

St. Stanislaus School
January 28, 2019
Friendship With Jesus: Living a Eucharistic Life

Fear is such a powerful emotion for humans that when we allow it to take us over, it drives compassion right out of our hearts. - St. Thomas Aquinas

Saint of the Week: St. Thomas Aquinas - He was born of a noble family in southern Italy, and was educated by the Benedictines. In the normal course of events he would have joined that order and taken up a position suitable to his rank; but he decided to become a Dominican instead. His family were so scandalized by this disreputable plan that they kidnapped him and kept him prisoner for over a year; but Thomas was more obstinate than they were, and he had his way at last.

He studied in Paris and in Cologne under the great philosopher St Albert the Great. It was a time of great philosophical ferment. The writings of Aristotle, the greatest philosopher of the ancient world, had been newly rediscovered, and were becoming available to people in the West for the first time in a thousand years. Many feared that Aristotelianism was flatly contradictory to Christianity, and the teaching of Aristotle was banned in many universities at this time.

Into this chaos Thomas brought simple, straightforward sense. Truth cannot contradict truth: if Aristotle (the great, infallible pagan philosopher) appears to contradict Christianity (which we know by faith to be true), then either Aristotle is wrong or the contradiction is in fact illusory. And so Thomas studied, and taught, and argued, and eventually the simple, common-sense philosophy that he worked out brought an end to the controversy. Out of his work came many writings on philosophy and theology, including the *Summa Theologiae*, a standard textbook for many centuries and still an irreplaceable resource today. Out of his depth of learning came, also, the dazzling poetry of the liturgy for Corpus Christi. And out of his sanctity came the day when, celebrating Mass, he had a vision that, he said, made all his writings seem like so much straw; and he wrote no more. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire us, like St Thomas, to love God with our minds as well as our hearts; and if we come across a fact or a teaching that seems to us to contradict our faith, let us not reject it but investigate it: for the truth that it contains can never contradict the truth that is God. (*Universalis*)

Thank you to all who participated in the opening Mass for Catholic Schools week on Sunday. Photos can be found on the school gallery page. Students who attended Mass on Sunday in uniform may dress down this Friday.

The dress down day for the benefit of the victims of the Four Winds Fire raised \$400. The money raised was given to the Firefighters Wives Association to use for assistance to the families displaced by the fire. Thank you for your generosity.

Contracts for the 2019-2020 academic year are going home today. They are due back on **Friday, March 1.** If you questions, call Mrs. Cunningham in the office.

The Knights of Columbus are offering a \$500 scholarship for THIS school year. The applications are available in the school office and must be returned to the school office by **8 a.m. on February 1.**

Author R.M. Clark, who will be visiting the school on Wednesday, will remain after dismissal to sign copies of his books. Details are in the attached flyer.

This latter portion of the year will see the addition of Genius Hour school-wide. Genius provides one hour per week for students to explore a topic in-depth. It unleashes creativity, teaches time management and hones presentation skills. At the early childhood level, this will be a collaborative effort. Watch for more information from your child's teacher.

The Book Fair will run during Catholic Schools Week. Preview days are Monday afternoon and Tuesday. Sales will be conducted Wednesday-Friday, including during the Open House.

Catholic Schools Week is here! We have a great week planned:

Monday, January 28: Minute To Win It Competition - lots of laughter is coming from the gym as I write this!

Tuesday, January 29: Pajama Day and Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, January 30: Visit by local children's author R. M. Clark

Thursday, January 31: Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come and bring family and friends! Enjoy all the activities we have planned!

Auditorium: Book Fair, Club Information, Refreshments, Bishop Connolly High School representatives

Preschool: Imagination Station

Kindergarten: Weather Study

Grade 1: Safari

Grade 2: Polar Habitat

Grade 3: Massachusetts History Makers

Grade 4: Invention Convention

Grade 5: Living Wax Museum

Grade 6: Student Designed Math Games

Grade 7: History Fun

Grade 8: Massachusetts Authors

Friday, February 1: Big Buddy-Little Buddy

Diaper Drive: We will launch a disposable diaper drive on January 27 that will last through February 15. Any size is fine, but sizes 4, 5 and 6 are the most needed. The diapers collected will be given to Catholic Social Services for distribution to needy families. Donations can be left outside the school office. Thank you!

The Kid's Raffle has begun and will last through Catholic Schools Week. Tickets are \$5 for a sheet of 25. There are lots of prizes such as a class pancake breakfast, sous-chef for a day, principal for a day, use of the water hose on Dyngus Day, etc. Winners will be pulled on February 1.

The Yearbook Club will meet this Thursday from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Robotics Club (training and competition) **will not meet** this week.

The Dorothy Vaill Scholarship applications for Catholic school students for the academic year 2019-20 are now available at <http://www.holyunionsisters.org/dorothy-vaill-fund/> . **The application deadline is February 15, 2019.**

The **FACE (formerly St. Mary's Fund) scholarship applications for 2019-2020** are now available online at <https://online.factsmgt.com/>. **The deadline for application is February 15.** Remember that you must re-apply every year for this scholarship.

The Virginia Winiarski Lowney Scholarship Applications for 2019-2020 are available in the school office. The Lowneys have provided for 12 \$500 scholarships. **Deadline is March 1, 2019.**

Miss Willis

If you are able to provide baked goods for the Open House on Thursday, January 31, please return the form below by Wednesday so that we can plan.

Child's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Item: (if known) _____