



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 8 | February 2026



Family Faith Reflection :

Six ways you can make Lent meaningful for your family:

1. **Share the Story**

Start your Lenten Journey by sharing the story of Lent and Easter. Keep it simple and heartfelt. You can use a children's Bible to help younger members understand.

2. **Set Goals Together**

Sit down as a family and decide what each person can give up or how they can give to others during Lent. It could be giving up a favorite snack, spending less time on electronics, or doing extra chores to help around the house.

3. **Pray Together**

Prayer is the cornerstone of Lent. Dedicate time each day to pray as a family.

4. **Learn and Reflect**

Lent is a time to learn more about your faith. Read stories of the saints together or watch movies about Jesus' life. Discuss what you learn and share your thoughts and feelings.

5. **Volunteer as a Family**

Lent is also about giving to others. Look for opportunities in your community where you can volunteer as a family. Helping at a food bank, donating clothes, or visiting the elderly are great ways to live out the Lenten call to serve.

6. **Celebrate Progress**

At the end of each week, have a small celebration to acknowledge your family's efforts. Share what was challenging, what you learned, and how you've grown.

Principal's Message

Dear Holy Cross Academy
Families and Friends,

I've been praying through St. Paul's letter to the Romans, and every now and then I notice something in the way he communicated to that community, which makes me reflect on how I communicate with all of you. What messages serve you best? In what ways do you need hope, encouragement, and prayers? How can I offer something of use in this space?

I don't have clear answers to any of those questions. But I can tell you that this edition of The Cross and Community is full of so many of my favorite parts of HCA. Sprinkled throughout the pages you will see our Core Values brought to life. Who we are and how we live our mission is visible in our celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the partnership we have with our parishes, the community work of HCPA, and the stories of our students and staff both

academically and outside of school. January was a month when it was easy to recognize the fruits of the Holy Spirit at work. I saw love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I saw the Spirit alive here in our midst.

Did you see it, too?

Grace to you,

Ms. Melissa Hunter
Head Principal



From the Pews

Exodus 40

What if Lent was about more than just giving up sweets? This year, try something truly meaningful. The men of HCA are invited to join Bryan Krueger and Brandon Tait for Exodus 40, a spiritual challenge built on prayer, discipline, and fraternity. This journey helps you break free from distractions and refocus on what matters most – your faith, family, and purpose.

Take the challenge alongside other men seeking deeper growth and brotherhood. For details, click here or contact Bryan (bkrueger398@hotmail.com) or Brandon (btait@annolp.org). Lent is almost here – make this the year you go deeper.



TOTUS TUUS
Rising 1st – 6th graders
9AM – 3PM
PRICE PER FAMILY
\$85 FOR 1 CAMPER | \$160 FOR 2 | \$200 FOR 3+
St. Michael's Campus
Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness & Eucharistic worship. This summer they will learn about the Commandments attend daily Mass, partake in learning & fun activities and end the week making a "human sundae."
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Get more details at the QR Code link
totustuuscamp@gmail.com



For those longing for spiritual depth this Lent Are you craving something more than surface-level spirituality? The Justice Seekers will be lead us in taking a deep dive into a Gospel story and listen for God's invitation love, freedom, and abundant life.

When: Every Sunday in Lent after 10:30am Mass (Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29)

Where: Providence Room at OLP

Time: Six 1 hour sessions

To RSVP, text or email **Jill Orr** at 314-805-0487 ; orrmjm49@gmail.com. Attend as many sessions as you are able.



St. Martha's Hall for Mothers & Children
Easter Baskets

WOA is collecting Easter basket items for the mothers & children at St. Martha's Hall again this Lent. It serves as a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

When: Now through Monday, March 30th.

Donations: To contribute, please use this link <https://annunciationcatholicchu5.flocknote.com/signup/244278> to select items. Place items in the Bride's Room in the tub marked "Easter Basket Donations" or you can write a check to St. Martha's Hall.

Contact Person: Tricia Beavin @ 314-814-0873 or canelot@aol.com with any questions or if you need help.

God bless you as you share His love and produce joyful smiles on Easter morning!



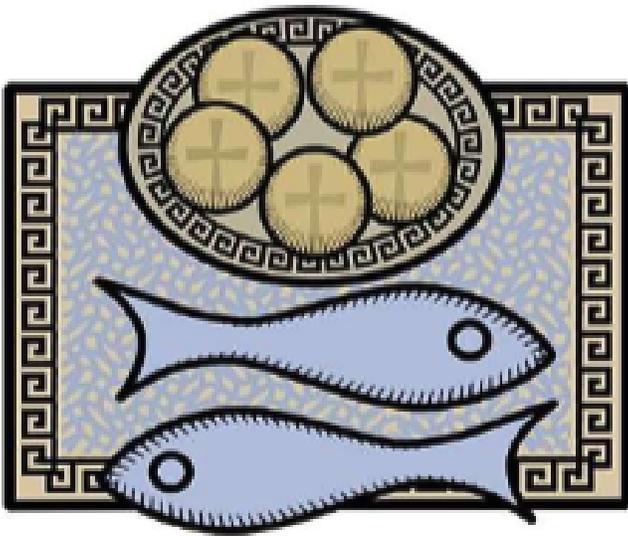
THURSDAY, MARCH 5 BINGO
SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS PARISH HALL
4:30PM DOORS OPEN
6:00PM START

MAGGIE O'BRIEN \$12 DINNER:
CORNED BEEF, CABBAGE AND POTATOES

QUESTIONS: MARCY RODRIGUEZ
314-277-1125
MARCYRODRIGUEZ3@GMAIL.COM



Fish Fry Season



Save the dates:

St. Michael's

2026 Lenten Fish Fry Fridays:

March 13 and March 27

More info soon

Seven Holy Founders Fish Fry



Dine In & Carry Out
4pm - 7pm

2026
February 20
February 27
March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

All dinners include 2 sides:

green beans - au gratin potatoes - coleslaw - spaghetti - applesauce

Fillet Dinner 1 Baked or 2 Fried 2 sides \$12.00	Shrimp Dinner (Fried Only) 7 shrimp 2 sides \$12.00	Combo Dinner 1 Baked or 2 Fried 4 shrimp 2 sides \$15.00
Fish Taco (Fried Only) \$4.00	Cheese Pizza (9 inch) \$5.00	Dinner Add-ons 1 fillet (fried only) \$3 4 shrimp \$5 coleslaw \$2 greenbeans \$2 spaghetti \$2 au gratin potatoes \$2 applesauce \$2
Basket of Hush puppies (6) \$3		Basket of Fries \$3

Soda \$1 • Beer \$3 • Wine \$4 • Desserts \$1



OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Starting Friday, February 20th through Friday, March 27th there will be a Fish Fry from 4:00-7:00 pm. More details to come!

Also, we will need 3-4 additional cafeteria workers each Friday from February 20 - March 27 to help with the collection of waste and handling of the flatware. In addition to adult volunteers, this would be a great way for our young people to get service hours!

If you can help, whether for an entire Fish Fry (3:30-7:30) or for just a couple hours, please contact *Lynne Whitney (314-843-6827)* or *Patti Loehnig (314-843-6097)*.



ANNUNCIATION:

Volunteers needed in order to have these Fish Fries!!!

Annunciation will host not one, but TWO of our delicious Fish Fries on February 20th and March 27th from 4:30-7:00 pm.

Join us for some great food and good times with friends! **Homemade or store bought desserts needed!** Please bring to the cafeteria on February 19th & 20th and March 26th & 27th by 3 pm.

Consider volunteering to help make our fish fry a success:

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2026 was a success! This year's theme was Superheroes. We loved celebrating our faith and our Catholic education.



All Academy Mass

We ended Catholic Schools Week with an All Academy Mass. It is always so special when all campuses come together.



Faculty & Staff Corner

Q & A with Paul Held

What is your role at HCA?

I teach Middle School Mathematics and 6th grade Social Studies.

How long have you been with HCA?

3 years.

What is your favorite part about being at HCA?

Working with great kids and great families.

Favorite STL restaurant?

Pappy's Smokehouse.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Watch sports and competition.

Favorite HCA memory?

The love I felt from the entire HCA community when I suffered a stroke my first year here.

Favorite vacation spot?

Destin, Florida.

Favorite movie?

Field of Dreams



Q & A with Nurse Rita

What is your role at HCA?

School Nurse

How long have you been with HCA?

Since the beginning!

What is your favorite part about being at HCA?

Keeping our staff and students safe and healthy.

Favorite STL restaurant?

Antonino's Taverna.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Travel.

Favorite HCA memory?

Working in the classrooms teaching healthy living.

Favorite vacation spot?

The beach.

Favorite movie?

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Favorite treat or dessert?

Ted Drewes Ice Cream.



Holy Cross Happenings

HCA Summer Camp

HCA Summer Camp 2026 registration is now live! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Blue & Gold Rush Raffle

BLUE & GOLD RAFFLE

STARTS FEBRUARY 16!

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY BLUE & GOLD RUSH RAFFLE

Grand Prize: \$3,000
2nd Prize: \$1,500
3rd Prize: \$500

\$25 Each or Buy 4, Get 1 FREE! • Ends March 15

Be on the lookout for surprise incentives throughout the raffle!

Parent/Grandparent Spiritwear

[Click here to shop!](#)

HCA SPIRITWEAR
FOR PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS!

OFFICIAL MERCH

AVAILABLE NOW
SEE OUR WEBSITE TO SHOP

HCA Student Choir Dates

The students in our HCA Choir will be singing at our parishes on the following dates. We invite you to attend these masses and support our students!

Sunday 2/1 -- Mass at Our Lady of Providence, 10:30 am

Sunday 3/8 -- Mass at Annunciation, 10:00 am

Sunday 4/12 -- Mass at St. Michael, 10:00 am

Sunday 4/26 -- Mass at Seven Holy Founders, 9:00 am



Holy Cross Happenings

Celebrating Grace (3rd grade)

“We are incredibly proud of Grace and the courage she showed while facing leukemia. She was diagnosed October, 2023, and even on the hardest days, she met each challenge with bravery, joy, and a strong faith that carried her through. The HCA community, especially her classmates and friends, consistently surrounded her with prayers, encouragement, and constant cheering, making this journey a little bit easier for our family. We are so grateful for a school community that reflects God’s love so beautifully. She rang the bell on January 9, 2026 surrounded by her HCA community, concluding this huge chapter.” - The Ehnert Family



Open House Raffle Winner

HCA hosted a raffle contest on our social media. Those who shared our Open House post were entered into a raffle to win a \$25 Amazon gift card, a HCA tumbler, and DOT cards. The winner of the raffle was the Olds family! Congratulations to the Olds and thank you to everyone who helped us spread the word about our Open House!

Bellarmino Speech Team



Our Bellarmino Speech Team had a wonderful time at the meet on Saturday hosted by St. Peter in Kirkwood. Our team brought home an array of ribbons!

Humorous category-Gitamani

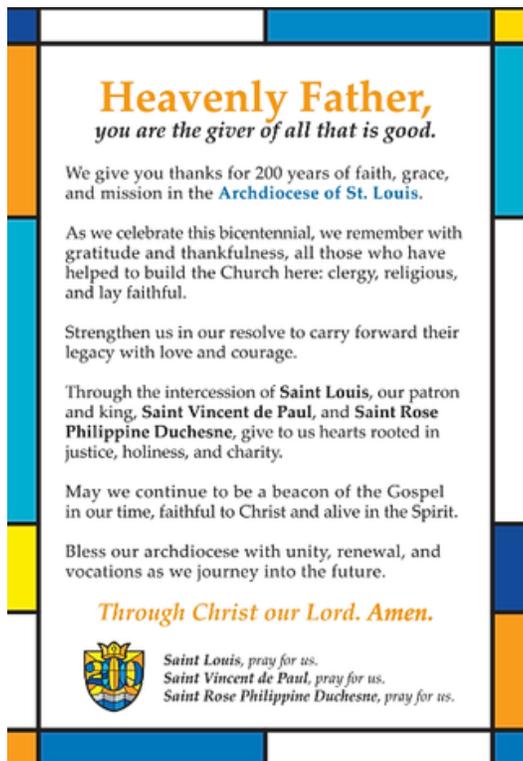
Anbukumar-Blue

Serious category-Maggie Eckert-Red,
Nicole Shoults-Blue, Maddie Ehnert-
Gold (Perfect Score!)

Holy Cross Happenings

Archdiocese Bicentennial

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a milestone that celebrates two centuries of faith, service, and Catholic education in our region.



2026/2027 Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year is now open. To complete your enrollment, visit our website under the [Application Process/Re-enrollment tab](#). If you or someone you know is looking for a Catholic, welcoming community, sign up for a tour at any/all of our campuses to see the HCA difference!

ECEC Safety Training

The Early Childhood Staff participated in a professional development day consisting of an active shooter training and working with bloodborne pathogens.

Staff practiced active scenarios as well as table discussions. Staff practiced active scenarios as well as table discussions.



Intermediate Campus Learning Lab

Our Learning Lab has transformed again - this time into a construction zone where students build real-world connections to their learning through hands-on experiences. It's all about bringing skills and standards to life in creative, immersive ways! A huge thank you to the City of Crestwood for donating materials to help make this experience possible.



Holy Cross Parents Association

Recap

Since the start of 2026, Holy Cross Parents Association has been busy showing our love and support for our incredible school community. During Catholic Schools Week, we provided lunches for our faculty and staff, welcomed Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck for a caffeinated pick-me-up for our teachers after the All Academy Mass, and sponsored a fun gift card raffle, surprising winners all week with gift cards ranging from \$10-\$100.

And earlier this month, we brought parents, grandparents, friends and HCA supporters together for a memorable "This is Kid's Stuff" Trivia night fundraiser. (picture attached) Funds raised from events like Trivia Night, Uniform Resales and DOT Days enable us to support events and initiatives for our students, teachers and families. If you're looking for ways to get involved and/or offer new ideas, consider volunteering with HCPA. Contact us at hcpa@hca-stl.org.



Upcoming HCPA Events

Dad's Night Out | Thursday, February 26 | 6:00 p.m. | Helen Fitzgerald's
Gather with other HCA dads for an evening of Bourbon and Blues (Hockey). All dads are invited, ECEC through 8th grade. No charge to attend, appetizers provided and drinks available for purchase. Please RSVP at [this link](#) so we know how many to expect.

Uniform Resale | Sunday, March 1 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Primary Campus

The Spring Uniform Resale will take place on Sunday, March 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Donations can be dropped off at any campus the week before the resale. Volunteers are also needed to work the sale. [Sign up here.](#)

Gus' Pretzel Sale Fundraiser |
Wednesday, March 4 | All Campuses
It's Pretzel Time Again! Each bag is \$6.00 and contains 5 Gus' Pretzels. NOTE: Order cutoff is Tuesday, February 24. Orders will be sent home with students on Wednesday, March 4. [Sign up here.](#)

Mother/Son Night at the Billikens Game |
Wednesday, March 4 | 7:00 p.m. |
Chaifetz Arena

All HCA moms and sons (ECEC through 8th grade) are invited to join us for a special night of SLU Billikens basketball. Come cheer on the Billikens together, enjoy the excitement of game night, and make it a memorable evening just for moms and their sons. Rally towels will be provided for all sons. Only 185 tickets available, so [reserve yours soon!](#)

DOT Day | Friday, March 13 | All Campuses
\$1 to dress down for the day or \$6 for the year. Payable via Venmo @holycrossacademystl. Please note DOT Day payment.

HCPA Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, March 31 | 7:00 p.m. | Primary Campus
Join us for our final meeting of the school year to learn about the events and efforts HCPA sponsors and find out how you can get involved. Plus, there will be refreshments, attendance prizes, and opportunities to get to know others in the HCA community. See you there!

Father/Daughter Dance: Tiaras and Ties |
Friday, April 10 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
Middle School

Dust off your tiaras and straighten those ties- it's time for a magical Father-Daughter Dance. Cost is \$15/per family, charged through FACTS. If you have multiple students, please sign up only once per family and indicate the number in attendance. [RSVP today.](#) NOTE: If a family member volunteers for the event, you will not be charged. [Sign up here to volunteer.](#)

