



# The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 7 | January 2026



## Family Faith Reflection :

*“May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans.”* Psalm 20:4

The start of a new year always feels like a fresh page - an open invitation to dream, reset, and move forward with hope. As Catholics we know that true new beginnings don’t come just from resolutions or plans; they come from God’s grace.

As you step into the new year, take a little time to pause and reflect: Where have I seen God’s hand in the past year? Maybe it was in answered prayers, joyful family moments, or opportunities you didn’t expect. Maybe it was in the

struggles that taught you to lean on Him more deeply.

St. Augustine said: “Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.” Reflection isn’t about getting stuck in the past - it’s about finding gratitude in what God has already done so we can trust Him with what’s ahead.

God, as we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Amen.

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# Principal's Message

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Dear HCA Families and Friends,

I really dislike when my alarm goes off - especially on cold, dark winter mornings. While Nova (my yorkie) wakes up bouncing up and down with joy, I do not. When I catch myself waking up and thinking about how much I'd rather be asleep, I run through a quick list of gratitude. I have warm shelter. I have coffee and food. I have a steady job in a community that I love.

Somedays, this job is really hard. It's not always my favorite thing. When I catch myself sitting at my desk lamenting the challenges, I run through a quick list of gratitude. The administrators, teachers, and staff are all in this together for the good of the community. The pastors and parishes give steady support. The parents are friendly, kind, and generous, and the students bring so much excitement.

While the school year often feels like a rapid whirlwind of activity, it is punctuated by moments of humbling joy. We have five months of this community looking exactly the way it does now. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will move forward to their high school adventures. We will welcome new families into the fold. In the midst of all the motion, where do you find your own gratitude?

May we savor every moment of growing together in faith, academics, and community!

With Gratitude,  
Ms. Melissa Hunter  
Head Principal



# From the Pews



**DATE:** January 31, 2026

**LOCATION:** Annunciation's School Cafeteria (12 W. Glendale, Webster Groves, MO 63119)

**TIME:** Doors open at 6:00 pm. Teams should arrive at 4:45 pm to set up.

**COST:** \$10/person (13 and older), \$7 (12 and younger)



SOULCORE is a movement to nourish body, mind, and soul while meditating on the life of Christ. It pairs core strengthening, stretching, and functional movement with prayers of the rosary. No fitness level or experience required. All are welcome!

**When:** First Fridays of the month at 6 AM in the Our Lady of Providence gym. However... We will be on a 'holiday' schedule with a 7am start on January 2! There is no cost but a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 for those who are able.

Dress in comfortable clothing or sportswear and bring a fitness mat. Light hand weights optional. Questions: **MARY RANDANT** at 314-359-0576.



## SHF Super Raffle

One of the few fundraisers that we have each year is the SHF Super Raffle.

It is a cash raffle with the winners being drawn at halftime of the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Each \$100 ticket purchased allows you two free admissions to the Super Bowl Party in the Parish Hall, as well as a chance to win \$10,000 (plus seven other cash prizes).

The party includes sandwiches, chili, snacks, and beverages.

The eight cash prizes are:

- First Prize: \$10,000
- Second Prize: \$1,000
- Third Prize (2) @ \$500
- Fourth Prize (4) @ \$250
- ONLY 350 tickets



A maximum of 350 tickets will be sold at \$100 each.

If you are unable to purchase a ticket individually, we encourage you to split the cost of a ticket with family or friends. If you cannot find someone willing to split the cost with you, we will find someone for you (minimum \$25 each for 1/4th of a ticket in increments of \$25).

We have sold out the past few years, so you are encouraged to buy your tickets early, so as not to miss out on the opportunity to win.

Drawing at halftime at the SHF Super Bowl Party.

We will draw/announce the winners at halftime of the Super Bowl Party in the SHF Parish Hall.

We will also contact you directly if you win (need not be present to win).

How to buy tickets:

In person after all the weekend Masses (including Super Bowl weekend)

Contact John Fechter at 314-283-5713 or Deacon Tom at 314-486-8600.

Stop by the Parish Office

(payment by cash or check (made payable to Seven Holy Founders))

**Please note,** a minimum of 135 tickets must be sold to do the drawing. This is one of our few fundraising efforts for the parish and all proceeds go to the SHF General Fund.

We typically net ~\$20k on this event and appreciate your continued support.



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# Faculty & Staff Corner

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## Q & A with Mrs. Katie Connelly

**What is your role at HCA?**

I teach 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.

**How long have you been with HCA?**

10 years.

**What is your favorite part about being at HCA?**

I love the community! We have the best students and families!

**What do you like to do outside of work?**

I like going to the movies and spending time with friends and family.

**Favorite STL restaurant?**

It's a tie between Sybergs and Biggies!

**Where is a favorite vacation spot?**

30A

**What is your favorite movie?**

10 Things I Hate About You

**Favorite HCA memory?**

I taught 2nd grade for five years and the May Crowning Mass made me cry every year.



## Q & A with Mrs. Stephanie True

**What is your role at HCA?**

Curriculum Coordinator

**How long have you been with HCA?**

5 years in various roles.

**What is your favorite part about being at HCA?**

The love of the community.

**What do you like to do outside of work?**

I love to run!

**Favorite STL restaurant?**

Anything Thai

**Favorite movie?**

Breakfast at Tiffany's

**If you could give one piece of advice to students or families, what would it be?**

Live in the moment. Take life a day at a time and try to stay focused on what is right in front of you.

**Favorite treat or dessert?**

Apple pie



# Holy Cross Happenings

## Open House

Our annual Open House is on Sunday, January 25 from 11am - 1pm. There will be tour opportunities at all campus locations. Invite your friends and family to come discover the HCA difference!



### TOUR OPPORTUNITIES AT ALL CAMPUS LOCATIONS:

Early Childhood Campus of Seven Holy Founders: 2-5 Years of Age

Primary Campus at St. Michael the Archangel: Kindergarten - Grade 2

Intermediate Campus at Our Lady of Providence: Grades 3-5

Middle School Campus at Annunciation: Grades 6-8



ROOTED IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

[www.hca-stl.org](http://www.hca-stl.org) | (314) 530 8401

## Catholic Schools Week

**Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated January 25-30 with the theme *Superheroes - Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ's Light*. Throughout the week, students will enjoy special activities that highlight what makes Catholic education unique, while also tying in our school year theme of **Serve** each day.

We will conclude our celebration together as one community with an All Academy Mass at our Early Childhood Campus.

**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY**  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**  
ROOTED IN FAITH. RADIATING CHRIST'S LIGHT.

**JAN 25** **OPEN HOUSE 11AM - 1PM**

**V26 SERVE OUR STUDENTS**  
STUDENTS, DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO AND ENJOY A DAY OF FUN ACTIVITIES.

**V27 SERVE OUR TEACHERS**  
STUDENTS, WEAR YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM AND ENJOY A FUN FILLED DAY DEDICATED TO OUR TEACHERS.

**V28 SERVE OUR PARENTS**  
STUDENTS, WEAR YOUR WACKIEST OUTFIT AS WE ENJOY A DAY SERVING OUR PARENTS.

**V29 SERVE OUR VOCATION**  
STUDENTS, DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE LITURGICAL SEASON AS WE HONOR DIFFERENT VOCATIONS.

**V30 SERVE OUR COMMUNITY**  
STUDENTS, WEAR YOUR SERVE SHIRT AND JOIN US FOR AN ALL ACADEMY MASS AT ECEC.

## Enrollment is open!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open. Enroll your child today! Click [here](#) to find information about our enrollment process and how to register.

Please visit our website under the [Admissions/Scholarship Opportunities Tab](#) to learn more about the options available for tuition assistance.

# Holy Cross Happenings

## Troop 725G Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy a delicious Pancake & Hot Breakfast Fundraiser hosted by Scout Troop 725G (drinks included)! Sunday, February 1 from 7:30–11:00am in the Seven Holy Founders Parish Hall. Our Troop sponsored fundraiser accepts cash, credit or Venmo as payment. Hot breakfast, coffee, juice and milk included. Plenty of seating at Seven Holy Founders Parish Hall.

Scout Troop  
725G  
**PANCAKE**  
& Hot Breakfast

**\$10**  
Per Person

• SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> •

SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS  
Parish Hall • 7:30am - 11am  
Sponsored by Scout Troop 725G

The graphic features a stack of pancakes with syrup and a \$10 price tag. The background is dark blue with white and orange accents.

## HCA Track Team

Join the HCA Track team! Registration is open now until February 1. [Register here](#). For questions, contact Sarah Kheriaty [skheriaty@gmail.com](mailto:skheriaty@gmail.com)



## HCA TRACK AND FIELD

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1

To register, [please click on this link](#)

QUESTIONS? Please contact Sarah Kheriaty  
[skheriaty@gmail.com](mailto:skheriaty@gmail.com)

WANT TO HELP COACH? We can use you!  
Reach out to Sarah Kheriaty for more information



JOIN THE  
HOLY  
CROSS  
ACADEMY  
CYC TRACK  
TEAM!

OPEN TO ALL K-8  
STUDENTS FROM  
ANY OF THE HCA  
PARISHES

SPRINTS, MID-  
DISTANCE,  
DISTANCE,  
RELAYS, SHOT  
PUT, LONG JUMP,  
HIGH JUMP

PRACTICES  
Sundays 2:30-4:00  
Vianney  
And a weekday, TBD

MEETS

\*March 29 at Vianney  
\*April 12 at DeSmet  
\*EITHER May 2 OR May 9  
\*May 16 at Lindenwood

## Serving Our Neighbors This Christmas

During the 2025 Advent season, HCA families came together in generosity through our Christmas Collection in support of the Wellston Center.

Thanks to the support of our community, donations helped provide gifts and essential items to more than 200 local families through Wellston's Christmas Club. We are proud to live our school year theme of Serve. [Click here to watch the full story.](#)

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# Holy Cross Parents Association

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## Recap

The end of last semester was filled with fun and meaningful moments across our four campuses!

HCPA sponsored Santa's Workshop at the Primary and Intermediate campuses, enabling our students to shop for special gifts and spread holiday cheer. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped that day, and to Christa Schwermer and Emily Perotta who chaired the event.

We also want to extend a special thank you to all of the families for their generosity to the Christmas Collections this year. Because of you, we were able to provide wonderful Christmas gifts to show our appreciation for those who care for our students each day. Special thanks to Emily Thole Stark and her band of merry elves for making the gifts so personal!

Finally, HCPA wrapped up the month with fun treats for our Middle Schoolers - pretzels for their Christmas party. Funds raised from events like Trunk or Treat, Uniform Resale, and DOT Days enable us to

support the events and initiatives above 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](mailto:hcpa@hca-stl.org)

## Upcoming HCPA Events

### **Celebrating Faculty and Staff for Catholic Schools Week | Monday, January 26 - Friday, January 30**

We're still seeking two more volunteers to deliver lunch for Faculty/Staff at the various campuses on Tuesday, January 27. This is an easy way to show appreciation for our HCA educators. Sign up [here](#) or contact Luncheon Chair Marie Laury at [hcpa@hca-stl.org](mailto:hcpa@hca-stl.org). Additionally, we're still accepting gift cards of various amounts for the annual CSW raffle for teachers. If you'd like to donate a \$10, \$20, or \$25 gift card to the drawing, please email HCPA.

### **HCPA Trivia Night "This is Kid Stuff" | Saturday, February 7 | 7 p.m. | Middle School Campus**

Seats are still available for this unforgettable evening of trivia, laughter, and friendly competition at our annual Trivia Night. This year's theme invites you to tap into your

# Holy Cross Parents Association

inner child, revisit favorite childhood moments, and enjoy a night that brings out the kid in all of us. Doors open at 6 p.m.; trivia starts at 7 p.m. Whether you're gathering a table of 8 or flying solo, we'd love to have you there. Register [here](#). If playing trivia isn't really your thing, opportunities are still available to volunteer. Sign up [here](#).

## Dad's Night Out | Thursday, February 26 | 6 p.m. | Helen Fitzgerald's

Gather with other HCA dads for an evening of Bourbon and Blues (Hockey). All dads are invited, ECEC through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. No charge to attend, appetizers provided and drinks available for purchase. Please RSVP [here](#) so we know how many to expect.

## Uniform Resale | Sunday, March 1 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Primary Campus

The Spring Uniform Resale will take place on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. A great time to gear up for the next season, but also an opportunity to clear closets of gently worn, outgrown items.. Donations can be dropped off at any campus the week before the resale. Volunteers are also needed to work the sale. Sign up [here](#).

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

All HCA moms and sons (ECEC through 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

**SAT 2/7**

**7:00 PM DOORS @ 6PM**

**HCPA PRESENTS:**

**"THIS IS KID STUFF"**

**AN ALL-ACADEMY TRIVIA NIGHT**

**50/50 & RAFFLE PRIZES**

**\$25 PER PERSON**

**\$200 PER TABLE OF 8 (BEVERAGES INCLUDED)**

**SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS**

**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY ANNUNCIATION GYM**