

# HCA Family Newsletter December 7, 2018

*"Strive to see God in all things and to consent joyfully to his will." ~ Saint Francis de Sales*



## December

- 7 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**; 1<sup>st</sup> trimester report cards (grades 1 to 8)
- 8 – feast of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of our country and our parish
- 9 – **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade Nativity, 8:30am; Kindergarten Christmas program, 2pm; Confirmation Formation program (7<sup>th</sup> graders) 6pm, HCA
- 14 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**
- 16 – **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**
- 17 – Youth of Note, Band, Keyboard & Strings Christmas program, 1:45 for students\*; 7pm for families  
\*Parents may attend afternoon programs but will be seated behind the students.
- 19 – St. Mary Preschool Christmas Programs, 10:30am & 1pm;  
Christmas program, gr. 1,2,3, 2pm for students\* & 7pm for families  
\*Parents may attend afternoon programs but will be seated behind the students.
- 20 – St. Mary Preschool Christmas Program, 12:30pm
- 21 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**; dismissal, 3:10pm; Aviat Care closes, 6pm

Recess Duty, 11:35-12:25: kindergarten 12/9 to 12/21; 8<sup>th</sup> grade 1/3 to 1/11; 7<sup>th</sup> grade 1/14 to 1/25

## NOTES

**It is time for our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Giving Tree.** Each year, before Christmas, we have a beautiful **Giving Tree Ceremony and 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade - size 2 diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - size 3 diapers, wipes, baby wash, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - size 3 diapers, wipes, baby wash, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade - size 4 diapers, wipes, baby lotion, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade - size 4 diapers, wipes, baby lotion, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade - size 5 diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade - size 5 diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, gift cards to Walmart or Target
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – size 6 diapers, wipes, bottles, sippy cups or pacifiers, gift cards to Walmart or Target

*It's About the Children!*

**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.

**Christmas Adopt-a-Family Member:** We have **6 family members who will need our help**. 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](mailto:ksturtevant@stmaryfred.org)) or Elena Doyle ([edoyle@stmaryfred.org](mailto:edoyle@stmaryfred.org)) or call 540-373-6491.*

**Have you seen the beautiful Christmas tree with gifts in the school lobby?** They are being raffled to benefit the school's Robotics Program. One lucky raffle prize winner will receive the fully decorated tree, PLUS gift certificates from Galazka Eats, Rodan & Fields from Jennifer Sullivan, Malawi's Pizza, CoolCat Cupcakes, the HCA Kitchen and assorted books from Barnes & Noble. Be sure to send in your ticket form with payment to the office by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional forms may be found in the Attachments section of the Newsletter and in the school office/lobby. Prices are 1 ticket - \$5, 3 for \$10, 5 for \$15 and 8 for \$20. *Thank you for supporting HCA's growing Robotics Program!* And you can see our Robotics program in action at the PTO's Barnes and Noble Book Fair!

**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](mailto:sutari2@cox.net) if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Running Club is finished for this year. We will take up again in the Spring to prepare for the Great Train Race.** Thanks to all our participants and the supportive parents.

**Order your 2019 Yearbook now** - only \$40 until December 31<sup>st</sup> - Cost will be \$45 in 2019!! **Order online:** [www.holycrossweb.com](http://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!

**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!

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a wonderful visit to St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School on Thursday. They enjoyed the play, **The Gift of the Magi**, and got to see the campus as well as some HCA alumni who attend school there.

Our very generous Student Council and NJHS have helped **purchase two new shade trees** (pin oaks) for the fields. They will bring shade for years to come; great job students! 7<sup>th</sup> grade continues to sell items for Christmas at the school store on all Wednesdays during lunch....grades 3, 4, and 5 will also be allowed to purchase during lunch every Wednesday until Christmas break. Don't forget we offer snack cart in the Middle School on Fridays during snack time; all items \$1.

**PTO Corner:** 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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:** We hope you will join us for an action-filled basketball game. Please look at the calendar to see when we play next! There are fall (soccer, volleyball, field hockey) 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

*“It’s About the Children.”*

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](mailto:lcaporali@comcast.net) or (540) 878-0125.

**Start a new holiday tradition. Come and enjoy the magic of the Fredericksburg Ballet Centre's "The Nutcracker"** from the area's longest running Ballet Company featuring several dancers from HCA! There is something for the whole family. Mice and soldiers fight, dolls come to life, and sugar plum fairies dance! Performances are Saturday and Sunday, December 8 & 9 at 2:00pm at James Monroe High School. Tickets are \$17 in advance (purchased at FBC) or \$20 at the door (cash and check only). Contact 540-373-0978 for more ticket and performance information.



### **Confirmation Formation Night – December 13**

**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. 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.”*