



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admiratione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 Nicholas Term: Meekness

- Moderating anger according to right reason



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

November 19<sup>th</sup>

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

November 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Dress-down day**

November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Parent Association Meeting, place TBD 2:00 p.m.**

November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Thanksgiving Break**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee, school library, 8:30-9:15 a.m. (see below)  
Re-enrollment/Enrollment opens**

December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Skit before Mass, church 8:00 a.m.**

December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Advent Lessons and Carols (required student attendance), church 6:30-7:30  
p.m.**

December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Second Friday Mass and Gathering - Cookie Exchange (see below)**

December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Half day (11:50 a.m. dismissal), last day before Christmas break**

**Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:**

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



## **Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee**

School parents, join Michael at the school chapel on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, directly after assembly (at 8:30 a.m.), to pray together for our school. Following that, we will have coffee and light refreshments in the library while I talk about current happenings at the school and field any questions you might have. The goal is to go no more than 45 minutes or so, letting out by 9:15. I plan to host more of these over the remainder of the school year to give parents a chance to come together in prayer and to have another touchpoint with me about the school. I look forward to seeing you there!

## **Second Friday Mass and Cookie Exchange – Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**

The next second-Friday Mass and gathering will be a Christmas cookie exchange in the parish hall! Join us on St. Lucy's Feast Day for the school Mass and adoration, followed by the exchange, beginning a little after 9:00. Please use the sign-up link

below to RSVP and note the cookie(s) you plan to bring. We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEAA2FA02-53375175-stthomas>

## From the Headmaster

Today at assembly I asked the students how to measure true success for their lives. This is something we addressed in our newsletter series earlier this school year. I asked them after talking about the life of St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr, whose feast day is this Friday. Her life was, in worldly terms, not successful, since it ended in an early death for her and those closest to her. Yet we celebrate her life as a triumph, if we weigh it according to the quality of her love. As I told the students, when thinking about their futures (especially for the older kids), the preeminent question ought to be, what can I do that will lead me to love God above all things? Every other consideration is secondary to that.

I also highlighted the first sentence of the school mission statement, which frames the rest: forming disciples of Christ. I told them that, if we are not striving for that as a school, we are missing the whole point of why we even exist as a school.

Next Sunday, in the ordinary form calendar, will be the feast of Christ the King, who reigns now, in and through His Church, and eternally as King of the universe. That means that we are about to end the current liturgical year and begin a new one as the season of Advent commences on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Focusing on the “four last things” and the reign of Christ naturally leads into Advent, when we anticipate His First and Second Comings.

## St. Thomas Students Excel at K of C Spelling Bee!

In the 4-6th grade bee, Savina Jeyaraj triumphed and Mia Arambula-Chavez placed second.

In the 7th-9th grade bee, Serena Jeyaraj triumphed and Sebastian Jeyaraj placed second.

All of the above have qualified for the Diocesan Bees which will be held on Saturday morning, January 18th, after daily Mass. Any St. Thomas families would be welcome to come and cheer them on.

## Reminders/Looking Ahead

- Looking ahead, please note our **Art and Poetry Night** on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is a required event for students and a wonderful opportunity for them to show off some aspects of their work at school.
- Our next **Parent Association Meeting** will be on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., place still to be confirmed.
- As I explained in my September 23<sup>rd</sup> newsletter, our **re-enrollment** process has been moved up to December this year, opening on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Your enrollment packets will auto-fill from the previous year, and you will be asked to review them, fill in any further information required, pay the registration fee, and submit. We will also be opening up enrollment to new families at that time as well. As usual, returning families will have priority, up until the **December 31<sup>st</sup>** deadline, after which we will receive families on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for **financial aid** will open on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The diocesan deadline for those is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Please note also that our winter school choral music concert will be an **Advent Lessons and Carols** the evening of December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-7:30. This is another all-school (K-11) event that is required for students.

## Mr. Votel and Miss Schoenle Are Getting Married!

All St. Thomas students, parents, faculty, and staff are invited to their Wedding Mass on November 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30, at St. Thomas! There will be an STA group photo taken immediately after the Mass. Please pray for them as they prepare for this sacrament, and they hope to see you there!