



Holy Cross Academy PTO Newsletter

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Dear Holy Cross Academy Families,

We hope everyone is settling back into the school routine!

The PTO is excited to share a few new processes for this year, and we want to be sure parents stay informed. If you have any questions, please reach out to HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com.

For those parents new to HCA, the PTO has a long-standing tradition of providing a monthly lunch for our wonderful faculty & staff. Beginning this year, these lunches will always be held on **Fridays** -we're calling them **Foodie Fridays!** To share the effort, each grade (2-8) will be assigned one **Foodie Friday** during the school year.

The 8th grade is assigned to the 9/26 Foodie Friday!

PTO Liaison

To improve communication and share responsibilities, each grade will now have at least one **PTO Liaison**. This volunteer role counts toward your **8 hours of service requirement for the school year!**

PTO Liaisons will be able to :

- Communicate PTO updates to their grade,
- Encourage participation in PTO -sponsored events,
- Help coordinate grade-specific needs and activities.

PTO Liaisons will also play a key role in hospitality efforts by:

- Organizing their grade assigned **Foodie Friday**,
- Assisting with Teachers' Appreciation Week,
- Coordinating grade's themed basket for the Spring Auction.

8th grade families - the PTO needs your help !

We need at least one parent volunteer to serve as PTO Liaison! If you're interested, please email HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com.

PTO Membership

Remember, all parents & guardians of HCA students are automatically PTO members! Together, we help strengthen the community that supports our teachers, students, and one another. The PTO Executive Board, most of whom also work full-time, depends on the support of volunteers to make our programs a success.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this a great year for our HCA community!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"
-Helen Keller

PTO Executive Board - Open Positions

We currently have **three open Member-at-Large positions** on the PTO Executive Board. If you are looking for a creative outlet, don't mind intermittent hard work and enjoy collaborating with a team of others to help Holy Cross Academy thrive, this could be a rewarding opportunity for you!

Please contact Kathy Butts at HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com or text/call 215-901-7019 for more info.

Last Chance to complete the PTO Parent Survey

The survey will close at midnight on Sunday, September 7th.

If you haven't filled it out yet, we encourage you to take a few minutes today. Your feedback helps us better serve our school community.

[2025-2026 HCA PTO Parent Survey](#)

Save the Date! Friday, September 26th 5-7pm

Open PTO Meeting for Parents

Pizza & Drinks - Please sign up below to give us a headcount!

With gratitude,

The 2025–2026 HCA PTO

HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com



The PTO would like to acknowledge the ongoing generosity & support of the Patel Family!

A heartfelt thank you to **Mr. & Mrs. Patel** for donating the ice cream for our **Welcome Back Social on August 20th!** Students and parents alike enjoyed the delicious Baskin- Robbins flavors that made the event extra sweet!

The Patel family also own the local Dunkin' Donuts locations at 2203 Plank Road and 551 Warrenton Road.



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The HCA Grandparents' Event will be held on Friday, October 10th!

We're excited to share that this year's **Grandparents' Event** is confirmed and on the calendar!

From the recent PTO survey, we received **31 thoughtful responses** with ideas and feedback, and we'd love to keep this conversation going.

Join the Planning Committee!

If you'd like to help us, make this year's event the best one yet, please join the planning team.

GP's Event Planning Committee
Kick-off meeting
Monday, September 8th at 3:30-5pm!

Sign up to attend meeting via link below

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A728A7F49-57927794-grandparents>

Alternate Student Event

For students who may not participate in Grandparents' Event, the PTO is working on coordinating a spirit-filled alternate activity on October 10th. More details to come soon!



What's happening in September?

Holy Cross Novena

We remain deeply grateful to all Capital Campaign donors, including many HCA families. Your generosity made possible the long-awaited HCA expansion, the Saint Helena Chapel and other beautiful new additions to our school.

In thanksgiving, the PTO will provide each student with a Holy Cross Novena prayer card. We invite our entire HCA community to begin praying the Holy Cross Novena on September 11, 2025 -the Feast of the Holy Cross.

Throughout the nine days, students and staff will remember the special prayer intentions of our donors. The Novena will conclude on September 19, 2025.

The Holy Cross Novena *Holy Cross Novena / Intercede*

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates the discovery by Saint Helena of the True Cross of Christ. Pray this Holy Cross Novena to draw closer to Christ Crucified.

Parish Picnic

All HCA families are warmly invited to join the Saint Mary's Parish Picnic on Saturday, September 13th, 3-7pm. Come enjoy:

- a cookout & live music
- Tours of the expanded school with a scavenger hunt.
- PTO-sponsored inflatables for a variety of age groups

Volunteers Needed

We need a few more volunteers to help supervise the inflatables & ensure safe play.

(2) volunteers 4-5pm

(1) volunteer 5-6pm

(5) volunteers 6-7pm.

Click on link to sign-up

Holy Cross Academy: Saint Mary Parish Picnic Volunteers

The school also has quite a few volunteer opportunities available at the parish picnic! Check out the sign-up link below.

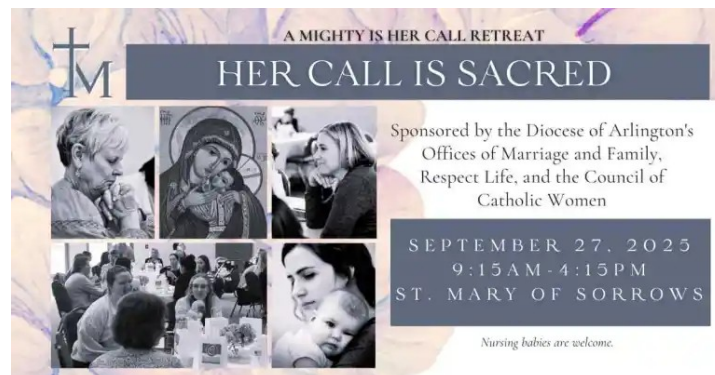
Holy Cross Academy Families: Parish Picnic Scavenger Hunt Volunteers

PTO Email Response Time

Thank you for your patience as we do our best to respond to emails sent to HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com & HCAUniforms@holycrossweb.com

- We aim to reply within **3-5 business days** (often sooner)
- Please note: we cannot guarantee same day responses.
- The **Used Uniform Closet** does not have a full-time attendant or on-call volunteers.

If you have an urgent uniform need that cannot wait 3-5 business days, please call the HCA main office at 540-286-1600 for staff assistance.



Mighty is Her Call is a Catholic Mother's ministry that elevates mothers by helping the Church and the world reimagine the vocation of motherhood as a sacred and worthy life calling united to Christ's total gift of self.

The path of motherhood is the path of sainthood. Motherhood is the most beautiful challenge, the most holy endeavor, and the most loving sacrifice.

Upcoming *Mighty is Her Call* Retreat
September 27, 2025, 9:15-4:15pm

**St. Mary of Sorrows
Fairfax, VA**

This retreat is a day of restoration & encouragement designed to honor mothers. It's a time to:

- Reflect on the importance of your vocation,
- Relax
- Remember the joy of a Christ-filled life as a mother. Cost -\$45 A light breakfast and lunch is included. (Carpool from HCA - email HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com)

Retreat Registration 9-27-25 Fairfax VA - Mighty Is Her Call



Parents-

We kindly ask that you **do not park in the handicap spaces closest to the school entrance** unless you have the proper permit. These spaces are reserved for families who have the legal authority and genuine need to use them; especially during **afterschool pick-up and activities**. Thank you for helping us care for all members of our HCA community.

Virtus Training at HCA

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10am-2pm

Before attending, you must complete the OPCYP background check:

Visit the Arlington Diocese Volunteer Background Check Page

Contact Mrs. Dina James at djames@holycrossweb.com for questions.

BUILDING COMMUNITY COMING SOON.....



Enter the Cutest Pet Contest by emailing a picture of your pet to HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com between September 29th - October 24th. One entry per family! Winners will be announced October 31st.

HCA Business Highlights

HCA families can email HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com details about your business and if applicable, any specials you'd like to offer the HCA community. HCA Business Highlights will be added to the November PTO Newsletter.

BEYOND HCA -Our students accomplish a lot at HCA, but there are also a lot of great things our students accomplish beyond HCA. Between November 3rd and December 19th, parents can email HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com a brief description of their student's "Beyond HCA" accomplishment along with a picture. Depending on response; submissions will be included in the January PTO newsletter, or a special release PTO newsletter "Beyond HCA" edition.

Monday, September 29th at Gauntlet Golf Club 2025 Holy Cross Academy Golf Tournament

****All proceeds benefit the HCA Athletic Department****

A great cause & we're going to have a fun casual day of golf! Don't take yourself too seriously! Register today!





[Quick PTO Volunteer Sign-up links](#)

PTO LIAISON for the 2025-2026 School Year

Holy Cross Academy: Grade Level PTO Liaison for 2025-2026 School Year

Opportunities available throughout the year!

HCA Families: HCA Lunch/Recess Duty 2025-2026

Monday, September 8, 2025, 3:30-5pm

Holy Cross Academy: Grandparents Day Event Planning Committee Meeting

Saturday, September 13, 2015, 3-7pm

Holy Cross Academy: Saint Mary Parish Picnic Volunteers

Join the 2025-2026 Yearbook Committee!

Holy Cross Academy: 2025-2026 School Year Yearbook Committee

Friday, September 26, 2025, 5-7pm

Earn (1) Service Hour for attending!

Holy Cross Academy: Friday, September 26, 2025 Open PTO Meeting 5-7pm -Please sign up if you plan to attend!

Friday, October 24, 2025 -TRUNK or TREAT

Holy Cross Academy: TRUNK or TREAT

Friday, November 7, 2025

Bring your best chili for our Faculty & Staff Lunch! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Holy Cross Academy: Foodie Friday PTO Sponsored Chili Cook-off

Friday, November 7, 2025 **3:30-5pm

Holy Cross Academy: Father/Daughter Dance Event Planning Committee

Kick-off Meeting

Friday, November 14, 2025

Holy Cross Academy: Help w/ Donuts With Dad!

Friday, May 15, 2026, 7-8am

Holy Cross Academy: Help w/ Muffins with Mom!

*The PTO will announce additional events as the school year progresses.
However, the core PTO events are scheduled for the year on the calendar
below!*

PTO Calendar of Scheduled Events

September			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Thurs, Sept 4	K-5 Back to School Night	6:30pm	Meet PTO Members
Mon, Sept 8	Grandparents' Event Planning Committee Kick-off Meeting	3:30-5pm	Volunteer Opportunity
Thurs, Sept 11	HCA Feast Day Day 1- Novena of the Holy Cross	10-2pm	Bishop Burbidge Visit Kona Ice Treat Sponsored by the PTO
Sept 11-19	Novena of the Holy Cross		Sponsored by PTO
Sat, Sept 13	St. Mary's Parish Picnic	3-7pm	PTO sponsored Inflatables
Fri, Sept 26	Foodie Friday Grade 8 PTO Meeting Open to Parents!	 5-7pm	Volunteer Opportunity for 8th Grade Families Pizza & Drinks provided by PTO

October			
Date	Event	Time	Notes

Fri, Oct 10	Grandparents Day Event	12:30-2:30pm	Based on preliminary survey results
Fri, Oct 17	Foodie Friday Grade 7		Volunteer Opportunity for 7th Grade Families.
Fri, Oct 17-19	Used Uniform Sale	TBD Exact Date/Time will be announced asap	HCA Library
Fri, Oct 24	Trunk or Treat	5:30 pm Concessions Open	Rain Date -Oct 25 Volunteer Opportunity

November			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Nov 7	Foodie Friday/PTO Chili Cook-off	11-2pm	PTO Sponsored 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Awards
Fri, Nov 7	Father Daughter Dance Planning Committee Meeting	3:30-5pm	Volunteer Opportunity
Fri, Nov 14	Donuts with Dad	7-8am	Volunteer Opportunity
Fri, Nov 21	Race-for-Education		PTO Fundraiser

December			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Dec 12	Foodie Friday Grade 6		Volunteer Opportunity for 6th Grade Families
Fri, Dec 19	Open PTO Meeting w/ Coffee	9-10am	

January 2026			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Jan 16	Foodie Friday Grade 5		Volunteer Opportunity for 5th

			Grade Families
Jan 26-30	Catholic Schools Week		PTO sponsored student treats

February			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Feb 13	Foodie Friday Grade 4		Volunteer Opportunity for 4th Grade Families
Sat, Feb 21	Father Daughter Dance	6-8pm	HCA Cafeteria Volunteer Opportunity

March			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
TBD	Used Uniform Sale	TBD	Time & location comng soon
Fri, Mar 13	Foodie Friday Grade 3		Volunteer Opportunity for 3rd Grade Families

April			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
All Month	Month of the Military Child		Mrs. James - Point of contact
TBD	Used Uniform Sale	TBD	Time & location coming soon
Fri, Apr 17	Foodie Friday Grade 2		Volunteer Opportunity for 2nd Grade Families
Sat, Apr 25	PTO Auction Event		Save the Date! Location & Details depend on survey results.
TBD	Mother/Son Event		April/May

May			

Date	Event	Time	Notes
May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week		See daily lunch assignments PTO sponsors "Appreciation Activities" throughout the week
Mon, May 4	Teacher Appreciation Lunch First Grade		Volunteer Opportunity for 1st Grade Families
Tues, May 5	Teacher Appreciation Lunch Kindergarten		Volunteer Opportunity for Kindergarten Families
Wed, May 6	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 7th & 8th Grade		Volunteer Opportunity for 7th & 8th Grade Families
Thurs, May 7	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 5th & 6th Grade		Volunteer Opportunities for 5th & 6th Grade Families
Fri, May 8	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 3rd & 4th Grade		Volunteer Opportunities for 3rd & 4th Grade Families
Fri, May 15	Muffins with Mom	7-8am	Volunteer Opportunity
TBD	Great Train Race		Volunteer Opportunity

June			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
June 5	2025-2026 PTO Board Final Meeting & Handoff to 2026-2027 PTO Board	12:45-2:45pm	Tentative -time may change since 1/2 day.
June 5	8th Grade Final Walk Treats		Sponsored by PTO

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