



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

November 25th, 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 26th

Parent Association Meeting, Zingerman's Coffeehouse 2:00 p.m.

November 27th-December 1st

Thanksgiving Break

December 2nd

Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee, school library, 8:30-9:15 a.m. (see below)

Re-enrollment/Enrollment opens

December 11th

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

December 12th

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

December 13th

Second Friday Gathering - Cookie Exchange, room 252, 2 p.m.

December 20th

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

Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:

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



Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

I thank God for the great gift that you (parents) and students are to this school. Each of you is a gift, and it is a privilege to serve you and partner with you in helping your child(ren) be formed in Christ, the Father's great Gift to us!

Art and Poetry Night





From the Headmaster

It was wonderful to see you all at Art and Poetry Night last week. As I told the students at assembly this morning, I was impressed by the art and performances the students displayed and the work the teachers did to prepare them!

Not only are we celebrating Thanksgiving this week, but we are also commemorating the 125th anniversary of the church's dedication on Tuesday. At assembly we talked about the effort and significance behind building the physical church. It is a special place built to honor God and to house the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Our participation at our local church is the primary means by which we are living members of the Universal Church that Christ founded. I drew an analogy to the fact that we are a whole school in which we participate primarily through our individual classrooms. We are also members of each other, as members of one Body of Christ, the Church, and we are called to be a gift to each other in the way we love and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I also highlighted the deep connection between offering thanks and the Mass. Eucharist means "thanksgiving," and there is no higher act of thanksgiving that we could possibly offer to the Father than the sacrifice of His own Son, sacramentally re-presented on the altar. I encouraged the students, and I encourage you, to make an effort to have Mass as part of your Thanksgiving-day schedule. We as Catholics have the best way possible to mark this national holiday!

When we come back from break, we'll hit the ground running! Advent begins on December 1st! Enrollment opens on December 2nd. Financial Applications can be initiated at that point as well. For re-enrollment, you will be able to access enrollment (not application) packets via your FACTS family portal. For enrolling a new child, you will first need to fill out the application packet, also accessed via the family portal.

As registration approaches, I am including the attached 2025-2026 tuition rates for PreK-12. Rates for the preschool remain the same, while the grade-school base rate has been raised \$250, with multi-child discounts calculated according to the same percentage decreases as in years past. The rate for one student in the upper school has been raised \$500, with multi-student discounts adjusted down for more generous discounts. The increases are largely a product of our ongoing budget analysis, in the context of higher costs across the board, with the parish. As always, we are committed to helping make this school financially viable as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Reminders/Looking Ahead

- Our next **Parent Association Meeting** will be on November 26th at 2:00 p.m. at Zingerman's Coffehouse
- As I explained in my September 23rd newsletter, our **re-enrollment** process has been moved up to December this year, opening on **December 2nd**. 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 31st** deadline, after which we will receive families on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for **financial aid** will open on December 1st. The diocesan deadline for those is March 1st.
- Our K-4 students, under the direction of Mrs. Lashaway, will be performing our annual Our Lady of Guadalupe skit before the school Mass on December 11th.
- Please note also that our winter school choral music concert will be an **Advent Lessons and Carols** the evening of December 12th, from 6:30-7:30. This is another all-school (K-11) event that is required for students.

Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee

School parents, join Michael at the school chapel on Monday, December 2nd, 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!

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Second-Friday Cookie Exchange – Dec. 13th, 2 p.m.

The next second-Friday gathering will be an afternoon St. Lucy's Day Christmas cookie exchange! All parents are invited! We decided to move the time to 2:00 p.m. to encourage wider participation. The parish hall won't be available, so we will gather in room 252 on the parish side of the building complex. 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>

Mr. Votel and Miss Schoenle Are Getting Married!

All St. Thomas students, parents, faculty, and staff are invited to their Wedding Mass on November 30th, 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!