



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 10 | April 2026



Family Faith Reflection:

As we welcome the season of spring—a time of renewal and new beginnings—we are invited to refresh our hearts and grow in faith through simple, meaningful practices. This season is a beautiful opportunity to slow down and reconnect with what matters most.

Start by setting aside time each day for prayer, Scripture, or quiet reflection, allowing space to listen and grow closer to God. Look for opportunities to serve others, whether through small acts of kindness or intentional outreach, as a way to live out Christ's love in

our daily lives. Staying connected in community is equally important—sharing faith with family, friends, and fellow parishioners helps strengthen and encourage one another.

Spring also reminds us to pause in gratitude. Take time to recognize the many blessings in your life and thank God for His goodness. Finally, remain open to continued growth—seeking ways to deepen your understanding of faith and live it out more fully each day.

May this season bring renewal, joy, and a strengthened sense of purpose to our entire community.

Principal's Message

Dear Holy Cross Academy Families and Friends,

Happy Easter!

I would like to begin by thanking the Lent Committee across all of our campuses for their efforts to coordinate a meaningful and engaging liturgical season for our students. With Stations of the Cross, shared prayer intentions, acts of service, daily journals, and the chance to reflect on Jesus' life by following the Mysteries of the Rosary, our value of Faith Formation was on full display. I am also thankful for the priests of our four parishes who heard confessions for our 2nd - 8th grade students. It's wonderful when we get to see all five of the priests together!

Although the calendar tells us that the school year is winding down, we still have so much to accomplish. The building admin will be attending a two day safety conference. Our students will take the Spring NWEA benchmark assessments. We will have May Crownings and Field Day. Students will be wrapping up and presenting capstone projects. Principals will

continue hiring for next year's faculty/staff. Finally, the last couple of weeks of school are full of traditions that honor and recognize the unique gifts and growth of our students.

Pray for us and know that we are praying for you!

Until next month,

Ms. Melissa Hunter



Holy Cross Happenings

Stations of the Cross

Our 5th graders performed Stations of the Cross for each campus. They did a great job memorizing lines, acting out their roles, and depicting the story of Jesus being condemned. Great job!



Robotics

Our Robotics Elective students put their coding skills to the test at the SLUH Clavius Jamboree—competing against 30+ schools! After weeks of hard work, they successfully tackled 10 challenges of varying difficulty levels. We're so proud of their dedication, problem-solving, and teamwork!



Field Day



Upcoming Dates

- April 22**
Intermediate Campus Spring Concert
- April 24**
DOT Day
- April 25**
Confirmation
- April 26**
HCA Choir sings at Seven Holy Founders
- May 8**
Field Day - Early Dismissal
- May 13**
Intermediate Talent Show
- May 14**
8th Grade Mystery Trip
- May 15**
8th Grade Award Ceremony
- May 19**
8th Grade Graduation, Last Day for ECEC
- May 21**
Last Day of School (1st -7th grades), Early Dismissal

Lenten Service Project

We were grateful to welcome Dominic, a Vianney student and HCA alumnus, back to campus as he led a meaningful service project in pursuit of his Eagle Scout rank. Middle School students, along with our 1st graders, worked together to assemble blessing bags for members of our community in need. It was a wonderful example of service, leadership, and the strong connection within our HCA family.



Holy Thursday Retreat

Each year our campuses hold Holy Thursday retreats for our students. Throughout the morning, our community is engaged in activities and prayer that lead to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of Holy Week and the beauty of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. There is reverence and joy, both of which help our students encounter Christ and grow as disciples!



Faculty & Staff Corner

Q & A with Mr. Jim McCullough

What is your role at HCA?

Religion teacher for the 6th and 7th grades.

How long have you been with HCA?

3 years.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Study and write theological materials.

Favorite STL restaurant?

Tucker's Restaurant on 12th Street.

How do you see your role supporting HCA's mission of faith, community, and excellence?

By presenting the Bible and Catholic doctrine in a clear, compelling manner.

Favorite Movie?

The Godfather.

Favorite treat or dessert?

Cheesecake.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

My wife is from Britain, and we have four children.



Q & A with Mrs. Jenny Blankenship

What is your role at HCA?

ECEC Aide in the Rainbow Room.

How long have you been with HCA?

4.5 years.

What is your favorite part about being at HCA?

My coworkers.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Chauffeur my kids to sports and hang out with friends and family.

Favorite treat or dessert?

Ice cream or chocolate chip cookies.

Why do you think HCA is unique over other area schools?

Our multiple campus model.

Where is the most exotic place you've visited?

Hawaii.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

My husband and I have 3 kids ... Jack (11), Henry (9), Annie (7).



From the Pews



All Shrewsbury neighbors are invited to a
Neighborhood Block Party
at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

Saturday, April 25th from 4:30pm-7:30pm!

Join the seminarians for yard games, burgers
and hotdogs, Ted Drewes ice cream,
an inflatable obstacle course, music,
and an optional tour of the Seminary.

All ages are welcome! No RSVP needed.

If you have any questions, please contact us
at communications@kenrick.edu.



The Ladies Auxiliary of St. Vincent de Paul
are hosting a

Spring Fling/Bake Sale

Join us for an afternoon of games.
Please bring any game of your choosing and come
home with some goodies. You might also win a Pot
of Gold jackpot or a raffle item!

Seven Holy Founders Parish Hall --
6741 Rock Hill Rd., St. Louis, MO 63123

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Doors Open at 12:30 p.m./
Play is from 1-3:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Snacks and drinks will be served.

-- **Cost: \$12.00**

Payment will be collected in advance.

All proceeds will be donated to *St. Vincent de Paul*.

To reserve your spot, please call

Linda — 314-202-9121
or **Denise — 314-712-8620**

6th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

PLANT SALE



SATURDAY
APRIL 25, 2026
12 PM - 6 PM

Grown from
seed by Holy
Cross Academy
students

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE | 8866 PARDEE RD. 63123

\$4 SEEDLINGS
VEGETABLES - HERBS - FLOWERS
CASH & CREDIT PAYMENT ACCEPTED

ALL proceeds support the HCA gardens, including:
Providence Garden & Orchard, St. Michael's Garden,
and Annunciation Garden



Annunciation Springfest Save the Date

Where: Annunciation Parking Lot

When: May 9th

Time: after 5:00pm Mass

Band: 7:00—9:00 pm

There will be activities available for the
children, food, music, and fun to be had by
all. More details to follow!

Holy Cross Parents Association

Recap

Earlier this month Holy Cross Parent Association was excited to sponsor the Ties and Tiaras Father Daughter Dance at the Middle School campus. Every year this is a true highlight for our community with dads and daughters from across our four campuses coming together for an evening filled with laughter, twirls, and memories. Special thanks to Chairs Emily Stark and Kelly Kelly and the many volunteers who helped make this event possible.

Upcoming HCPA Events

Middle School Skating Event | Thursday, April 23 | 6-8 p.m. | Rollercade

Calling all middle school students! HCPA invites you to join your classmates for a night at the rollercade. roll on by for an evening of classic fun. Traditional roller skates and admission is provided by HCPA. Please bring money if you wish to upgrade to inline skates (\$) or visit the concession stand at the venue. Kindly RSVP at the signup [here](#), but last minute walk-ins are welcome.

DOT Day | Friday, April 24 | All Campuses

\$1 to dress down for the day or \$6 for the year. Payable via Venmo to @holycrossacademystl. Please note DOT Day in payment.

Ways to Get Involved

Keep an eye out for our end-of-year survey coming your way soon. We'd truly value your thoughts on this year's events AND ideas for what's ahead. And don't forget that we're always looking for additional parents to get involved and support our efforts throughout the year.

And speaking of getting involved...Holy Cross Parents Association is currently seeking its next Treasurer – a meaningful opportunity to serve our community in a hands-on way. This two-year role offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at all things HCA, while helping steward resources that build community and support our students, teachers, and families. If you're organized, detail-oriented, and looking for a way to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you! Email hcpa@hca-stl.org with any questions.

2025-2026 HCPA Board
President Marie Laury
Vice President Angela Kovarik
Treasurer Erin True
Secretary Sandy Schwab

Father Daughter Dance

