

VOL. 1, ISSUE 4 | DECEMBER 17, 2021

CLASSICAL TIMES



Updates for the parents of St. Thomas More Academy



DATES TO REMEMBER

Dear Parents....

It's been an honor to serve as STMA's 1st Head of School. It's only been four months since the first day of school, but thanks to God, our wonderful staff members and teachers, and all of you and your children, I am handing something beautiful to our new Head, Tony Biese. We've had several prospective families visit the school over the past few weeks, and one mother told me that she was particularly struck by the sense of peace at STMA. Another mom told me that her son wants to come to STMA because the 4/5 students were so kind to him when he shadowed for a day. At a recent staff meeting, we read an article explaining that the purpose of education is to prepare students to adore God for eternity, and each of the teachers was able to connect this sublime goal with his or her daily work in the classroom. There have been challenges these first few months, but praise God, something beautiful has come into being.

I am confident that Tony is the perfect person to take our nascent school and help it grow into the K-12 academy we envision. While I'm grateful to take a step back, I want to assure all of you that I am not going anywhere. The founders of STMA are committed to the school for the long-term, and as I retire from being the Interim Head, I'm excited to reassume the position of Vice President of the Board.

May you and your families be showered with peace and joy, the fruits of love, this Christmas season.

*Dr. Margaret Blume Freddoso
Head of School*

- Lessons and Carols - Dec. 20
- Christmas Break - Dec. 23 - Jan. 9
- Speaker Series - Jan. 28

The students of STMA will perform Lessons and Carols at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at 6:00 PM on Monday, December 20. Family and friends are welcome!

Christmas Break begins on Thursday, December 23, and continues through January 9. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

STMA's second Speaker Series event will be held on Friday, January 28, at 7:30 PM at the home of Margaret and Peter Freddoso. Our speaker, Tommy Curtin, is presenting on the relationship between Catholic schools and Catholic homes. Please RSVP to mfreddoso@stmasb.org. Hope to see you there!

Student Corner



**Georgie Doran,
Kindergarten**

Q: Whose feast day did we celebrate?

A: St. Nicholas

Q: What can you tell me about him?

A: He was a bishop.

Q: What special thing did we do to celebrate St. Nicholas?

A: We put candy in the shoes.

Q: Did you enjoy it?

A: Yes!

Q: What do you know about St. Nicholas?

A: He helped the poor and was a bishop.

Q: How did we celebrate his feast?

A: We took off one of our shoes and he put candy in it. We got candy cane flavored chocolate kisses.

Q: What liturgical season are we celebrating?

A: Advent

Q: What are we doing during Advent?

A: We are preparing for Jesus. I am reading a little book every Sunday that helps me to prepare.

**Roisin Sullivan,
1st grade**



**Madeline Hutchinson,
2nd grade**

Q: What did you learn about this week in "Our Faith"?

A: I learned that if a lamb runs away from the shepherd and the shepherd finds it again, then it carries the lamb on its shoulders and it breaks their leg.

Q: Why does the shepherd break the leg?

A: So that the lamb cannot run away and the shepherd can keep the lamb on his shoulders until it can run again, and also so that the lamb can always be near the shepherd and learn his voice again

Q: Why did you learn about the shepherd and the lamb?

A: Because God is our shepherd and we are the sheep.

Community Intentions

- For Miriam Eden Grace, born to Stephanie and Shawn Storer on November 9th. Miriam is the newest sibling of STMA students Jonah (5th), Moses (2nd), and Hannah (K).
- For the repose of the soul of John Edward Reynolds, paternal grandfather of Olive Reynolds (4th), who passed away on the evening of November 17th.





**Moses Storer,
2nd grade**

Q: What quest did you go on in Mr. Furneri's class?

A: We went on a quest to find the Ark of the Covenant and we found that Mary was the new Ark.

Q: What was the old Ark?

A: The old Ark was covered in pure gold. It had incorruptible wood. And, it had the Ten Commandments in it. And, there was a glory cloud over it and there were angels on it.

Q: How is Mary the new Ark of the Covenant?

A: Mary is covered in pure gold because she is born without sin and she is incorruptible because she never died - God just made her go up to heaven. The Ten Commandments are the law and Jesus is the law. Oh, and there was manna inside the Ark of the Covenant and the manna is like the host and Jesus is the host... There was also a staff in the Ark of the Covenant and priests have staffs and Jesus is a priest. And, the Ark of the Covenant stayed in the hills of Judea for three months and Mary stayed in the hills of Judea for three months and David leapt in front of the Ark of the Covenant and John the Baptist leapt in front of Mary.

Q: What have you enjoyed most at STMA so far?

A: I liked going to the Nutcracker. I think that was my favorite thing. I hope to act in the Nutcracker next year.

Q: What did you like about the Nutcracker?

A: I liked the music.

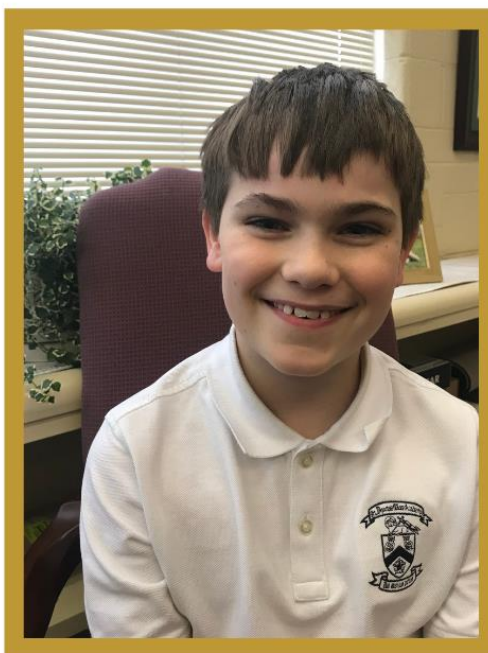
Q: If you could have any part in the Nutcracker which part would you want?

A: The Russian dance

Q: What are you looking forward to over Christmas break?

A: Playing ping pong with my cousins. We have a big tournament!

**Patrick Wilson,
4th grade**



**Isabel Kloska,
5th grade**

Q: I heard that you gave a talk to your class recently. What was it about?

A: Doing virtue not to get a virtue card. It's not all about just doing virtue in front of the teacher so that you get a virtue card, but doing it daily at home and at school.

Q: Why is that important?

A: It's important to constantly do good and not just do it just to be seen.

Q: What could be the danger in doing a good thing just to get a virtue card?

A: You can get caught up in yourself trying to be the center.

Q: And, is virtue about you?

A: No! It's about doing it for God and to glorify God and to do it daily to make the world a better place.



Thank you,

Margaret Freddoso, for serving as the First Head of School at St. Thomas More Academy! You have been a truly unstoppable force bringing Catholic classical education to life in downtown South Bend. Your unwavering commitment, countless sacrifices, and joyful self-giving made the founding of St. Thomas More Academy not merely a grand idea but a concrete reality. Your service will not be forgotten!

- STMA Faculty/Staff



Margaret, you are:

"Indominable!"
~Emily Nye

"Courageous!"
~Peter McAuliffe

"Humble"
~Christen-Marie
Harvard

"Magnanimous"
~Noah Furneri

"Joyful!"
~Leah Strick

"Magnificent!!!"
~Kirk Doran

"Miraculous!"
~Katie Otteson



PHOTOS



December 6
Feast of
St. Nicholas





December 10
Nutcracker





December

13

Feast of
St. Lucy



O Come, O Come



Emmanuel

