

# School Spotlights

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: PRAYER PARTNERS



At St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, we love starting our day with daily Mass. On Wednesday, we added something special to our daily Mass routine, Prayer Partners. Mrs. Miller challenged our oldest students in grades 3-6 to serve as role models for our Montessori students by pairing up with them as Prayer Partners. They will sit together at Mass daily and have opportunities throughout the school year to pray and play together.

The 1st/2nd grade students were also challenged to serve as role models by sitting in the front pew where the Montessori students would be able to see how they behave reverently and actively participate during Mass. It was a beautiful

experience to see all of our students helping each other to pray and participate in Mass.

## August 30<sup>th</sup>

*A Special Morning with Bishop Parkes*



*Bishop Gregory Parkes celebrating Holy Mass.*



*Student Q&A with Bishop Parkes*



*Students venerate the first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis*

On Tuesday, August 27th, the feast of St. Monica, Bishop Gregory Parkes came to celebrate Mass in honor of the opening of our school. It was a joyous memorable occasion! Bishop Parkes spoke about Blessed Carlo Acutis to the students in his homily and reminded us that we are all called to become saints. He even brought a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo that we had the opportunity to venerate!

After a short Q&A session with the Bishop, we all walked over to the school to do a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This simple ceremony was a beautiful way to thank our Bishop for giving us his blessing to open as a Catholic school and memorialize the beginning of this inaugural school year.

We, the faculty, staff, and board of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, are so grateful for YOUR support as we have launched this school year. We are looking forward to building our school culture and community with all of you.



# October 21<sup>st</sup>

## Fun at the Farm

It was a great blessing to bring our school community back together at last Friday's field trip to Raprager Farms! A big thanks to all our chaperones who helped out. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and support as we put this field trip together. We missed having the students at school last week, so we are thrilled to have them back today!



# November 8<sup>th</sup>

## A Joyful All Saints Day

We loved seeing the students dressed as saints last week! It was a beautiful way to honor the saints and celebrate this holy solemnity. Enjoy some photos from this joyful day.





**November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Thank you for coming to Martinmas!**

STA students made us proud last Friday night at our Martinmas celebration! They worked so hard on their songs, recitations, and the Virginia Reel. Thank you to all who came. Your support means so much to the students and staff.



**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## Highlights from Last Week's Scholé



Thank you to all who came out to last week's Scholé! Fr. Andrew Burns gave a great talk based on the book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*, followed by a fruitful Q&A discussion. Fr. Andrew explained the difference between the Catholic Imaginative Vision versus the Modern Secular Vision, and how we as a school community, must build a culture based on the Catholic Imaginative Vision if we want to succeed in our mission. To learn more about the Catholic Imaginative Vision and Modern Secular Vision, watch [this video](#).

To end the night, Mrs. Miller read a quote from the book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* that summed up our hopes for STA and for the Church at large:

*Ten genuine followers of Christ will prove more fecund in new believers than a thousand whose faith is lukewarm or non-existent. The Church does not grow by mass movement; it moves forward one soul at a time, as each individual catches*

*the fire of belief from another and is grafted into the body of Christ. The importance is not found in numbers but in the intensity of the flame, as the Apostles understood (p. 39).*