



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

November 11th, 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 15th

After-Mass Parent Social, parish hall (see below)

November 19th

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

November 22nd

Dress-down day

November 26th

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

November 27th-December 1st

Thanksgiving Break

December 2nd

Re-enrollment/Enrollment opens

December 11th

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

December 12th

Advent Lessons and Carols, church 6:30-7:30 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>



Martinmas Celebration Today!

The weather held nicely for a festive afternoon, kicked off by our “herald” announcing the presentation of scenes from St. Martin’s life, put on by our upper schoolers! Household relay races were given a St. Martin’s Day twist with the use of capes as the baton. Upper-school boys ran the track race with the balloon arch marking the start and finish.

They were followed by the teachers’ footrace, won by Mr. McCoy, followed by yours truly and Mr. Votel!

Many thanks to all the parents – Pia Gavigan, Nate Roberts, Mercy Amadi, Erin Deemer, Erin Savarino, Jessica Moilanen, Karen McClelland, Michelle Schultz, and anyone else I’m forgetting! – who helped put together the balloons, cardboard geese, and treats!











From the Headmaster

Happy Feast of St. Martin of Tours and Veterans' Day! The coincidence of these provided a wonderful source for reflection during our assembly this morning. One thing in particular that I highlighted was how St. Martin exemplified the virtue of meekness. I pointed out that his example was sorely needed in our current society, in which people are quick to take offense and to react, especially in the online environment. Meekness helps us to not operate out of our sense of being injured or offended, or a sense of needing to get back at a perceived enemy or threat. It helps us also to check our speech, which is frequently the way that we lash out at others in anger. St. Martin was a man of peace, a man who worked to establish the reign of God in pagan Gaul and who embraced the monastic life. He worked with great strength, not on the basis of over-powering others, but on the basis of his trust in God.

As I told the students, meekness is a sign of true strength, not wimpiness. Indeed, it works well with the virtue of courage, since it keeps us from lashing out at others behind their backs or from behind a screen, ways of acting that are often signs that anger, insecurity, and fear are predominant in us. Meekness helps us to perceive others more clearly and to proceed with love and courage to meet people face-to-face, including those that have offended or injured us. This is, I believe, particularly relevant for us who are part of a Christian community!

Last week was a full week! Our upper-school open house, held last Thursday evening, was attended by 9 prospective families, some from St. Thomas grade school and some from other schools. The evening was highlighted by short testimonials from three of our upper schoolers and two of our upper-school teachers. Your prayers for the continued growth and success of the upper school are much appreciated!

The following morning we had the privilege of participating in a Requiem Mass offered by Fr. Bill. Our choral music teachers, Tom Oram, Teresa Skrobola, and Emily DeLong coordinated the music such that every class led the singing for at least one part of the Mass. This was a beautiful opportunity to cap off the “octave” of All Saints and to offer prayers, as a school, for the faithful departed.

Last Friday evening, we ended the week with the Chili Cook-off, which was a great success. The evening was attended by over 100 people, with many varieties of delicious chili to sample! Congratulations to the Millers for winning the judges’ award, and to the Dauws for receiving the people’s choice award for best chili. Many thanks to Melissa Canzano and her team of volunteers for putting this wonderful event together. Final figures are still being calculated. Funds will go towards athletic department needs, such as new player chairs and equipment.

Reminders/Looking Ahead

- Looking ahead, please note our **Art and Poetry Night** on November 19th 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 26th at 2:00 p.m., place still to be confirmed.
- 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.

- 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.

Poinsettia Sale!

Decorate for Christmas and help make St. Thomas School more beautiful by purchasing Christmas poinsettias, wreaths and roping. Funds raised will help purchase the 3 pieces of artwork below (with frames) to adorn the front hall of our school. These pieces highlight the Holy Family and the childhood of Jesus.

Orders and payment may be submitted online

(<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/Tp5vBX9m>) through FACTS until **Monday, November 18th** at 12pm. Your items will be available for pick-up on **Tuesday, December 10th** in the Parish Hall from 12pm - 4pm. If you have any questions, please call Laura at 734-769-0911.



After-Mass Parent Social This Friday!

All parents (and their at-home kids!) are welcome to join us for a parent social this coming Friday (11/15) in the Parish Hall following the 8 a.m. School Mass. Coffee & donuts, bagels, juice, and fruit will be available, as will childcare. We look forward to visiting with you, to building up friendships and relationships among the parents and future St. Thomas students, and to praying for our beloved dead and all the Holy Souls. Donations are welcome to help cover food cost, but your simple presence would be more valued! RSVP most appreciated, though not required! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEAA2FA02-53162378-november>

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!