



HCA Family Newsletter November 30, 2018

"From all eternity God knew that he would assume our nature in Jesus and that the universe would be his dwelling place."

~ Saint Francis de Sales

December

2 – 1st Sunday of Advent

- 3 – PTO Chocolate Sale money now due! Please hand it in this week so that we can conclude this important fundraiser!
- 5 – casual dress for 7-2 students with no uniform infractions; see school website for casual dress guidelines: <https://www.holycrossweb.com/uniforms-dress-code-1>
- 5 – casual dress for 7-1 & 8th students with no uniform infractions
- 6 – 7th & 8th grade trip to JPG High School; 6th grade casual dress if no infractions
- 7 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**; 1st trimester report cards (grades 1 to 8)
- 8 – feast of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of our country and our parish
- 9 – *2nd Sunday of Advent*; **Barnes and Noble Book Fair sponsored by the PTO**, see the schedule at the end of the newsletter
- 11 – early dismissal, 11:30am, 'B' schedule
- 12 – feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass in FBH, 6pm
- 13 – Advent Giving Tree and 8th grade Nativity, 8:30am; Kindergarten Christmas program, 2pm; Confirmation Formation program (7th graders) 6pm, HCA
- 14 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**

Recess Duty, 11:35-12:25: 1st grade 12/3 to 12/5; kindergarten 12/6 to 12/21; 8th grade 1/3 to 1/11

NOTES

It is time for our 21st Annual Giving Tree. Each year, before Christmas, we have a beautiful *Giving Tree Ceremony and 8th grade Nativity (Dec. 13 at 8:30am)*. Each child brings his/her gift forward and places it around the tree. These gifts are given to Catholic Charities' Baby Closet, Mary's Shelter and Birthright. The number of families and children that Catholic Charities, Birthright and Mary's Shelter support has been growing steadily. We ask each child in the school to bring in at least one item to help our precious little friends. These class designations are only suggestions. **Any and all donations are gratefully accepted. Parents are invited to attend this moving presentation.**



- Kindergarten – size 1 diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 1st grade - size 2 diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 2nd grade - size 3 diapers, wipes, baby wash, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 3rd grade - size 3 diapers, wipes, baby wash, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 4th grade - size 4 diapers, wipes, baby lotion, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 5th grade - size 4 diapers, wipes, baby lotion, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 6th grade - size 5 diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 7th grade - size 5 diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 8th grade – size 6 diapers, wipes, bottles, sippy cups or pacifiers, gift cards to Walmart or Target

It's About the Children!

Christmas Adopt-a-Family Member: Please consider "Adopting a Family Member" of our parish this Christmas season. We have several families that could use some *extra kindness and support* this Christmas Season. If you can help out, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b48a9af29aaf58-2018> And purchase the items on the list and return **UNWRAPPED but labeled with the appropriate number and letter of your "adoptee"** to the St. Mary's Parish Office **no later than Monday, December 17th**. Any questions, please contact Karen Sturtevant (ksturtevant@stmaryfred.org) or Elena Doyle (edoyle@stmaryfred.org) or call 540-373-6491

Fr. Mosimann will be holding a meeting for HCA parents on Tuesday, January 8 at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the finances of St. Mary Parish and our expansion plans, and to answer questions. We hope that you will join us in Father Brisson Hall for this meeting.

Attractions Dining and Value Guide! Three members of Girl Scout troop 430 are working on their Silver Award and are raising money to plant a butterfly garden on the school grounds. Buy our attractions book! Coupons inside just one book could save you hundreds with discounts at restaurants, stores, and family outings! One book costs just \$25 and most coupons are valid through December 31, 2019. To order a book, leave cash or check made out to Susan Keddie in an envelope in the front office. Be sure to include the name of the student and his or her class, so we know who to send the book home with. Email Susan at sutari2@cox.net if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support.

Order your 2019 Yearbook now - only \$40 until December 31st - Cost will be \$45 in 2019!! **Order online:** www.holycrossweb.com (Yearbook Tab). In this season of giving, tell your eighth grader how proud you are of them and all they accomplished. Buy the yearbook ad early and avoid the rush at the end of the school year. You supply the photos and message, we create the ad!

***Attention 8th Graders:** We are now collecting baby/toddler photos for the yearbook. Mrs. McDonald will be accepting these via her email. Please send one as a .jpeg attachment to: mcdonaldmd1@yahoo.com. Please note your child's name and "baby picture" in the memo field. If you need to scan a hard copy, send it in with your student to bring to Mrs. Tomayko. She will scan and immediately return your photo. Please send in as soon as possible so we can complete that part of the yearbook!*

FACTS GRANT & AID 2019-2020 WINDOW IS NOW OPEN - please remember you will need to submit 2018 tax and W-2 forms. FACTS Management annual fees will be going up to \$50.00 per agreement for the 2019/2020 school year. They will also be adding a great new online payment system for other fees & incidentals. Stayed tuned for more information coming soon!

Registration for the next semester of Virtual Virginia Courses is 12/3. Please follow the link to see if any of these courses are of interest to your child. We have had several students complete several VV courses here at Holy Cross. Please ask Mrs. Darling hcacounselor@holycrossweb.com if you have any questions about Virtual Virginia or the courses offered.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_nJuXf8jo&feature=youtu.be

Attention 8th grade parents: If your student is applying to Saint John Paul the Great High School, you only need to complete the application form. All other forms and recommendations will be sent directly from Holy Cross. This holds for the scholarship application as well. Please fill out the necessary forms, but for the scholarships, the main recommendation form will come from HCA. You do not need to have us fill out the recommendation forms for each teacher. In the spring when you know which school your child will be attending for 9th grade, you **MUST fill out the records request at the new school and have it sent to Mrs. Jeffers so that she** knows where to mail all of the records. If you have any questions, please contact her in the office.

MSM 7th Grade is doing a great job running the SCHOOL STORE. It is open on Wednesday during lunch and it's a great place for your students to buy affordable Christmas presents for their friends at school, as most items are 50 cents to \$1. 8th and 7th Graders will visit St John Paul the Great on Dec 6th. Parents are welcome to join but will need to provide their own transportation. Student Council has some fun things upcoming like selling hot chocolate and a hoodie day. Details will follow when we get dates! **Also a big thank you to 7th and 6th grade for helping set up for the volunteer dinner!**

PTO Corner: On behalf of our PTO, we hope everyone's had a Happy Thanksgiving and a spectacular end-of-trimester week back! PTO Corner loves those days returning back from a few days off, when the groggy PTO Corner Kids ask some of their best questions--this one from a 6-year-old--"So exactly how many playdates do you go on before you know you're ready to get married? 500?" That's when you know your values are being reinforced at school! The answer being, of course, "at least that many playdates."

Please join us on December 9th at the Central Park Barnes and Noble for the Holy Cross Academy Book Fair. A full schedule of events appears below, so come on out for a fantastic Puppet Show, Reading, Dancing, Singing, and even a glimpse into the future of Robots. All purchases benefit our school as long as you let the cashier know that you want to support us--it helps to bring the flyer that was sent home with our number on it, but the staff will work with you to get us credit! Remember, if you have a list, you can order books, games, cheesecakes or whatever your heart desires in advance, and have it waiting for you at the store; then your whole purchase qualifies to help our school. Conversely, you can make purchases until Friday December 14th at the store, but be sure to bring in our event number (12395133) and give it to the clerk at checkout (the same applies for online sales, which can also be made all week). Teacher Wish Lists will also be available if you want to help out your favorite classroom, and free giftwrapping will be provided by a team of expert wrappers (in fact, if you'd like to help wrap gifts, contact attorney@brianfanninlaw.com to volunteer). And did we mention peppermint chocolate frappuccinos?

Who doesn't like a tiny wooden village, all decked out for the holidays? With or without a Lionel train and a generally unhappy cat, a holiday village can be fun to set up and is even more fun when you

"It's About the Children."

recognize the buildings--in this case, Holy Cross Academy and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception church (pictured nearby). Please contact Frank Guzman at rxinfo@gmail.com to arrange purchase--each building costs \$20.00, \$10.00 of which goes to help our school PTO. Pictures are below.

Be careful shopping and stay safe on the roads out there! *Don't forget to purchase SCRIP for your Holiday Shopping!*

Crusader Corner: The basketball season is off to a great start. This year we have a JV and Varsity team for both the boys and girls. Each team played at Holy Family this week and won their opening games of the season. Congratulations to all! Next week the boys' teams will be playing at home on Tuesday (vs SWOY) and Thursday (vs St Patrick) beginning at 4:00. Please consider coming out to cheer them on.

A new banner has been purchased to hang in Father Brisson Hall celebrating the Varsity Volleyball VCAC championship. Congratulations again to those girls for a great season !!!

There are fall uniforms which have not yet been returned. If they are not returned, a fee will be assessed to cover the replacement cost. Please return the clean uniforms to Mrs. Meskunas within the next week.

The students love JA and we need YOU! Junior Achievement **VOLUNTEERS needed for K-1, K-2, 1-2, 2-1, 2-2, 3-2, 4-1, 5-1, 5-2, 6-2, 7 -1 & 7-2** ![Junior Achievement's programs](#) are designed to empower students at HCA from Kindergarten through 8th grade to own their economic success. They are taught by volunteers like YOU! Programs are presented by JA's volunteers for 30-45 minutes each week for five to six weeks, with the exact time commitments dependent upon the grade level of the students. JA programs give students the opportunity to practice cooperation, teamwork, decision-making, and leadership skills through numerous exciting hands-on activities. All of the lesson plans and activities are provided in an easy-to-follow guidebook in the program kit that you'll be provided. The kit includes all of the materials necessary to implement the programs. The teacher will always remain in the classroom to assist with any issues that may arise. Please volunteer and spend time with your child (children, grandchildren etc.) and experience school life first-hand. The program will start in 2019! To volunteer or for more information please contact: Linda Caporali at lcaporali@comcast.net or (540) 878-0125.

Ring in December and the holiday season with the joy of experiencing **The Nutcracker, by the Academy of Ballet**. Performances are Saturday, December 1st at 7pm and Sunday, December 2nd at 2pm at James Monroe High School. Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are on sale now at the Academy of Ballet at 540-371-6781 or from one of the many parents at Holy Cross Academy who have students who will be performing in The Nutcracker. For more information, please contact Lori Simms, 540-809-1976.



Confirmation Formation Nights

Dinner will begin serving at 6pm | Holy Cross Academy

What is a Formation Night? Formation Nights are a mandatory component of our Confirmation program. We aim to inspire both our candidates and their parents with the topics selected for this year.

Family: Forever, Faithful, Fruitful

The formation nights begin with a free dinner and are followed with a short talk to our candidates (with parents in the room). After this students will go to small group discussions. Parents will stay in the hall for an adult presentation. We will gather back together and end the night with 20 - 30 minutes of prayer.

December 13 - Preparing for Messy Parenting through the Teen Years

When children reach the age of 12, amazing things start to happen in their brain, their body and their emotions and these changes rock their world and the world of all those around them! Often even experienced parents feel that they are learning how to parent all over again. Understanding your child better will help you to love them deeply and guide them through this confusing, tumultuous time of their lives, while growing in virtue in your own life.

Michael and Alicia Hernon are the founders of The Messy Family Project, a ministry that gives advice and encouragement to parents and seeks to spark a conversation between spouses on how to be the best parents for their children. Parents of 10 children ages 5 to 23, Mike and Alicia offer down to earth, practical insights into family life through their podcast called Messy Parenting, which is downloaded over 10,000 times every month.



Holy Cross Academy Barnes and Noble Book Fair Agenda

- 11:00 AM** B&N opens for setup; HCA Student Artwork goes up on walls, HCA welcome table and gift-wrapping table put in place
- 1:00 PM**—Kickoff, Giftwrapping Begins
- 1:30 PM**—Puppet Show featuring Lisa Schmiegel, Brixton Academy of Arts & Victoria Ellis, Librarian Extraordinaire
- 2:30 PM**—Muggivan Irish Dancing
- 3:30 PM**--Youth of Note Chorus
- 4:00 PM**--Remarkable Robots! HCA Robotics Team and Sister Frances Carol, OSFS
- 5:00 PM**—All Good Things Come to an End. . . Giftwrapping Ceases; Artwork Comes Down; Wrap-up, Clean Up, and Barnes and Noble Says Goodbye for Another Year

PTO Village Offerings



“It’s About the Children.”