



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

October 14th, 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 ~

October 18th

Dress-down Day

End of Margaret Mary Term

October 23rd

Lunch orders due

Report Cards Published

October 24th-25th

No school: Teacher PD with ICLE

October 29th

PSAT (Juniors)

Wine and Poetry Night, school library 6:30-8:00 (details below)

October 30th

School All-Saints' Celebration (see below)

October 31st

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

November 1st

No School – All Saints' Day (holy day of obligation)

November 7th

Upper-School Open House, school library 6:30-8:00

November 8th

School EF Mass – Sung (chant) Requiem

Chili cook-off, parish hall 6:00-9:00 p.m.

November 11th

Martinmas Celebration (details forthcoming)

November 19th

Art and Poetry Night (required student attendance), parish hall 6:30-8:00

Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:

<https://sta2school.flocknote.com/dashboard>



Upper-School Performances at Assembly Today

This morning at assembly, the whole school enjoyed two performances from our upper-schoolers. The 9th-grade girls performed a scene adapted by Miss Schoenle from Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. The 9th-11th boys performed a scene from *Prince Caspian*. Thank you to Mr. McCoy for preparing the students and directing these performances! We look forward to further productions!







From the Headmaster

This week, on October 16th, is Margaret Mary Alacoque's feast day. Our first term is named after this great saint who helped begin the devotion to the Sacred Heart. I asked students, building on a quotation that Mr. Pietryga had shared from St. Catherine of Siena, to ask for St. Margaret Mary's intercession this week, that their hearts, as hers was, might become transformed into Christ's, allowing them to combat self-love and grow in the supernatural virtue of charity – loving God above all else and loving our neighbor with the love of God.

This week also I look forward to having our kindergartners and first graders sing a short piece as a communion meditation for our all-school Mass this Thursday. Our choral music teachers – Miss De Long (Boys' Schola), Miss Skrobola (2nd-5th and

Girls' Schola), and Mr. Oram (K-1st and 6th-8th) have been working with their respective students not only to teach them the basics of music and singing, but also to prepare them to be able to sing the Mass and sing at Mass. We hope to have further opportunities for various student levels to sing at Mass this school year.

Just a reminder that the end of our first term is this Friday. As a note, this year, the term endings have been shifted so as to end Nicholas term before Christmas break. Though this makes the first and second terms a little shorter, it allows for everything, including exams, to be wrapped up in December. Please check on FACTS for current grades. If they haven't already, invites to sign up for parent-teacher conferences (Oct. 31) should be going out soon.

Our next two weeks will be three-day weeks! Next week, our full-time teachers will be joining their counterparts from St. Mary's in Williamston (the other "classical" parish school in the diocese) and Resurrection in Lansing for a two-day workshop with the Institute of Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) on mimetic instruction. I look forward to another enriching time with our fellow teachers and ICLE!

All Saints' Celebration

The school will celebrate All Saints' Day on October 30th. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed as a saint. Those not wishing to dress up may come in their school uniform. After Mass, we will pray a litany of saints as a school in the church. We will then make our way to the parish hall to allow the K-4 students to show off their costumes. In the days leading up, 5th-11th graders will be participating in a class competition to deliver the best encomium, a short speech offered in praise – in this case – of the saint they are dressed as. The winner from each class will receive a prize and deliver the short speech to the school that morning. During the course of the day, classes will be having their own celebrations as well.

Poetry Discussion Night (Oct. 29)

Miss Benz and Miss Schoenle, our upper- and middle-school literature teachers, will be leading a reading and discussion of George Herbert's "Mattens" and "Evensong" the evening of Tuesday, October 29th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the school library. No prior reading or preparation is necessary, though both poems can be readily found online. Come enjoy wine, light refreshments and the beauty of poetry!

November 8th Extraordinary Form School Requiem Mass

Our next EF school Mass will be on November 8th, which falls within the octave of All Saints, a perfect time to offer a Requiem Mass for the faithful departed. This will be a great opportunity for students to focus on a major liturgical theme for the month of November and participate in a spiritual work of mercy.

Upper-School Open House

Our open house for the upper (high) school will be held in the school library at 6:30 p.m. Please help spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the upper grades. We are excited to be adding the final grade next year!