



HCA Family Newsletter January 4, 2019

*"Great courage and peace of heart near the Savior who loves you
and will take care of you." ~ Saint Léonie Aviat*

January

- 4 – school Mass, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**; survey window closes – last chance to earn a jeans day for your children: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QT5B39N>
- 7 – Scantron testing begins in grades 3 - 7
- 8 – parent meeting for parish financial update and school expansion, FBH, 7pm
- 10 – feast of Saint Léonie Aviat, foundress of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales
- 11 – school Mass in honor of St. Léonie Aviat, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**
- 18 – school Mass in honor of St. Francis de Sales, 8:15am; **FOOD FOR THE POOR COLLECTION**
Early dismissal, 11:30 am; kindergarten report cards come home; faculty meeting
March for Life (Students who attend the March are not counted absent if their parents send a note to the school office in advance of the March.)
- 21 – no school, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 24 – feast of St. Francis de Sales

Recess Duty, 11:35-12:25: 8th gr 1/7 to 1/11; 7th gr 1/14 to 1/25; 6th gr 1/28 to 2/7; 5th gr 2/8 to 2/20

NOTES

Welcome back! We trust that your Christmas holidays were blessed in every way. We wish you a happy new year as we once again take up our work together.

Scantron testing for grades 3 to 7 begins on Monday. Please avoid any unnecessary absences or lateness. Between the weather and the winter flu season, this round of testing can be challenging to complete. We appreciate your cooperation.

SAVE THE DATE FOR LUNCH WITH YOUR STUDENT: Jan. 29th, during Catholic Schools Week. As we did last year, we are inviting all parents to share lunch with their student free of charge. Details will follow shortly but **save the date!**

We hope that you will join us at 7pm in FBH on **Tuesday for an update on our parish finances** and how this impacts our expansion plans. Fr. Mosimann will be there to share this with you.

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. Registration for the new school year will be coming home soon.

Become an altar server at St Mary. This is open to all St. Mary parish students 4th grade and older. Training will take place on Monday January 7th, 4-7pm; Monday January 14th, 4-7pm; Monday January 21st, TBD; Monday February 11th, 4-7pm. **Prospective servers attend all 4 training dates.** Installation of

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new servers will take place on Sunday February 17th at the 8:30am Mass. For more information, please contact Vicky Kopcak at test08vic265@gmail.com.

If there is anyone who can help out by **laundering and repairing our altar server outfits at HCA**, we would appreciate it greatly. They need to be washed and ironed and many of the snaps no longer function. Any help would be welcome. Please contact the front office if you can help with this task.

LAST CHANCE!! Don't miss your chance to **purchase the Attractions Dining and Value Guide and support the Girl Scouts** as they build a butterfly garden at the school. The books are just \$25 and contain hundreds of dollars worth in coupons. El Jimador, Carrabbas, Bennys, Outback, Duck Donuts, Papa Johns, Michaels, Bass Pro, Splitsville, and A+ Driving School (for Behind the Wheel--a \$50 off coupon!) are just some of the participating organizations. Books are just \$25 and most coupons are good 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. I will also have books during Scrip sales at Wednesday carpool. Email Susan at sutari2@cox.net if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) will present **an important workshop for parents of anxious children ages 8-17**. Highlights include how to help children with anxiety, when anxiety becomes a disorder, strategies for treating specific anxiety disorders and stress reduction tools. Participants will hear about current NIMH studies on anxiety in children. Friday, Jan. 11, 2019, 10-noon [Register for Coping Strategies for Anxious Children, National Institute of Mental Health](#)

The **Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning**, facilitated by [Project Tomorrow®](#), gives education stakeholders the opportunity to share their viewpoints about key educational issues, particularly concerning digital learning and the use of technology to support future ready schools. By participating today, you are ensuring your voice is heard not only by your school and district but at the state and national level as findings are summarized and shared with national and state policy makers every year. Speak Up is both a national research project and a free service to all schools and districts. Participating schools and districts can access their local data online, free-of-charge in February 2019. To learn more, visit the [About Speak Up](#) page. Get started now! <https://speakup.tomorrow.org/ChooseQuestionSet.aspx>

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Our Middle School students came back from Christmas vacation refreshed and renewed. They were eager to share their holiday news with their friends. They are back ready to work and learn and experience all their teachers have in store for them!

PTO Corner: On behalf of the Holy Cross Academy PTO, welcome back and Happy New Year! We are so glad you're here with us.

Catholic Schools Week will be held from January 27th through February 2nd this year. The Academic Dinner will be held on January 31st from 6 to 7 PM, with visits to classrooms following. This is the second of our open PTO Meetings, and the PTO executive committee will be there to mingle and speak to

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whatever concerns or questions you may have. Also, catering will be coming from Aladdin's and Sam's again, featuring kebabs, penne alfredo, and other Mediterranean delights--plus chicken fingers for those kids who just won't try anything new! A flyer will be coming home shortly with details. And watch this space for more information about events happening during Catholic Schools week! The flyer to sign up for the dinner was sent home on Friday and is in our Attachments folder.

Other winter events include the Father-Daughter Dance, Lenten Soup Suppers and a Roller Skating Night at Cavalier--details coming soon. If you want to volunteer to help with any PTO events, please contact PTO President Brian Fannin at attorney@brianfanninlaw.com and let him know where your interest lies.

A brief biography of Saint Léonie Aviat



Although September 16, 1844 seemed like any other day, it was destined to be known as the birth date of a saint! Léonie Aviat was born on this day in Sezanne, in the region of Champagne, France.

She attended the Visitation School in Troyes, where Mother Marie de Sales Chappuis and Father Louis Brisson (now Blessed Father Brisson) exerted a profound influence on her. Having thus been formed at the school of St. Francis de Sales, she prepared herself for the mission with which she was to be entrusted: the foundation of a congregation committed to Salesian spirituality and to the evangelization of young workers.

Father Louis Brisson, a zealous apostle, had opened, in 1858, a center where he would welcome young girls working in the textile mills. These girls came from the countryside and needed both direction and protection. He decided, under God's inspiration, to establish a religious congregation to direct this important work. He found in Léonie Aviat an incomparable co-worker and a zealous apostle, like himself.

This young lady, who had earlier felt an attraction to the contemplative life of the Visitation Order, was affected by the plight of young factory workers and felt herself called to the active apostolate. Thus the new congregation of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales came to be founded. The congregation placed itself under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales, and identified completely with the spirituality and the educational principles of the holy Bishop of Geneva.

In 1868, the young foundress received, together with the religious habit, the significant name of Sister Frances de Sales. She made profession of vows on October 11, 1871. In 1872, she became the first Superior General of the Institute.

“It’s About the Children.”

Under her guidance, the community grew in numbers, the social apostolate unfolded and girls' schools were opened. In Paris, the first residence for young ladies was started, an establishment which Mother Aviat directed for eight years. Thus, the apostolate of the Oblate Sisters extended to the different classes of society and to diverse forms of education. Our Oblate Sisters founded and direct our school, Holy Cross Academy.

The Oblate Sisters spread to South Africa, Namibia, Ecuador, Colombia, the United States and several countries in Europe. There they continue to live by the maxim of their foundress: *"Let us work for the happiness of others."*

On January 10, 1914 St. Léonie Aviat died in Perugia after entrusting herself totally to God. To her last breath, she remained faithful to the resolution she had taken at the time of her profession: *"To forget myself entirely."* To her daughters she left, for all time, the example of her Salesian charity and humility. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized on November 25, 2001.

The statue in the lobby of Holy Cross Academy commemorates the miracle that led to her canonization, the cure of 15-year-old Bernadette McKenzie (now Kutafaris) of a debilitating disease of the spine. This took place in St. Bernadette Parish in Drexel Hill, PA which houses the original statue and whose by-line is *"Where Miracles Happen."*

May we each follow the example of this holy woman who knew how to put God and other first in her life so that each person she met could experience the joy and peace of Christ.



Announcements from Saint John Paul the Great High School:

January 12th: "How To High School" A Readiness Skills Workshop for 7th and 8th Graders, hosted by the faculty of Saint John Paul the Great, on Saturday, January 12th from Noon - 4pm! Workshop sessions include "How to Ace the Test," "How to Make the Team," "How to Manage Money," "How to Explore Your Brain," and more! This event includes lunch and is free of charge. For more information contact us at howtohighschool@jpthegreat.org. You can RSVP for your child here: tiny.cc/howtohighschool.

January 12th: An all Senior Cast at Saint John Paul the Great presents "The Jeweler's Shop," a play written by Saint John Paul II on the values of marriage and family. Tickets are \$5 and the show starts at 7:00pm on January 12th. More info at: jpthegreatdrama.org.

March 2nd: Mardi Gras Gala! Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School is hosting their seventh annual gala on March 2nd, 2019. Come enjoy a night of fellowship and fun at Potomac Point Winery! Tickets are available at: www.jpthegreat.schoolauction.net/jpgala2018

January 29th - March 5th: Bioethics Seminars for Adults, "The Human Person - A Philosophical Perspective", hosted by Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Sister Terese Auer, O.P., is the chair of the Bioethics Department at John Paul. Sister Terese has been a Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia (also known as the "Nashville Dominicans") for more than 30 years. She earned a Ph.D. from St. Thomas University in Houston, TX and is the author of John Paul's four-year Bioethics Curriculum. All sessions will be held at John Paul in St. Thomas Aquinas Hall from 7 - 8:30 pm. Course topics and dates: January 29 -- Human Happiness, February 5 -- The Moral Law, February 12 -- Conscience and Truth, February 9 -
- The Human Act, February 26 -- The Moral Act, March 5 – Virtue.

"It's About the Children."