



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter December 11th, 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 ~

December 12th

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

December 13th

Special Performance and Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, 8 a.m.

December 15th

EF School Mass (Low Mass)

December 16th

Robotics State Competition – Saline

December 20th
Half day, 11:40 dismissal/Jeans Day

December 21st-January 2nd
Christmas Break

SAVE THE DATE: January 13th
Trivia Night, 6:30-9:30 (doors open at 6), parish hall (see below)

SAVE THE DATE: February 13th
Special Presentation: Zach Good, 6:30-8:30 p.m., parish hall



A Visit from St. Nicholas

While the whole school put out their shoes for a treat from St. Nicholas, the 2nd graders had a special visit! Many thanks to Max Sproule, who did a wonderful job!



From the Headmaster

Now into the second week of Advent, we focused today at assembly on a “third coming” that, in a sense, falls “between” the first and second comings of Christ: His coming into our hearts. We talked about what it means to say that Jesus “comes into our hearts,” especially since this phrase is often used but not always well understood. This required us to explore what a “spirit” is and how we can ascertain its reality, since a spirit cannot be seen or touched with the physical senses. I had the students all pause to think about something, and then I noted how, though our thoughts could not be seen or touched, they were nonetheless quite real.

A spirit is present wherever it acts; God, Who is pure spirit, is present in all things insofar as He is acting throughout His creation and upholding all things in existence. But there is a special, more intimate way by which He can be in us. Through His grace, He invites us to open our hearts to the working of His Holy Spirit, which leads to a union of love. This presence in us can only happen with our cooperation, however; it is something that comes about in accord with our nature as human *persons* with free will and understanding.

I asked students this week to especially focus on their reception of Holy Communion at Mass, encouraging them always to approach the Sacrament with devotion and intention. Indeed, whenever we receive Him, we either progress or regress in the spiritual life; either our hearts are hardened because we approach thoughtlessly and carelessly, or they are drawn closer to Christ through our cooperation with His sacramental grace. There is no obligation to receive Holy Communion at a given Mass, and we need to discern whether we are in a state of grace and approaching with the right mindset and intentions. Nonetheless, we should strive to receive Him frequently and pray for an increased love and desire for the Eucharist. There is no surer or more universal way of growing in holiness than cultivating this desire and love and enjoying the fruits of the union we experience in this holiest of sacraments.

Our Art, Poetry, and Music night is tomorrow, and I look forward to seeing all the students there, dressed up for the event! Please try to arrive by 6:15 so that we can start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Trivia Night Benefitting the School

St. Thomas is hosting its inaugural Trivia Night on January 13, 2024, from 6:30-9:30 in the parish hall! This presents our school an opportunity to provide a St. Thomas parish-wide evening to build community and support for our school. Funds raised will be directed to classroom libraries and school beautification.

In this, we are asking for the school families to give with their time and talent, generously! We will be circulating in the upcoming newsletters a sign-up

genius to bring food to provide, namely meat & cheese trays, cracker trays, fruit & vegetable trays. We are also asking for volunteers to set up and clean up, as well as for middle and upper school students to be runners between rounds with score sheets and water pitcher refills. Lastly, if you have items you make or own that could be used for a raffle between rounds or for a live auction at halftime, please let Ruth Atzinger or Sarah Meinhart know (such as bread, cakes, crafts, Irish gear, Catholic books, etc.).

Thank you in advance for your support of this event! Go Irish!