



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### *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 Boniface Term: Religion**

- Giving God His due in worship and service

### **School Lenten Focus: Making Time for Prayer**

Please consider, as a family, how you might dedicate more time to prayer this Lent, and consider also lifting up the school in prayer, that the Lord would continue to guide us and shed His mercy upon us.



### **~ Upcoming Events ~**

March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Solemnity of St. Joseph – EF School Mass**

**PA Meeting – Zingerman’s coffeehouse, 2 p.m.**

March 20<sup>th</sup>

**Michael House Award Day (see below)  
Dale Ahlquist Talk – gym, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Report Cards Published**

March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Half day, 11:50 dismissal  
Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences: 1-5 p.m.**

March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Solemnity of the Annunciation – No School**

March 28<sup>th</sup>

**(No dress-down day due to Reading Month)**

April 4<sup>th</sup>

**Upper-School Drama Performance, Kerrytown Concert House, 2 & 7 p.m.**

April 5<sup>th</sup>

**School Gala – doors open at 5:30**

April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee, school library, 8:30-9:15 a.m.**

April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Art and Poetry Night (attendance required), parish hall, 6:30-8 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE: May 16<sup>th</sup>

**Drama Club Performance, Arthur Miller Theatre, 2 & 7 p.m.**

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

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



## **Scholastica Term Virtue Award Winners**

**Congratulations to the following students on receiving the Scholastica  
Term Virtue Award for Obedience!**

Kindergarten: Nora Caldwell

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Christian Mersino

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Mary Atzinger

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Bernard Atzinger

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Henri Dwyer

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ambrose Lee

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Oliver Derderian

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Clare Moilanen

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: John Lee



## Scholastica Term Angel House Winner: Michael

Congratulations to Michael House on winning the Angel House Competition for Scholastica Term. Members of Michael House will receive a dress-down day and extended recess on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. They will also receive a homework pass to use during Boniface Term.

## From the Headmaster

Happy feast of St. Patrick! I pointed out to students that our parish was formed by a mostly Irish community; certainly it's no accident that our nickname is "the Irish"! To make things even more festive this week, we will celebrate St. Joseph's feast day on Wednesday, for which Mrs. Deemer will be setting up her lovely St. Joseph Table. This week concludes with the Dale Ahlquist talk this Thursday evening and our Friday half day with optional parent-teacher conferences in the afternoon.

At assembly today, we enjoyed a demonstration from the tower-building Michigan Science Olympiad team. Alex Wood, Joseph DiMattia, Sebastian Jeyaraj, and Erik Martire tested one of the towers that they built with glue and balsa wood, demonstrating its structural capacity to suspend a 5-gallon bucket half-filled with sand. Our students competed in a number of events, including tower-building, at this past weekend's MSO tournament. They competed well against some of the top teams in the state, including two fourth-place finishes (each one position away from qualifying for the state tournament). Many thanks to my wife for coordinating all of the events, coaches, and practices, as well as to coaches, teachers, and parent volunteers for all their help!

## School Gala

Now in the last couple of weeks for gala ticket sales (closing March 28<sup>th</sup>), we are hoping to make another push over these coming days to increase our ticket sales and draw in a bigger crowd than last year, especially since we'll have a bigger room to fill this year! As you may have seen, we have plenty of momentum heading into the event with the proposed \$50,000 match for the paddle-raise section of the evening. We have a wonderful opportunity to make a deep impact on the growth of our school. Thank you again for all your efforts in recruiting for this event and participating in it. While we hold the gala to support the school, it also provides a great opportunity for the school parents to have a fun night out!

You can refer others to our school website for ticket purchasing, sponsorships, donations, and other information. <https://sta2.org/school/featured-events/greengoldgala2025/>

## 9th Grade Girls' Sacred Art Mission

Every Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade ladies have been working with Miss Gregor and Miss Benz to work and pray through a mosaic of the seven days of creation. Once completed (by the end of May, God-willing!), their art will replace the fish tiles that currently adorn the preschool entrance to the school. This will provide a chance for the young ladies to make a lasting impact on the school's culture by way of sacred art.

As a little history to the "fish bowl" entrance, some may be under the impression that it is so named due to the presence of the fish. In fact, the name comes from when the hall/entrance area used to have windows on both sides, giving a "fish-bowl" effect. We will be letting go of the fish to make way for something both more ennobling and more meaningful for our school and its mission.

## Drama Performances

This year, we have two performances to look forward to. On Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, our upper schoolers, directed by Mr. McCoy, will be performing *The Wedding Trumps the Funeral*, a one-act/one-scene play I put together. Set in 1950s Cleveland, it looks at an Irish family working through the tension between keeping the Catholic Faith and navigating the modern world. And yes, both an upcoming marriage and a dead person are involved. The upper schoolers will be performing at the Kerrytown Concert House, which is a short walk away from the school. We will be inviting middle schoolers and any parents for the 2 p.m. showing, which will be free. The 7 p.m. showing will be ticketed.

The after-school drama club, led by Mrs. Votel, will be performing *Two Orphans of Boston* at the Arthur Miller Theatre, the same venue as last year, on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are planning on running that day according to the same general plan as last year, with an early dismissal to allow for students to gather at the theater to watch the free matinee at 2 p.m. The ticketed evening performance will follow at 7 p.m.

## March Reading Month

### Special Events in March

- WED, MARCH 19
  - The Feast of St. Joseph- Normal dress code, only the students can wear something red- a shirt, tie, vest, sweater, socks, hairbow, pin, etc. Mrs. Deemer will set up a St. Joseph Table in the school office hallway, and the students can come by before their lunch period to visit the table and receive a St. Joseph cream puff and/or bread.
  
- FRI, MARCH 28
  - Last day to earn points for the reading competitions
  
- GRAND FINALE: MON, MARCH 31
  - During morning assembly, we will have our second annual game of Literary Trivia. Two representatives from each of grades 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> will be selected to compete in trivia competitions (broken up by grade bands) with questions composed by their teachers about literary subjects. Winners of the reading competitions will also be announced.

## Dale Ahlquist Talk, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Dale Ahlquist, celebrated author and speaker and, in Joseph Pearce's estimation, "the greatest living authority" on G.K. Chesterton's life and work, will be giving a talk at 7 p.m. in the school gym on Thursday, March 20th. Mr. Ahlquist co-founded the first Chesterton Academy, a classical high school in Minnesota, which is the flagship school of the Chesterton Schools Network. He will be speaking on "How to Create Complete Thinkers" at 7 p.m., followed by Q & A. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are welcome beginning at 6:30 to explore a selection of Mr. Ahlquist's books for sale. This will be another great opportunity for our parish community to deepen its knowledge of classical education.