



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-10 School Newsletter October 30th, 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 Nicholas Term: Patience

- Bearing evil with an equal mind



~ Upcoming Events ~

October 31st

All Saints' Celebration (see below)

November 1st

All Saints' Day - No school

November 2nd - All Souls' Day

Report Cards Published

November 3rd

No school: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (see below)

November 7th
Angel House Reward Day

November 8th
Dress-up Day

November 9th
Wine, Cheese, and Poetry Night, 7:00-8:15 p.m., school library (see below)

November 10th
Turkey Trot

November 14th
Upper (High) School Open House, 7:00 p.m.

November 16th
Order forms for poinsettias and wreaths due (see flyer)

November 17th
Dress-down day

November 22nd-26th
Thanksgiving Break

NEW DATE: December 12
Art, Poetry, and Music Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m., parish hall (see below)



Congratulations to Raphael House!

Members of Raphael House, the Angel House Competition winner for the Margaret Mary Term, will receive a dress-down day, treat, and extra play time next Tuesday, November 7th!

Congratulations, Virtue Award Winners!

The following were the Margaret Mary Term award winners for the virtue of truthfulness:

Kindergarten: Christian Mersino

First Grade: Ben Meinhart

Second Grade: Wendy Dunn

Third Grade: Luke Sauter

Fourth Grade: Ceilidh DiMattia

Fifth Grade: Marlee Meier

Sixth Grade: Dymphna Sproule

Seventh Grade: Francis Pearson

Eighth Grade: Julian Magenau



St. Crispin's Day Speech at Assembly



From the Headmaster

The full-time teachers, Mr. McCoy, and I had a fruitful time with the ICLE last Monday and Tuesday. In addition to the thought-provoking presentations and seminars, our professional development days with St. Mary's and Resurrection gave us a chance to enter into good conversations on pedagogy in the classical tradition. It is encouraging to see these avenues of discussion opened up, not only for our own faculty, but also for the diocese as a whole!

This morning at assembly I was particularly impressed by the boys who delivered the St. Crispin's Day speech in front of the school. Each did so with great energy and accuracy. I look forward to hearing our middle- and upper-school girls next Monday! Each class winner among both boys and girls will receive a homework pass and dress-down day. The grand prize winner will be announced at assembly on November 13th.

I would like to make a special appeal for our wine, cheese, and poetry night next Thursday, November 9th, from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Some of you may be wondering, "What exactly is the purpose of such a thing? Reading and discussing poetry doesn't sound like my sort of thing anyhow" – or other, similar thoughts.

First, I will say that there really isn't a single practical outcome that I have in view. Reading and discussing "God's Grandeur" together will be a mutual pursuit of something true, good, and beautiful, something worthwhile in itself. Poetry in particular presents the mind with a different level of things, a "world" very different from the day-to-day world of means and ends. It is a level that, because it stands outside of that "workaday" world of control, calculation, and anxiety, draws us to a "resting" of the mind, a true "leisure" where we are allowed to linger over something of enduring weight. To participate in this leisure with you would be a great privilege!

Second – and perhaps this *is* a somewhat more "practical" reason –, you will be able to experience precisely what your child experiences in his or her classes, even, in a way, in the younger grades. Why do we have students recite poetry? Why do we talk about poems and literature in class? It isn't primarily for developing useful speaking skills, or for becoming engaged with relevant social issues; rather, we want to draw students to the music of the poetic world – both its cadence and its power to communicate, through beauty, a penetrating way of seeing reality. Formation in this "music" is something difficult to test, but it is something nonetheless very real. The best way to perceive this reality is to experience it first-hand, and, in turn, to experience first-hand something more of what we mean by having a distinct, classical approach.

Choral Music Update

We are deeply thankful to Mrs. Setterholm for her great work in continuing our choral music instruction. We had two candidates shadow her classes last week and will be making a decision this week. I will keep you posted!

All Saints' Celebration at School

On October 31st, All Hallows' Eve, students may come to school dressed up as a saint. Costumes should be appropriate and wearable for the whole school day. Students will also receive a special treat at lunchtime. Most importantly, they will have a day off on the Feast of All Saints! Please remember that that is a holy day of obligation!

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Report cards will be published on November 2nd. This is our first go-around with FACTS, so please be patient with any kinks that might arise. Parent-teacher conferences will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 3rd. Sign-ups for conferences will be made available through your family portal. We will confirm when those are up and running for each classroom teacher. While these conferences are required for parents, parents of 6th-10th graders are asked to be selective in choosing the classes about which to have a conference, due to limited slot availability for middle- and upper-school teachers.

Lunch Ordering Update

Mrs. Boes sent out the following update last week:

In order to help with timeliness of orders, The lunch ordering system on FACTS will now be open the 1st-20th the month prior to each month you're ordering for. For example: December orders can be placed November 1st-20th, and January orders can be placed December 1st-20th, and so on. This means each month you have 20 days to place your order for the next month.

Prayer for the School

Please join other parents in offering a Divine Mercy Chaplet once per month for our school, students, and staff. We will meet on the Second Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) in the School Chapel directly after drop off in the morning, shortly after 8am. Each decade will be offered for a different intention. If you are unable to join physically, please join wherever you are able!

Book Club Starting Nov. 7th, 1:45 p.m. – St. Augustine's Confessions

Our first meeting will include getting to know each other and also go over the introduction to the book presented by Fr. Gregory Pine & Fr. Jacob Janczyk on the

Catholic Classics Ascension Podcast (dated 9/14 & 10/2). Ascension Press has made reading this classic VERY EASY. Fr. Gregory & Fr. Jacob are reading it over the period of 60 days on Catholic Classics podcast and they include a lively commentary which helps us to better know this amazing Saint and Doctor of the Church.

If you have any questions on how to access this FREE podcast you can call or text me (Laura Hess 239-340-5617) You can find all the details for listening, podcast pacing guide, and ordering the physical book in the link below. If you have your own copy - you can use that as well. It will be fun to have other reading and sharing different translations/versions of this book.

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catholicclassics>

We will meet every Tuesday when school is in session at 1:45pm in the school library. We will not meet on days in which there is no school. The podcast episodes are well done in which you could listen and join at any time - you don't have to buy or read the whole book to enjoy this book club. Join us on GroupMe: 'Classical Parent Book Club' https://groupme.com/join_group/92838021/aqjevP39 OR text me at 239-340-5617 and I can add you to the group!