



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

September 3rd, 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 3rd

5th-9th Girls Lector Training, 3:20-4:05, church (see email from Mr. Votel)

ESP Begins

September 4th

Dress-up Day

September 5th

Back-to-School Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m., parish hall

September 8th
Parish Picnic, 1-4 p.m.

September 20th
School Votive Mass to the Holy Spirit and Procession/Blessing

September 23rd
October Lunch Orders Due



From the Headmaster

I look forward to seeing you all this Thursday evening at 6:30 in the parish hall. After the introductory session, we will run three classroom sessions for parents to visit and hear from classroom teachers. The night will end at 8:30 p.m. Family Handbooks will be available electronically and at back-to-school night in paper form.

Tomorrow is our first dress-up day, which is required for all K-8 students (optional for PreK and upper school). Please refer to the dress code sent out this past summer for guidelines.

It is traditional to open the school year with a votive Mass to the Holy Spirit, Whose light guides our studies. Fr. Bill is currently scheduled to offer this Mass as the school Mass on Friday, September 20, followed by a Eucharistic procession through the school. We would love for parents to join this excellent way to dedicate our school and studies to Our Lord!

The diocese has crafted a novena for the beginning of the school year (see attached), which begins tomorrow and runs through the feast of the Holy Name of Mary (Sept. 12). Please consider praying alongside school communities across the diocese.

Please also pray for our upper schoolers, who will have their beginning-of-the-year retreats later this week at the Tar Paper Shack. The 9th-11th grade boys' retreat, led by Mr. McCoy, will be this Thursday-Friday, and the 9th-grade girls' retreat, led by Miss Benz, will be from Friday-Saturday.

Hiring Announcements

I am pleased to announce the hire of two new teachers, each of whom will share the choral music role at the school.

Tom Oram is excited to join our faculty to teach the K-1 and 6-8 choral music classes. After achieving his bachelor's degree in Music, Humanities, and Ancient Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University, he completed his master's degree at the University of Michigan in musicology. He then completed work for a master's at Catholic University of America. Tom has been a parish music director for the past 15 years. He has been serving the last 8 years in that role at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. His musical education has given him performance-level training in organ, piano, and voice. He has worked in a number of different settings with children of a large range of ages, both in music and other church ministries. With his wife Martha, he has 6 children. Tom is deeply committed to the Catholic Faith and its sacred music tradition. I am looking forward to having him with us!

Teresa Skrobola is greatly looking forward to teaching choral music for the 2nd-3rd grade class, the 4th-5th grade class, and our upper-school girls' schola. Teresa is a member of St. Thomas parish and its schola. She has sung for many years with church choirs and has received a rich grounding in our sacred music tradition. She has taught Spanish for 3 years at the Christ the King Co-op and with the Explorers Homeschool Program. Having attended a number of week-long Colloquia with the Church Music of America, Teresa has acquired a deep love and passion for sacred chant and polyphony, and for choral music generally. I am excited to see her work with the students as we continue to develop a choral music as an integral part of our curriculum!

Tom will be able to start this Thursday, and Teresa this Wednesday (tomorrow). Each class will continue to have two choral music classes per week. Along with Emily De Long, who continues to lead the upper-school boys' schola, our two new teachers will help us to keep music as an active presence at the school.

Lunch Ordering

Thanks for your feedback on hot lunches at St. Thomas. We plan to continue offering the same (or similar) line-up of lunches every day but Wednesday. Lunch-ordering has been opened on FACTS, and orders for October are due September 23rd.