in the handbook, the school is pursuing a “disciplined and limited” approach to technology use, and having a “match” between this and your approach at home will be of great importance for the continued development of our school culture and academic excellence.

## Meal Train Ministry at St. Thomas

If you are interested in being involved with the meal train ministry at the parish, please contact Ruth Atzinger ([rcatzinger@gmail.com](mailto:rcatzinger@gmail.com)), who can give you further information.