



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 9 | March 2026



Family Faith Reflection :

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that this season is not just something we begin, but something we continue to live each day with intention. These 40 days invite us to slow down, reflect, and draw closer to Christ in meaningful ways.

Lent is a time to check in with our hearts. Are we making space for God in our daily routines? Are we growing in patience, generosity, and compassion? Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we are given the tools to realign our focus and deepen our faith.

As a family, this is a beautiful time to recommit to your Lenten intentions:

Continue setting aside time for prayer together. Reflect on how sacrifices are helping you grow. Look for simple ways to serve others in your home and community.

Even if the season didn't begin perfectly, Lent always offers us the chance to begin again. Each day is a new opportunity to grow closer to God and to live out His love.

May the remainder of this Lenten season be one of grace, growth, and renewal for your family.

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful.” - Joel 2:13

Principal's Message

Dear Holy Cross Academy Families and Friends,

Spring is blooming all around us, which breathes forth hope and energy. (Although, based on the forecast, you're likely to read this in the midst of winter temperatures!) The earth around us reveals the signs: longer days, greener grass, and the return of color.

At the same time, our hearts continue this Lenten journey of walking with Jesus toward His death and resurrection. One of the gifts of our faith is that we already know how the story ends. We always see His dying through the lens of His rising again. Because of that, we can look for the subtle signs of new life even before they are fully visible - much like we do when the first hints of spring appear.

I often think about how this perspective shapes our school community. Our school year unfolds in seasons. This year has included times of change and times of celebration and growth. When we pause in the midst of it, we can see the ways God is always at work. It's there in our students' learning, in the dedication and love from our teachers, and in the strong partnership we share with all of you.

At Holy Cross Academy, our mission has always been the same, and I'm proud of the ways we've carried forward throughout the years. It is a joy to witness our mission alive in the everyday moments that make us who we are. I have great hope for a bright future!

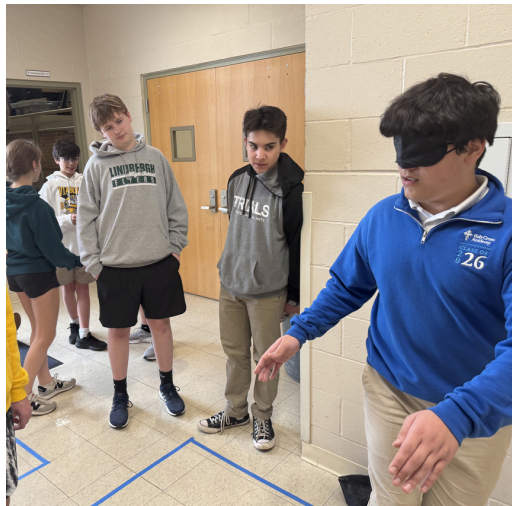
On the pages of this newsletter, you'll see some of the things we've celebrated this past month. Take a look, and then buckle up. There's so much more good to come! As we move toward the joy of Easter and the final months of the school year, I'm filled with gratitude for this community at work.

Ms. Melissa Hunter
Head Principal



Mission Carnival

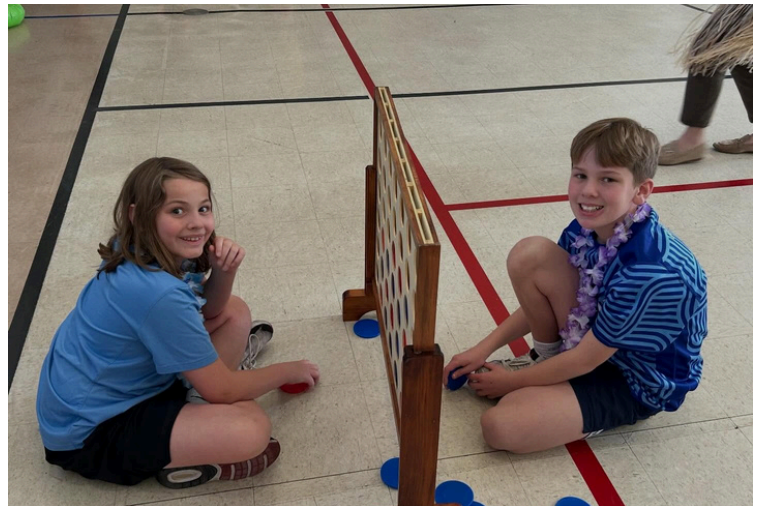
The Middle School Student Council hosted a Mission Carnival for all students. There were games, a bake sale, penny wars, and even a talent show. Much fun was had by all! Proceeds from the Penny War went to the American Heart Association.



Afternoon of Fun

The Intermediate Campus students did so well on their NWEA test scores that they earned an afternoon of fun! They watched a movie, played games, made crafts, and even did a science experiment.

Congratulations students!



Family Math Night

Family Math Night was a magical evening of learning and fun for our families! Students and parents explored hands-on math activities together, solving puzzles, counting shapes, and discovering surprising number tricks. The night ended with an exciting magic show that reminded everyone that math can truly feel like magic!



Faculty & Staff Corner

Q & A with Mrs. Katie Simpson

What is your role at HCA?

I am the learning consultant at the Intermediate Campus.

How long have you been with HCA?

I have been here since HCA began.

What is your favorite part about being at HCA?

I absolutely love our community!

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

It is okay to make mistakes, we can only learn from them, and improve.

Favorite treat or dessert?

Ted Drewe's Brownie Sundae.

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

I love that we have 4 campuses that cater specially to the needs our students. We have great resources at each campus to support specific ages.

Where would you like to travel to?

I would love to travel to the countryside of France.



Q & A with Mrs. Karen Gentry

What is your role at HCA?

I teach the young 3's.

How long have you been with HCA?

9 years

What is your favorite part about being at HCA?

Working with the little ones. They can brighten your day with their smiles and hugs.

What is one thing your student's might be surprised to learn about you?

I love Flamingos.

Favorite vacation spot?

Anywhere warm and sunny with a beach.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I love being with family and friends. I enjoy walking and doing jazzercise.

Favorite HCA memory?

One of my favorite memories is ECEC moving into its own building. It made all of us combine our skills to better serve the children.



From the Pews



Jim Slama Memorial Trivia Night Success!

Thank you to all who helped make Trivia Night 2026 a huge success. We sold out the space with 30 tables and raised over \$11,000! We are grateful for the generosity of our community.

Applications for this year's scholarships will be online in early March, and winners will be announced in May. Visit <https://jjslamascholarshipfoundation.wordpress.com/> or scan the QR code below for more pictures of the night or for information on the scholarship.



When: Sunday, June 7, 2026

Where: Aberdeen Golf Club (4111 Crescent Rd.,
Eureka, MO 63025)

Four Person Scramble

Registration/Lunch/Driving Range: Noon

Tee-Off: 1:00 PM

Dinner/Raffle Drawings: After Play

SHF Pickleball

Adult Pickleball continues at the SHF Gym, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, most Thursday evenings.

Pickleball is a fun way to get exercise and connect with parishioners socially. All adult parishioners, 18 & older, of all play levels (never played to advanced) are welcome.

The only equipment required to play are court shoes that do not mark the floor, like basketball shoes.

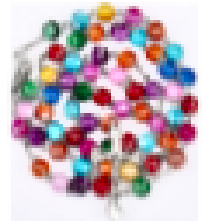
Pickleball will be held on:

- JAN 15, 22 & 29
- FEB 12, 19 & 26
- MAR 12, 19 & 26
- APR 16, 23 & 30
- MAY 14, 2026



Ladies Tuesday Evenings 6pm Rosary

Ladies of the parish are invited to come say the rosary on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. We meet in church and pray for all the intentions of our parishioners. Perhaps if you have time, plan to join us for 30 minutes of prayer time during the Lenten Season which begins February 18th. No need to call except if you have questions; **Mollie Lucchesi** 314-304-5887.



Fish Fry Season

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

MARCH 13 & MARCH 27
4:30pm - 7pm

IN THE GYM
CARRY-OUT OR DINE-IN

ADULT PLATE \$15
FISH FILET, COD (2), SHRIMP (6), FISH TACOS (2), CHEESE PIZZA (2)
ADULT plates include: 2 HUSH PUPPIES, 2 SIDES, DESSERT & DRINK
SIDES: APPLESAUCE, COLE SLAW, PASTA, FRENCH FRIES, GREEN BEANS

CHILD PLATE (6-13 YRS) \$7
CHEESE PIZZA (1 SLICE), OR PASTA
(1 HUSH PUPPY, 1 SIDE, DESSERT & DRINK)
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER - FREE

BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

*Volunteers are needed for desserts and help serving.
You can drop off desserts at the gym on Thursday evening 3/12
between 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, or at the gym on Friday after 2:00 pm.
If you can help with serving, please contact Rita Feeney,
rrjdjd@yahoo.com*



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)**.

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



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:

Holy Cross Happenings

HCA Summer Camp

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



Upcoming Dates

March 16 - March 20

Spring Break - No Classes

April 2

Holy Thursday - Early Dismissal

April 3 - 6

Easter Break - No Classes

April 9

Primary Campus Grandparents Day

April 22

Intermediate Campus Spring Concert

May 8

Field Day - Early Dismissal

May 19

8th Grade Graduation, Last Day for ECEC

May 21

Last Day of School (1st -7th grades)

Reggio Pre-K

Holy Cross Academy is introducing a new Pre-K program called Reggio. Reggio Emilia is an early childhood education philosophy that began in Reggio Emilia, Italy. It is a child centered approach where children are seen as capable, curious learners, and education grows from their interests through exploration, creativity, collaboration, and real world investigation. This program is open to children who will be four years old by August 1. To find out more information about this program, visit our [website](#).



Holy Cross Parents Association

Recap

Holy Cross Parents Association has been busy bringing our community together over the past month. Dads enjoyed a memorable Dad's Night Out on Feb. 26 featuring bourbon tasting and Blues hockey at Helen Fitzgerald's. Special thanks to the Syberg family for hosting!

Mothers and sons created memories cheering on SLU at the annual Mother/Son Night at the Billikens Game on March 4. And they even got to witness a Billiken win!

Intermediate Campus students and their families enjoyed a fun afternoon on the ice at Webster Groves Ice Rink on March 7.

Families took advantage of the Uniform Resale to stock up for Spring and the upcoming school year. We also partnered with Gus' Pretzels for a delicious fundraiser supporting school initiatives. Thanks to the chairs and volunteers who supported these fundraisers!

Funds raised from events like Pretzel Sale, Uniform Sale, and DOT Days enable us to offer free or low-cost events like the Intermediate Ice Skating Party for our students 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

HCPA Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, March 31 | 7PM | 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 | 6-8PM | 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: volunteers are still needed! If a family member volunteers for the event, you will not be charged.* [Sign up here](#) to volunteer.

8th Grade Flocking | Last Week of April

It is almost time for one of HCA's favorite traditions - 8th Grade Flocking! In April, we'll celebrate our soon-to-be graduates by "flocking" their yards with flamingos, and we need the help of 7th grade parents to keep the tradition going. If you're willing to help place or move flamingos during the flocking week, please email hcpa@hca-stl.org or connect with flocking chairs Jenna Kopff and Kelly Kelly.



Follow us on social media!



@holycrossacademystlouis