



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admiratione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

September 16th, 2024

School Mission Statement

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educated 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: Hope

- Having a firm trust that God will help us be with Him in heaven

Virtue for Margaret Mary Term: Magnanimity

- Pursuing what brings great honor



~ Upcoming Events ~

September 20th

School Votive Mass to the Holy Spirit and Procession/Blessing

September 23rd

October Lunch Orders Due

September 27th

Dress-down Day, Michaelmas Festival (1-3, Wheeler Park)

Family Handbook Signatory Page Due

Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:
<https://sta2school.flocknote.com/dashboard>



Votive Mass to the Holy Spirit and Eucharistic Procession: Friday, September 20th



Please join us for a special votive Mass to the Holy Spirit at 8:00 a.m., followed by a Eucharistic procession through the school building. This is a wonderful opportunity to launch our year as a school community in union with Christ and vivified by the Holy Spirit!

Girls' JV Volleyball Update

Our JV volleyball girls picked up two wins last week against St. Paul's and Ann Arbor Christian. Great work!



From the Headmaster

Why do we send our kids to school? This question, on the surface, might seem to have an obvious answer or set of answers. We might have a keen awareness of the demands of having a successful career or of raising a family. We might have an eye on the surrounding culture and its degradation and challenges. We might emphasize also the character formation and socialization that a school can provide. Generally, we parents are committing to a school with the awareness that our home life is not adequate to give a complete formation to our children. We likely see the school as in some way reinforcing and building on what we are seeking to hand on at home.

Of course, as Catholics choosing a specifically Catholic school, we very well may focus on the connection of all of these things to the goal of helping our young ones get to heaven. We might specifically choose a faith-filled school for at least part of a child's education, such as their grade-school years. If we want the Faith to be the center of our family life, we will naturally seek a school that embodies that commitment.

Nonetheless, even among Catholics, what we seek for in a school might shift as our children enter higher levels of education, such as high school or college, when perhaps our focus shifts to the array of educational and extra-curricular experiences available and to the preparation that a school can offer for a successful career. This is a natural response to the pressures that societal expectations place on young people. It also, I believe, often reflects our own expectations, based on our own schooling, of what a school experience ought to be and include.

The question may further be asked, then, why choose a *classical* Catholic school, one that makes a point of pursuing truth, goodness, and beauty for their own sakes? Conventional education typically prides itself on measuring its success by its concrete “output,” i.e., the high-school, college, and/or career success that its graduates achieve. Entire educational philosophies are constructed around ideals such as “preparing students to be active participants in a global economy and society.” Learning how to pursue the truth with a contemplative gaze and philosophical depth does not appear to fit well with that educational focus.

All of this, of course, is the preliminary to the larger questions: What is the *end* of education? What is a truly *excellent* education? How are we – parents, teachers, students, administrators – pursuing this excellence as a school community, in our context? And these questions are what we will begin to look at in next week’s newsletter!

Michaelmas Festival

This year, in place of a “fall festival,” we will be celebrating Michaelmas on Friday, September 27th from 1-3 in the afternoon. “Michaelmas” is a name that derives from “St. Michael’s Mass,” which falls on September 29th and which is on a Sunday this year. In England, this would mark the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the fall term (if only!). In the current liturgical calendar, this solemnity honors the three archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, providing us a perfect day to highlight our households. Our teachers are working to organize household games and competitions for grades K-8, and a group of parents has been working to help organize the festivity of the event. This is an all-school event, and we would love to have parents join us and be part of the fun, whether or not you are volunteering for something specific. Please also pray for good weather!