



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

December 2<sup>nd</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 ~

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**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 Gathering - Cookie Exchange, room 252, 2 p.m.**

December 20<sup>th</sup>

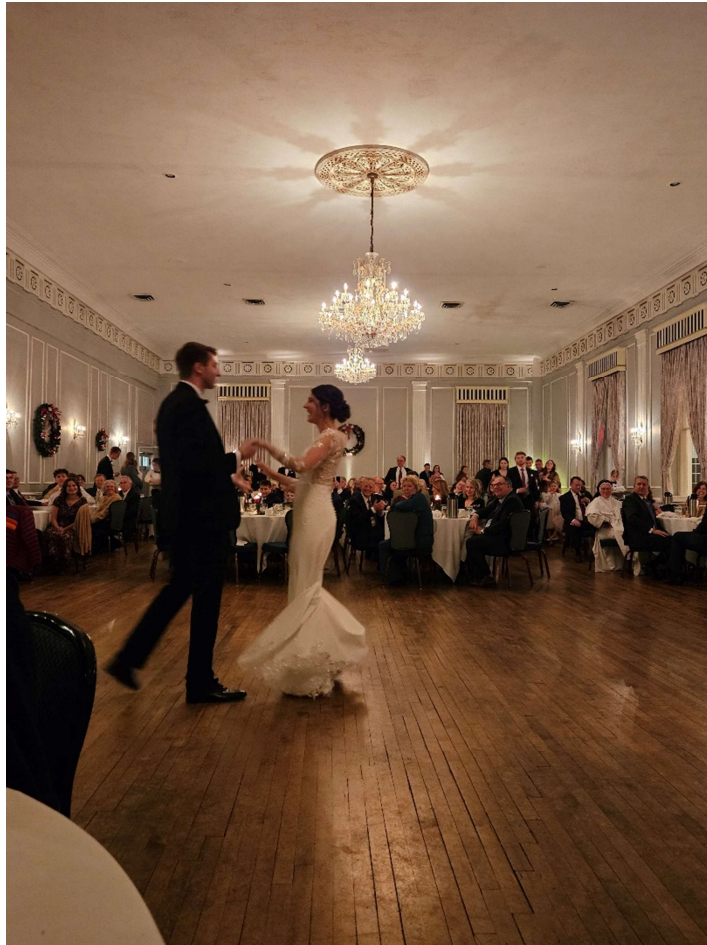
**Half day (11:50 a.m. dismissal), last day before Christmas break**

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

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



**Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Votel!**



## Boys' Basketball

Last Tuesday, the JV and varsity boys' basketball teams played hard-fought games against St. Mary's (Pinckney). JV came out on top by a wide margin, while the varsity team fell to their opponents after significantly closing the scoring gap to end the game.



## From the Headmaster

Welcome back! It feels as if we officially transitioned seasons in less than a week! More importantly, we've transitioned into a new liturgical year. At assembly today, we talked about how fitting it is that Advent occurs during the darkest time of the year. In the midst of the darkness of this world, we wait and look with hope for Our Lord's two comings – the Last Judgment still to come and the Incarnation, re-presented in the liturgy. It can be hard to wait when the world already celebrates this time as the Christmas season. The virtue of hope is rooted in trust, which allows God to come when *He* chooses, not when we choose. During this time when we look for the coming of the Light of the world, we can practice the penance of waiting.

In the midst of this dark time, when the days continue to shorten, two feast days are coming to bring light and hope. This Friday we will mark St. Nicholas' feast with a small treat for the students – all they need is a shoe! Next Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate St. Lucy's day (it is also the day of the cookie exchange!). The very name "Lucy" comes from the Latin for "light," and she is often depicted with a garland and candles.

It was a delight to see so many St. Thomas families and students at Daniel and Grace's wedding this past Saturday. I am hoping – when I get a hold of it! – to be able to share the St. Thomas group picture that was taken after Mass. It is a blessing to our community to be able to welcome this new couple who have already done so much in service to our children!

Last Tuesday, Mrs. Hanley, our upper-school guidance counselor, gave an informative presentation to the 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders on the many possibilities available after high school and the routes by which to follow them, all within the context of discerning the Lord's will for their lives. She highlighted for students what actually mattered for applying to colleges and thinking ahead about life paths. She'll be following up soon with the parents of the 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students about her presentation and with further information.

Thanks to the five parents that came to the first Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee with me. We offered a divine mercy chaplet for the school, after which we talked about current and upcoming happenings at the school. These include a renewed emphasis on writing for the middle and upper grades, the emphasis on the liturgical calendar, the upcoming Saints and Scholars campaign, and a review of items from the PA meeting last week. Stay tuned for the next one during Scholastica Term!

## Reminders/Looking Ahead

- Our **re-enrollment** process opens **today!** Your enrollment packets have auto-filled from the previous year, and you are asked to review them, fill in any further information required, pay the registration fee, and submit. Enrollment for new families is also now open. 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 be opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The diocesan deadline for those is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 11<sup>th</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.

## Snow-Day

For **snow days**, we will be using FlockNote to send a text blast. **I will be sending a test message tomorrow morning (Tuesday) at 10 a.m.** As always, in actual snow day situations, an official call to close will go out before 6:30 the morning of, both as a text and email.

## Second-Friday Cookie Exchange – Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. **Childcare will be available!** Please use the sign-up link below to RSVP and note the cookie(s) you plan to bring. For reference, below is an article explaining how a cookie exchange generally works (with plenty of helpful, but not necessary, details!). We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEAA2FA02-53375175-stthomas>  
<https://www.lenox.com/blogs/buying-guide/how-to-host-a-cookie-exchange>

## Mrs. Annette Rigan Memorial Mitten Tree

Once again, we honor the memory of St. Thomas classroom teacher Annette Rigan by collecting new mittens and gloves for needy children and adults on our entryway Christmas Tree. Mrs. Rigan taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at St. Thomas from 1988

until she passed away from breast cancer in 1992. She was loved by all her students and delighted in surprising them each year with a pair of hand-made mittens as a Christmas gift. We hope that you will help honor the gift of learning given by Mrs. Rigan and all the teachers of St. Thomas by donating a pair of new mittens or gloves from now until December 18<sup>th</sup>. Contributions may be hung by your student directly on the Christmas tree that will be in the main hallway. Thank you!