



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

May 12<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

## **Habemus Papam! Prayers for our new Holy Father, Leo XIV.**



### **~ Upcoming Events ~**

May 16<sup>th</sup>

**Drama Club Performance, Arthur Miller Theatre, 2:30 & 7 p.m.  
1:45 preschool/2:00 K-11 dismissal; No ESP**

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Extraordinary Form School Mass**

May 26<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day – No school**

May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-down day**

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**End-of-the-Year Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee, 8:30 a.m., school library**

June 4<sup>th</sup>

**Last Day for Preschool**

June 6<sup>th</sup>

**Last Day for K-11: Morning at Island Park: 9-11 a.m.**

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

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



## **May Crowning**

Our 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders did a wonderful job, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Votel, helping to run our May Crowning ceremony and the Maypole dance that followed! This was a beautiful festival for our school to honor Our Lady! Many thanks to Karen McClelland for organizing and teaching the Maypole dance and working with other moms to bring special Marian/blue-colored treats!













## Easter Choral Concert

We had a beautiful evening of singing with a variety of groupings among our student body under the direction of Miss Skrobola, Miss De Long, and Mr. Oram. Great work all around!











## From the Headmaster

It so happened that the day when the new pope was elected, I was in Lansing for a principals' meeting. The students all were able to watch the announcement and opening address and blessing. As I told them this morning, this is a rare occurrence in our times, when popes typically reign 10+ years. Our new pope has plenty of issues facing him as he shepherds the Church during this challenging time, so he'll need plenty of prayer!

## Hiring Announcements

I am pleased to announce the following new hires:



**Christopher Woods** will be starting out this fall as our new, full-time upper-school literature/history teacher. He is currently in Austria finishing up his Master's degree in Sacred Theology through the International Theological Institute. His 5-year program included a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts in the Catholic tradition, followed by two years of focus on theology. He is originally from Indiana, but he has established connections here and is looking forward to making Michigan a more permanent home. Christopher is passionate about the Catholic liberal arts, especially history and literature, and loves engaging in deep conversations with others. I look forward to having him join our faculty and place his gifts at the service of our school!



**Jessica Wood** will be our new full-time, upper-school math/natural science teacher next school year. She is currently teaching two upper-school math courses this year and has gone above and beyond in helping her students and supporting the school in her part-time role. She brings not only her B.A. in mathematics from U-M and her classroom experience with us, but also a love for the Catholic Faith and for natural beauty, which help her to teach in a more integral and impactful way. I am excited to have her with us full-time and to see her gifts play more of a role in the formation of our upper schoolers.

**Angele van Diessen** is excited to join us as a part-time upper-school Latin teacher for next school year. She holds a Bachelor of Philosophy in Classical Languages and Early Christian Literature from Ave Maria University. Over the past 17 years, she has been tutoring and teaching Latin, Greek, and French among the homeschool and St. Augustine Homeschool Enrichment Program communities. She has taught a variety of ages and branched into other subjects as well, including grammar, math, and the culinary arts. Angele will also be helping with our middle-school religion next school year. I am eager to see her work with our students in helping them develop a deeper understanding and love of the Latin language.





## *Two Orphans of Boston Performance—May 16<sup>th</sup>*

For the drama club performance at Arthur Miller Theater this year, we will once more have an early dismissal (at 2 p.m. for the K-11; preschool dismissing at 1:45 p.m.) to allow parents to shuttle students over to the theater for a free matinee performance. We will have teachers present at the entrance to lead students in, seat them, and chaperone during the performance, which will begin at 2:30 and run until around 4 p.m. The evening, ticketed performance will follow at 7 p.m.

For the evening performance, the parking lot next to the theater will be reserved, with a \$10 parking fee. For the matinee, the theater has a drop-off circle. Drivers will need to scavenge for parking among the various north campus lots that have paid public parking. I have attached a parking map for your reference. “NC27” is the lot directly next to the theater, which is called “Walgreen Drama Center” on the map.

## *Yearbook Ordering!*

Yearbook ordering is now open via FACTS forms at <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/3YSN17aX>. Cost this year is \$26. Ordering remains open while supplies last! The yearbooks will likely be delivered by the end of May.





