

VOL. 1, ISSUE 5 | FEBRUARY 11, 2022

CLASSICAL TIMES



Updates for the parents of St. Thomas More Academy



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Bingo Night - Feb. 27
- Confession - Feb. 25

STMA is hosting a community Bingo Night open to all STMA families on Sunday, February 27, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Dinner will be provided and a good will offering taken up. Don't forget to RSVP - check your email for more details!

Confession with Fr. Oscar will be available to students in grades 3-5 on Friday, February 25th.

Dear Parents....

As my first post in our beautiful newsletter, I would like to bring to your attention what I recently wrote on our website, responding to the question: "Why STMA?"

I have no idea. God called me here, that much I know. It seems He has some revolutionary plans to help re-make Catholic education in America, and He wants to use St. Thomas More Academy in a significant way for that revolution. As the culture becomes ever increasingly antithetical to the gospel, the old model of Catholic education is no longer up to the task. A revolution is needed. As arguably the strongest center of Catholic intellectual life in the United States, South Bend is a perfect location for the building of the best school in America.

This new mode of Catholic school is a liberal arts, classical Catholic school that fully embraces Christ and His Church and makes that the heart of the school. Seeking to please God above all things, it seeks and strives for perfection in every way. In the end, graduates are prepared to fully engage the culture as a leaven. Unless young people are equipped as warriors, there is little chance they will not be swallowed up by the culture and lose any vestiges of the Faith they may have been taught. Rather, our students will re-evangelize our dying culture and bring Christ to many.

In closing, I would like to add that I am exceedingly pleased at what I see STMA is and has become in such a short time. That is not to say that I am satisfied. There is much work to do. I look forward to working together with you all to build the very best of schools for the glory of God.

Anthony Biese,
Head of School

THE VILLAGE:

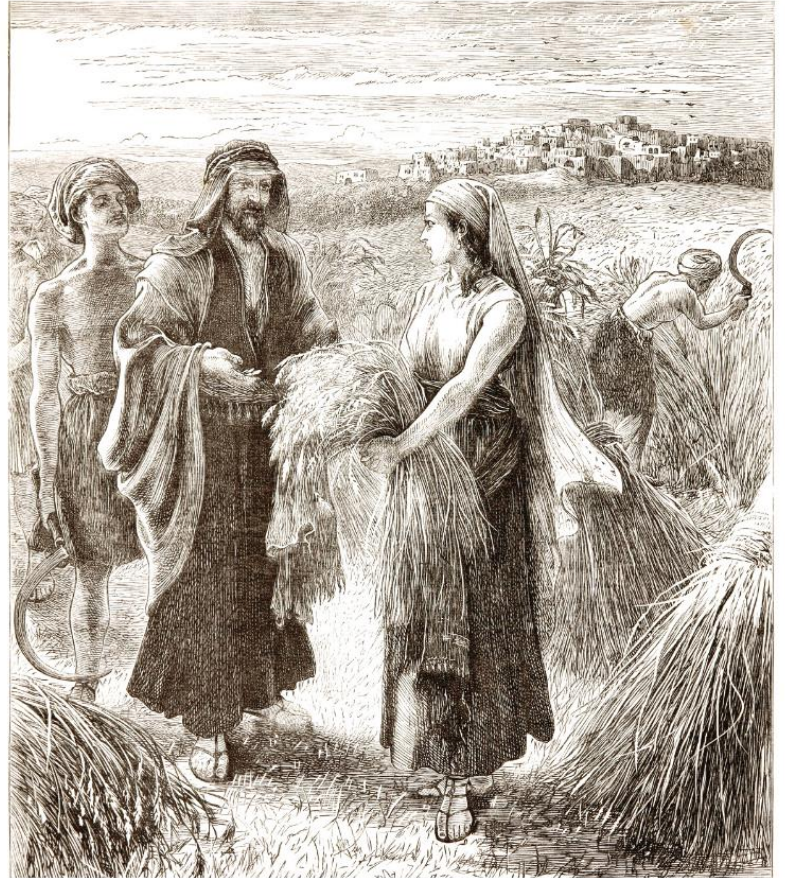
A SACRAMENT OF REDEMPTION

WRITTEN BY: EMILY NYE

Last month, I re-read the Book of Ruth. For those who need a refresher: Ruth, a foreigner, marries an Israelite from the tribe of Judah. In a tragic turn of events, Ruth is suddenly bereft of all who offer her protection, including her father-in-law, brother-in-law, and husband. Under these dire circumstances, Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, urges her to go back to her own people. There is nothing left for Ruth but a life on the margins of Israelite society. With stunning force, Ruth cleaves instead to her husband's people, to his culture, and even his God, embracing as a result, a life of want. Ruth, however, is not destined to ruin. At the story's climax, Boaz, a near relative of Ruth's late husband, "redeems" her. According to ancient Israelite custom, the nearest male relative was the

redeemer of his family – the one responsible for saving the vulnerable. In Ruth's case, this meant not only a full belly and a warm home, but a new husband and a son, from whose line would be born the king.

It's a beautiful story. As I read Ruth, I found myself identifying with her status as a foreigner and the added vulnerabilities inherent in such a status. While I am not technically "foreign," I am oftentimes aware of the fact that, living in South Bend, my nearest blood relatives – those individuals one can normally expect to turn to in time of need – are far from reach. Last week was such a time. On Tuesday, I was overtaken by a virulent (non-covid, non-flu) illness which incapacitated me and left me confined to my bed for four days. Within a matter of hours (before I myself realized the severity of the illness), members of our community



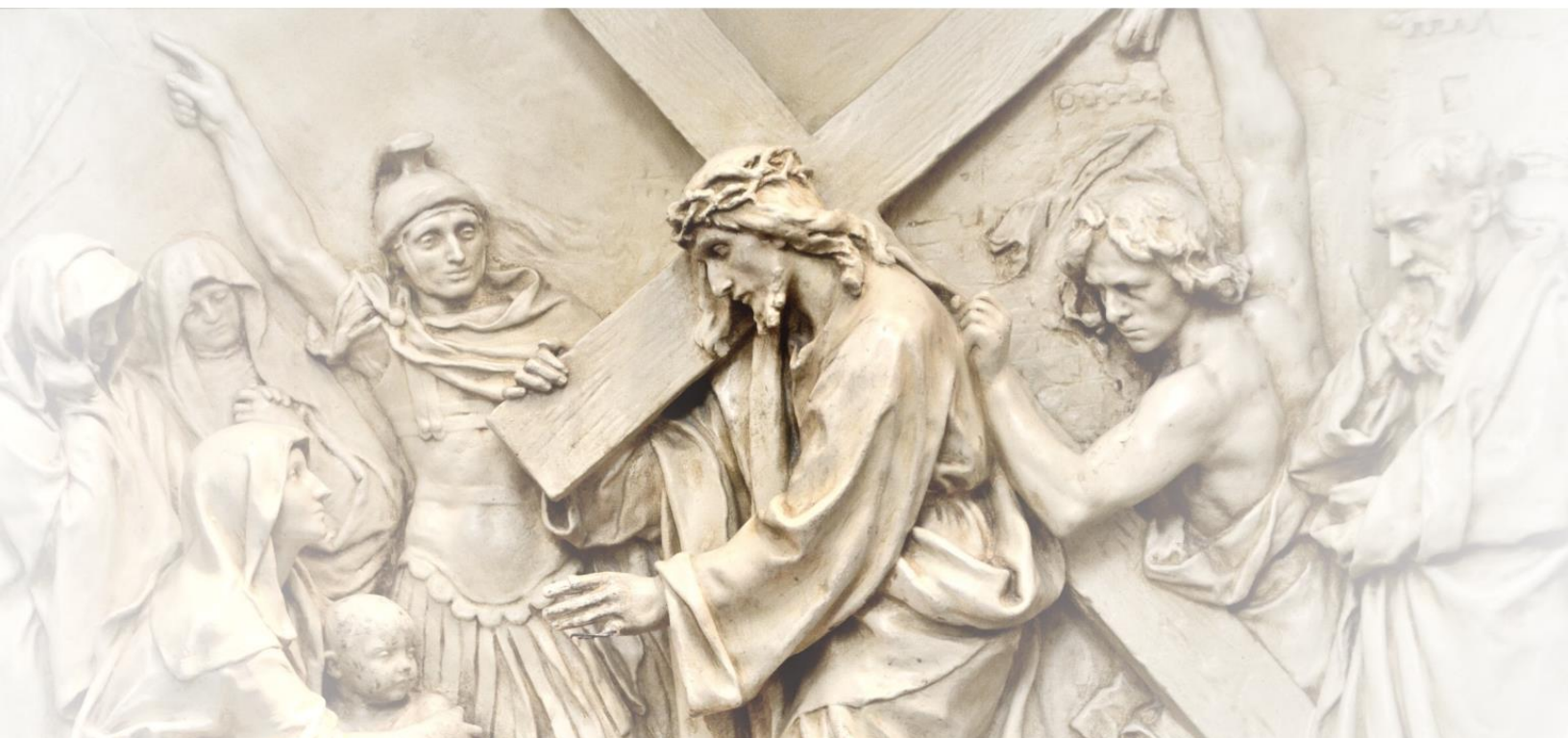
ENGRAVING OF RUTH AND BOAZ (1873)

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...)

delivered two weeks' worth of groceries to my home, arranged transportation to my doctor's appointment, and picked up my prescriptions. That same evening, one of our priests, brought dinner to my home and laid his hands upon my head in holy anointing. The next day, during brief moments of consciousness, as the snow rained down out the window, in the midst of aches and pains, chills and nausea, I was overcome with gratitude and a deep sense of security. Memories of a full fridge, bursting pantry, words of comfort, and intercessory prayers told me that I, like Ruth, would not be left to fend for myself – I too had a redeemer.

Redemption is a familial act. In his talk to STMA families, Tommy Curtin spoke of the ideal school as a village – an extension of the family. A village, as Curtin pointed out, is not just a bunch of warm bodies near each other. Neither is a school...at least not our school. St. Thomas More Academy is a community, or “village” if you will, comprised of families, educators, administrators, board members, and priests. We share a common culture and united worship. But, as I discovered last week, we also share a common responsibility one for another. Each member of the St. Thomas More Academy community is uniquely called according to our varying abilities to serve the vulnerable among us – the sick, the poor, the lonely, the bereft, the outcast – as we would our own flesh and blood. One of the most beautiful aspects of life in the St. Thomas More Academy “village” is morning Mass at St. Patrick's. In the final analysis, however, our liturgical celebration can be the very picture of the heavenly Jerusalem, but if divine love stagnates upon the altar and does not transform us into that which we adore, we gain nothing (1 Cor. 13).

MODELED AFTER THE IMAGE OF CHRIST, THE DIVINE REDEEMER, MAY WE OFFER OURSELVES IN SERVICE TO ONE ANOTHER FOR THE REDEMPTION OF ALL.



Student Corner



**Damien,
Kindergarten**

Q: What do you like about going to school at STMA?

A: Recess!!

Q: What is your favorite thing about recess?

A: You can run around a lot.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing in the snow at recess today?

A: Making snow forts!

Q: What virtue have you learned about at school?

A: Charity.

Q: What does it mean to be charitable?

A: Loving people.

Q: What would you like to be when you grow up?

A: A scientist because they have microscopes and magnifying glasses!

Q: What would you like to be when you grow up?

A: A dinosaur scientist.

Q: What is your favorite dinosaur?

A: I have three: a T-Rex, a Pterodactyl, and I forgot this name but it has a spiky tail with a ball and it's spiky on its back.

Q: What do you like about the Pterodactyl?

A: It flies, and I wish they were real because they would carry me!

Q: Would you like to have a dinosaur as a pet?

A: Yes, but three! They would listen to me. They would do things for me. If I am sick, they would build a shelter for me with hot chocolate!

**Catherine,
1st grade**



**Charlie,
2nd grade**

Q: What do you enjoy about going to school at STMA?

A: Drama and math.

Q: What do you like about math?

A: Well, I'm really good at it and my friend, Moses, he's so good at it that he is always the first done!

Q: I heard that Mr. Furneri is teaching you a Bible story, which one is it?

A: The catching of the fish.

Q: What happened in that story?

A: Jesus said to go to the deeper waters and Peter said "okay." And, then they cast their nets and then they caught a whole bunch of fish and the nets started breaking.

Q: What do Peter's actions teach us in the story?

A: To obey Jesus.



Q: What book is the 4/5 class reading right now?

A: We just finish *Sign of the Beaver*.

Q: What was it about?

A: It's about a kid named Matt, who went with his father to build a cabin in Maine, and then his father left to get their family back in Massachusetts. Matt has to take care of the house and get his own food. He meets the Indians and becomes friends with them. He starts teaching one of the Indian boys English.

Q: What do you think is one of the main messages of the book?

A: Responsibility. Matt takes care of a house for two months with no one else there and gets his own food.

Q: What does "responsibility" mean?

A: Being responsible means that someone can depend on you for something.

Peter,
4th grade



Elijah,
3rd grade

Q: What do you enjoy the most about going to school at STMA?

A: Lunch and art!

Q: What do you like about art?

A: We get to do cool stuff with color pencils and with shading and lighting.

Q: What have you gotten to draw so far?

A: An apple and a big field.

Q: What do you like to do at recess?

A: I like to play a time machine game with my friends.

Q: Where do you like to go in time?

A: Ancient times.

Q: What do you do when you get there?

A: We are making pyramids and stuff.



Olive,
4th grade

Q: What has been the biggest difference for you this year in school?

A: One of the biggest differences is that it is a LOT more challenging, which I like. At my old school, we used to do worksheets all day which isn't fun, but here we have discussions.

Q: What is something you have discussed in class recently?

A: How a plant's growth is similar to our growth in virtue.

Q: Do you have any fun plans for this weekend?

A: Well, I am going to go to the daddy/daughter dance.

Q: So fun! Is your dad a good dancer?

A: Sometimes?





Grace,
5th grade

Q: Is this your first year in school?

A: Yes, I was homeschooled up till now.

Q: What has surprised you about being in school?

A: There are a lot more nice people. In some books you read, at school there are a lot of school bullies, but there are none at all here. Everyone is nice. It is such a great community!

Q: What is the happiest part of your day at STMA?

A: I really like copy work when we are able to write down things that we find beautiful.

Q: What do you like about copy work?

A: Writing it down and talking about it brings me peace.

Q: What copy work did you write down this week?

A: "Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God; and may the Lord do what seems good to him." - 2 Samuel 10:12

"But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded." - 2 Chronicles 15:7

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" - Psalm 27:14

Faculty Feature



Ms. Havard,
Kindergarten/1st Grade

Q: What first inspired you to become a teacher?

A: In high school, I served on a mission team in the poor neighborhoods of Louisiana. We held day camps for the children. One particular interaction with a little boy in a wheelchair has always stayed with me. Halfway through the summer, I helped lift him out of the chair to join the other children in the grass. The joy on his face awakened my desire to become a teacher in order to share that same joy!

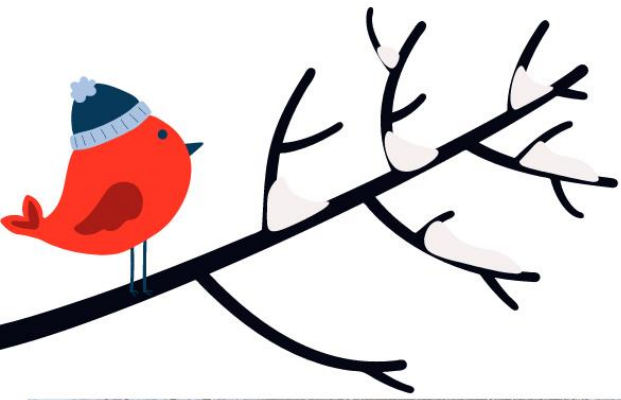
Q: What have you enjoyed about teaching at STMA?

A: The authentic Catholic faith. At STMA, I have the opportunity to share my own faith experience with my students.

Q: What is your favorite memory from this school year?

A: Well, I have a funny story! We were studying Salvation History, specifically the story of Joseph, and talking about dreams and how God can work through them. One student raised her hand and shared about a dream she had of a noise coming from her closet. The student prayed in her dream and Mary appeared! Mary told the child to be not afraid and led her to the closet. They opened the door and inside the closet was...Mr. Cole!!





PHOTOS

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 11









ST. THOMAS MORE,
PRAY FOR US!