



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 14 | August 2026



Family Faith Reflection:

As families prepare for a new school year, August is a season of fresh beginnings, hopefully anticipation, and new opportunities to grow in faith. Each new year is a chance to trust in God's guidance and embrace the journey ahead.

As routines begin again, consider making faith a central part of your family's daily rhythm. A simple prayer before leaving the house, reading a short Scripture passage together, or ending the day by sharing moments of gratitude can help keep Christ at the center of your home. These small, consistent habits remind us that God walks with us through every

lesson, challenge, friendship, and success.

As a school community, let us encourage one another to begin this year with hearts full of courage, kindness, and love. May we be open to the ways God is calling each of us to grow and serve throughout the year.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9.

May this promise give your family confidence and peace as we begin another wonderful year together. We look forward to growing in faith alongside you throughout the year ahead.

Head Principal's Message

We're back!!!

The school year is in full swing here at Holy Cross Academy, and it feels like we haven't missed a single beat. There is life in the hallways again, and learning is well under way in all of our classrooms.

Even with our already strong enrollment, inquiries from new families continue rolling in. Our K - 8 program proudly welcomed 54 new students this year, and our Early Childhood program has 184 students so far! Add that to the eight students in our brand new Reggio PreK, and the 361 K-8 students, and you'll see that we are educating 553 students and counting. What an honor!

With so many new faces in our community, we knew we needed a scripture theme for the year that would guide us. In 1 Corinthians 16, we are called by the words of St. Paul to, "...be courageous, be strong," and to remember that our, "every act should be done with love." As we get to know the newest members of our community, we remain intentional about who we are and what our mission demands of us. We strive to see the face of Jesus in every student, parent, teacher, staff member, friend, volunteer, and visitor. We embrace the challenges of growing as a community, while celebrating our successes and learning from our mistakes. Through it all

we remember that (as our mission states), "rooted in the Person of Jesus," we find our courage.

I cannot wait to marvel at the wonderful things God has in store for us this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Hunter



Upcoming Dates

Aug 27 - K-5 Back to School Night

Sept 3 - Picture Day -All Academy, Middle School Back to School Night

Sept 7 - Labor Day - No School

Sept 14 - Exultation of the Holy Cross, All Academy Mass at the Intermediate Campus

Sept 23 - Family Reading Night

Sept 28 - Feast of St. Michael



BACK TO SCHOOL



Holy Cross Happenings

Holy Cross Academy

CHESS CLUB

PARENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PARENT VOLUNTEER TO HELP COORDINATE HCA'S CHESS CLUB THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

You do NOT need to teach chess! Our instructor handles the chess instruction. The parent coordinator helps with communication, scheduling and being present during after-school sessions to assist with students. HCA has built a strong chess program over the years, and we would love to keep it going!

Interested? Contact Elisa Moore at elisaspadaro@hotmail.com

BARB ADE MEMORIAL

TRIVIA NIGHT

SILENT AUCTION

50/50

Benefiting the **PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK**

★ ★ **READY TO PLAY?** ★ ★

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH | 7PM
CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

Soda and water provided | \$30/person or \$240/table

To reserve a table, contact Emily Perotta:
314-402-6916 or emily_ade@yahoo.com

Teaching the Faith

Congratulations to Mrs. Lisa Duggan and Mrs. Donna Catanzaro on completing their Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training! We are so thankful for their commitment to growing in their faith and continuing to learn. The knowledge and experience they gained will help them continue sharing God's love with our students in meaningful ways.



OLP Book Fair

Our Lady of Providence Book Fair will again return during ProvidenceFest on Saturday, October 10 and Sunday October 11. A collection box is available in the foyer of the HCA Intermediate Campus at Our Lady of Providence, as well as in the vestibule at OLP, now through Friday, October 2, 2026. All categories of books are needed, as well as CDs, DVDs, audio books and records. Books must not be damaged, water marked, mildewed, or be written in or colored. Please do not donate any textbooks, encyclopedias, or magazines. For large donations, please call the parish office at 314-843-3570 to drop off the donations in the garage. For questions, or to volunteer to help before, during, or after the Book Fair, please contact Betty Amelotti at 314-795-8514.

Gala 2026

SAVE THE DATE



LEGACY

Gala
& AUCTION —



NOVEMBER 7, 2026

16 WEST GLENDALE
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

More information to follow

Holy Cross  Academy

Visit our website or [click here](#) to see sponsorship and advertisement opportunities and how to donate.

Faculty & Staff Corner

Q & A with Mrs. Aley Holman

What is your role at HCA?

ECEC Aide and Body+Balance Teacher.

What is the most rewarding part of working in education?

Getting to teach all of the children in our building and watching them grow from year to year!

What was your favorite subject in school?

Math.

What is your favorite TV show to binge-watch?

One Tree Hill.

Favorite drink or snack to keep at school?

Alani.

What is one thing you hope every student remembers from their time at HCA?

Always remember that they are loved and that they can, in fact, do hard things!

Summer or Winter?

Summer.



Q & A with Mrs. Angie Courtois

What is your role at HCA?

Primary Campus Principal.

What is the most rewarding part of working in education?

Watching children grow in confidence, faith, and independence, and celebrating all they accomplish along the way.

What is your go-to comfort food?

Chocolate chip cookies.

What is one thing you hope every student remembers from their time at HCA?

That they were known, loved, and valued at HCA.

What was your dream job when you were a child?

A Hand Model on the Price is Right.

What is a lesson your students have taught you?

The importance of finding joy in the little things. Their curiosity, honesty, enthusiasm, and ability to forgive remind me to approach each day with a grateful heart and an open mind.



From the Pews



The SHF Centennial Committee is seeking informal photos from past events, especially picnics, school parades, Holy Cross events and sporting events (Becker tournament, soccer matches, etc.). Please attach a description/name of the event and date. The photos can be sent to SHF100@foundersaffton.org, dropped off at the rectory or placed in a box at the back of Church. If you are dropping off physical photos and you would like them returned to you, please attach your name, address and phone number. Please limit the number of pictures to 5 per person.

The logo for the Streib Company Soccer Classic. It features a soccer ball in the center, with "STREIB CO." on the left and "SOCCER CLASSIC" on the right. Below the ball is a shield with a cross and the text "HOSTED BY ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL".

**FINISH THE SUMMER STRONG
AND MAKE SOME MEMORIES!**
AUGUST 12-22, 2025

**STREIB COMPANY SOCCER CLASSIC
HOSTED BY ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

Ten days of exciting soccer, community spirit, and summer fun for the whole family! Join us as teams from across the region compete on the field and families enjoy everything our tournament has to offer!

★ A TOURNAMENT FOR EVERYONE! ★

A green square icon with a white soccer ball and the text "GREAT SOCCER".
GREAT SOCCER
Competitive matches all day long featuring teams from around the area.

A blue square icon with a white burger and the text "DELICIOUS FOOD".
DELICIOUS FOOD
Enjoy a variety of food options for every appetite!

A blue square icon with a white musical note and the text "LIVE MUSIC".
LIVE MUSIC
Great music all tournament long to keep the fun going into the evening.

A blue square icon with a white balloon and the text "FAMILY FUN".
FAMILY FUN
Activities and entertainment for kids of all ages!

A blue square icon with a white beer glass and the text "DRINKS & BEER GARDEN".
DRINKS & BEER GARDEN
Cool off with refreshing drinks in our beer garden!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
COME FOR THE SOCCER. STAY FOR THE FUN!

The logo for St. Michael's Defenders Athletic Association. It features a circular design with "ST. MICHAEL'S" at the top and "DEFENDERS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION" at the bottom. In the center is a shield with a cross and the letters "DMA".

WEHNER PARK
7600 Hazel Ave, Shrewsbury MO 63119

COMMUNITY. COMPETITION. TRADITION.
The Streib Company Soccer Classic is more than a tournament—it's a tradition that brings our community together to celebrate youth sports, faith, and fellowship.
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!
GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE TEAMS!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!
Your support makes this tournament possible and helps us continue our mission of faith, community, and athletics.

STAY CONNECTED! | Streib Company Soccer Classic | stmike.soccer.com

A glowing lightbulb icon.

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**
BROUGHT TO YOU BY The logo for the Men's Club, featuring a circular design with "MEN'S CLUB" and a soccer ball.

Saturday, September 19 • 7-10 p.m.

Annunciation Church • 12 W. Glendale, Webster Groves, MO 63119

10 Rounds of Trivia for Teams of 8

Beer, wine, soda and water provided

Play for a chance to win cash prizes!

\$25 per person - \$200 table of 8 • Doors open at 6 p.m.

Present this ad at check in for a free mulligan

Visit annolp.org/trivia-teams.html to register!



Adult Tone Chime Choir

We will be starting an adult tone chime choir this fall. Everyone is welcome to join, regardless of musical experience. Reading music is not required—the only thing needed is a desire to learn.

We will learn basic ringing skills through church music, with the goal of eventually playing at occasional Masses throughout the year.

If you are interested, please contact Eryn Krobath at pekrobath@att.net.

Holy Cross Parents Association

Hello from HCPA

The end of summer and the start of school year has been busy for Holy Cross Parents Association! On July 29, HCPA hosted July Jamboree, an academy-wide celebration designed to bring new and returning families together before the start of school. With fun, food, face-painting and fellowship, it was a great opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate the HCA community.

On the first day of school, HCPA welcomed kindergarten and Reggio Pre K parents to the Boo Hoo Breakfast. This annual gathering gives parents a chance to meet one another, learn more about ways to get involved in the HCA community, and ask questions as they begin this exciting new chapter with their children.

We're grateful for the families who joined us at both events, as well as the volunteers that helped to make these events possible.

How to Get Involved

There are many ways to participate in HCPA—no matter your schedule or availability! Whether you're interested in chairing an event, volunteering for an hour, helping with teacher appreciation, supporting holiday collections, or sharing a new idea, there is a place for you.

A list of volunteer opportunities can be found at [this link](#). Some upcoming events still needing chairs and/or volunteers are Mom's Night Out, Trunk or Treat and the Fall Uniform Resale. Email hcpa@hca-stl.org with any questions about events, expectations, and/or new ideas.

We can't wait to partner with you and make this school year an amazing one for our students and families!

Mark Your Calendars

DOT (Dress Out Today) Day | Friday, August 28 | All Campuses

Give your student a fun break from the usual dress code, all while supporting HCPA. For just \$1 per DOT Day – or \$6 all-in for the six DOT Days throughout the year- students may wear whatever they choose (within the guidelines of the student handbook). Payable via Venmo @holycrossacademy-stl. Please note DOT Day payment. (Please contact hcpa@hca-stl.org if you need an alternative payment method.)

ECEC Playdate | Saturday, August 29 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | ECEC

ECEC families are invited to join us for a fun and casual playdate! A great opportunity for our youngest students and their families to play, connect and get to know one another outside the classroom or dropoff lane.

HCPA Quarterly Meeting | Wednesday, September 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Intermediate Campus

Join us for the first Holy Cross Parents Association meeting of the 2026-2027 school year. You'll gain an overview of Holy Cross Parents Association, learn about the events and efforts we sponsor throughout the year, and find out how you can get involved. There will also be refreshments, attendance prizes and opportunities to get to know others in the HCA community. See you there!

