



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

November 4<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 6<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-up Day**

November 7<sup>th</sup>

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

November 8<sup>th</sup>

**School EF Mass – Sung (chant) Requiem**

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

November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Martinmas Celebration, 1-3 p.m., Wheeler Park  
Dress-down pants/Household shirt**

November 19<sup>th</sup>

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

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 12<sup>th</sup>

**Advent Lessons and Carols, church 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

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

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



## **All Saints' Celebration**

Last Wednesday, we began our special observance of the feast after Mass with a litany of saints, compiled from the saints that students choose to dress as. In the parish hall, the Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade classes were able to show their costumes and identify the saints they represented. Students from the 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades competed to represent their classes in delivering an "encomium" in front of the school. This was a short speech in praise of a saint. Congratulations to **Michael Russ, Henry Sauter, Clare Moilanen, Ellie Dauw, Charlotte Hanley, and Paul Restuccia** for being chosen to represent their classes! Each delivered an excellent encomium and received a large-sized candy as a prize. Students left pleased with the Headmaster's surprise gift of a no-homework day. Later in the day, classes held various celebrations, including the middle schoolers, who competed in households in All Saints' Jeopardy!







## From the Headmaster

At assembly this morning, I told students about our upcoming celebrations. This Friday, our school Mass will be a Requiem Mass, offered for the faithful departed. November 8<sup>th</sup> falls within the unofficial Octave of All Saints, a time when the faithful are particularly encouraged to visit a cemetery and offer prayers for the poor souls in Purgatory. Next Monday, we will have our Martinmas festival, which will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Wheeler Park with a procession punctuated by stations at which our upper schoolers will perform short vignettes of St. Martin's life. This will be followed by races, organized by grade and household. Students will be able to wear their household shirts and wear dress-down approved pants. The time at Wheeler Park will conclude with some special, Martinmas-themed treats!

In light of the election tomorrow, we also talked about our federal and state constitutions. You can quiz your child(ren) to see if they remember the three branches of government and their correspondence to the first three articles of the Constitution! I told them that their formation at the school is helping to prepare them to become responsible voters and good citizens that will help to defend and uphold the values of our democratic republic. Finally, I asked for their prayers tomorrow, for the election and for our country.

Last Tuesday, Miss Schoenle, Miss Benz, Mr. Votel, Mr. McCoy, and I had a lovely evening with 6 parents (from five families) as we discussed two poems by George Herbert (“Matins” and “Evensong”) over a glass of wine. Everyone entered into the discussion and reflected together on the profound truths and imagery of the poems. Miss Schoenle and Miss Benz did a fantastic job of drawing out the meaning and beauty of the poems as they led us through each one! We hope to host another of these events during our third term – stay tuned!

Thank you to all who were able to make it out to parent-teacher conferences last Thursday. It is a privilege to work with your children and partner with you in helping to form them in truth and virtue. It is no easy thing to be a parent in today’s context. It is our hope that we are able to serve and support you in the high calling that you have undertaken, with the goal of helping your children get to heaven.

## Reminders/Looking Ahead

- Don’t forget to register for the **Chili Cookoff** on November 8<sup>th</sup>! This is a fantastic opportunity to support our athletics department while having a great time and delicious chili! See attached flyers.
- 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.
- 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.

## Upper-School Open House – Nov. 7

Our open house for the upper (high) school will be held in the school library on November 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **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!