



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### *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 Scholastica Term: Friendliness

- Acting in a becoming manner towards others



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

January 29<sup>th</sup>-Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Catholic Schools Week (see below for schedule, including bonus dress-down day!)**

February 7<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-up Day**

February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Registration Due for Returning Families**

February 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Special Presentation: Zach Good, 6:30-8:30 p.m., parish hall**

February 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Ash Wednesday**

February 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
**Mid-Winter Break**

March 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Financial Aid Application Deadline**  
**Next School EF Mass**

SAVE THE DATE: April 19<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Thomas Gala - Weber's Inn**



## Nicholas Term Honor Roll

***Congratulations to the following students for their great work this past term!***

### **5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

*Cum Laude* (3-4 B's and 2-3 A's in Academic Subjects)

Marlee Meier, Vincent Pearson, Cyril Walusek, ,  
Ellie Dauw, Luca DiMattia, Alex Wood, John Lee

*Magna Cum Laude* (1-2 B's and 4-5 A's in Academic Subjects)

Oliver Derderian, Isidore Rutherford  
Clare Moilanen, Theresa Deemer, Amelia Eustice

*Summa Cum Laude* (All A's in Academic Subjects)

Mia Chavez, Lola Fisher, Henry Sauter, Max Sproule  
Madeleine Hanley, Ella Meinhart, Charlotte Hanley

### **9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grades**

*Cum Laude* (3.33-3.66 GPA)

Fulton Deemer, James Hiester

*Magna Cum Laude* (3.67-3.99 GPA)

Paul Restuccia

## From the Headmaster

Today at assembly we once more consecrated ourselves to the Blessed Mother, offering our rosary for the school and our families. I continue to feel very strongly that this continued consecration to Mary is of the greatest importance for the protection and flourishing of our school.

This week, we are officially closing out the Christmas season with the celebration of Candlemas this Friday. You may have noticed the buried Alleluia outside on the Elizabeth Street side near the front of the church. In the old calendar, this past Sunday was Septuagesima, which comes from the Latin for “70<sup>th</sup>,” i.e. 70 days until Easter. The number 70 was not meant to be exact, but it ushered in a season of “pre-Lent” during which the Alleluia and Gloria were no longer sung (hence the burying of the Alleluia, since it disappeared from the Church’s liturgy until being “resurrected” at Easter), and the priest donned his purple vestments. The following Sundays, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima, 60<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>, respectively, led up to Ash Wednesday and Quadragesima Sunday, signaling the 40 days of Lent.



As a reminder, registration is due next Monday! Please let us know if you have any questions on using the online registration.

This past weekend, the school was highlighted in pulpit announcements at the parish masses. I personally delivered the announcement at the 9:30 Mass, asking the parish to pray the rosary today for our school. We were able to highlight the Zach Good talk and the gala on April 19<sup>th</sup>, both of which are currently advertised in the bulletin.

## Staffing Updates

As Mrs. Jackowski enters her final weeks of pregnancy, please keep her and her family in your prayers! Mrs. Raney and Mr. Votel will take over for her classes while she is on maternity leave, from which she plans to return to continue teaching at St. Thomas.

As we are adding an 11<sup>th</sup> grade next year, I have created a job posting for an additional upper-school teacher in theology and literature. I am also posting for a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade classroom teacher. We are planning on moving Mrs. Schoenle “up” next school year to teach middle-school history and literature, so we will be in need of a new 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher next year!

## Parent Meeting on the Upper School - Recap

Last Thursday, we held our parent meeting to talk about the upper school, updating parents on its progress this year and giving them some indications of what next year will be like. We opened with a Divine Mercy Chaplet in the school chapel. I then summarized the purpose of pursuing this project of growing a high school, which is closely tied to the philosophy and mission of the entire school. I am attaching the letter I composed for prospective parents at our upper-school open house in November, which sums up the points I made.

Mr. McCoy followed by giving some firsthand accounts of what our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders have been up to, noting their marked development and their friendship. It has been a privilege and blessing to see these young men grow, to come alive in the classroom, in immersive missions and prayer, and with each other. Upper schoolers continue to pursue the missions of making stoles and iconography. In the spring, we are looking to do some work in the cemetery, and we also are looking into the possibility of an optional summer mission.

We noted that we greatly look forward to having young ladies in the upper school next school year, which will allow us to plant the seeds of forming upper-school household life, giving the young men and young women opportunities to receive a distinct formation (such as in physical training/sports and certain missions) while remaining within the same school and classes. To that end, we plan on (and have

started) integrating the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the upper schoolers or, for the girls, giving them time for prayer and a special spring mission that they can do together.

With current numbers, we still do not anticipate having a clear choice of a sport that could become part of the curriculum. While continuing to be open to extra-curricular sports options, we will also continue to explore a sport that can be meaningfully pursued as part of the students' formation.

We ended with some questions, noting the significance of the endowment for both hiring and retaining teachers over the long-term. We also talked about our ongoing relationship with the diocese, which has been very supportive of our endeavor to develop a PreK-12 classical school.

## Catholic Schools Week

The following is the schedule for the week:

- **Monday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>:** All-school rosary during assembly – parents welcome!
- **Tuesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>:** Teacher Appreciation Day – student thank-you cards due (see email from class parents or from me)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>:** Parent Appreciation Day – student thank-you's coming your way!
- **Thursday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Household competition/play day – special session at 2:30 in the gym. Special dress-down day (see below)
- **Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Candlemas – Candle-light procession to begin Mass; treat at lunch; staff v. students basketball, 2:15 p.m. in the gym.

**On Thursday, Feb. 1,** students may dress in a shirt color to match their household color. The middle-school households are distinguished by colors. The lower-school households are Michael (red), Gabriel (blue), and Raphael (green). Pants/skirt should otherwise follow ordinary dress-down rules.