# The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter

Issue No. 4 | October 2025
**Gala Edition**

## Family Faith Reflection :

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* – 1 Peter 4:10

Stewardship isn't just about finances. Stewardship is about our whole life. God entrusts us with time, talents, and treasures, not to hold tightly, but to share generously. In the context of family, stewardship becomes a sacred responsibility: modeling gratitude, service, and trust in God's provision.

When we teach our children to give, serve, and care for others, we are shaping hearts that reflect Christ. Whether it's sharing a meal, volunteering together, or giving to those in need, every act of stewardship draws us closer to God and to one another.

Let us remember: everything we have is a gift. And in faithfully stewarding those gifts, we honor the Giver.

This month, your family challenge includes finding one way to give as a family – your time, your talent, your treasure – and to offer it joyfully in service to someone else. If you are so inclined, please share it with Holy Cross Academy. We would love to feature your family!

# President's Message

Dear HCA Family and Friends,

We have just completed the first quarter of our school year. I am so pleased with our school community! The students have been actively involved in a Food Drive. Parents have stepped up to support the Gala through Classroom Donation drive.

The Gala is our most important school fundraiser and a night of great community building. As of this writing, **we still have tickets available** and I would encourage you to attend on November 8! We have many **Live Auction Items** that you can only bid on at the Gala.

If you are unable to attend, you may still bid on our silent auction items and our raffles. **Importantly, you may also donate directly to our Fund-A-Need**. This year, our Fund-A-Need will be for campus improvements. What are campus improvements? Simply put, our classrooms need an update and our Early Childhood Center Campus could use a set of swings!

One teacher said, "Many of our classrooms are a hodgepodge of 40 year old desks and if one breaks we go to the basement to find another old desk." Today's learning environment for improved instruction, calls for desks with whiteboard tops, modular tables for collaboration and group projects, chairs that swivel or allow bouncing.

God is so good! Holy Cross Academy is so blessed with parents, grandparents, and parishioners that value Catholic education and know we are forming saints.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

With gratitude,
Toni Ponder

**Anxious Generation Workshop**

- December 1, 2025 at Middle School
- 6:15-8:30pm
- All parents are invited. You do not need to have read the book.
- Event is free, but registration is required. Register here.

# Gala Live Items

### Escape to Paradise: 7-Night Stay at a Luxurious Gulf-Front Condo!

### VIP Blues Hockey Experience

### Savor an Exclusive Culinary Experience with Chef Tyler Layton & Twisted Tree

### Meet Your New Best Friend: Goldendoodle Puppy!

### The Best of The Hill: Dinner for 8 at Favazza's on the Hill

### Fiesta for 50! All the catered food and margaritas brought to you!

# All Things Gala

### Unlock the Secrets of Brewing: VIP Brewmaster Tour for You and 9 Friends!

### Pappy and Pappy's- Exclusive Bourbon & BBQ Party

### Ultimate Golf Getaway Experience

### What is OneCause?

- OneCause is our official **Gala platform** for tickets, bidding, and donations.
- It's your all-in-one hub for the Gala – accessible on your phone or computer!

How to Use It

- **Register or log in** using your email to access the event page.
- **Browse auction items** before the Gala – you can "heart" your favorites!
- **Bid from anywhere!** You'll receive instant text updates if you're outbid.
- **Make donations or buy raffles** directly through the app – fast and secure

👉[Visit our OneCause Gala Site]

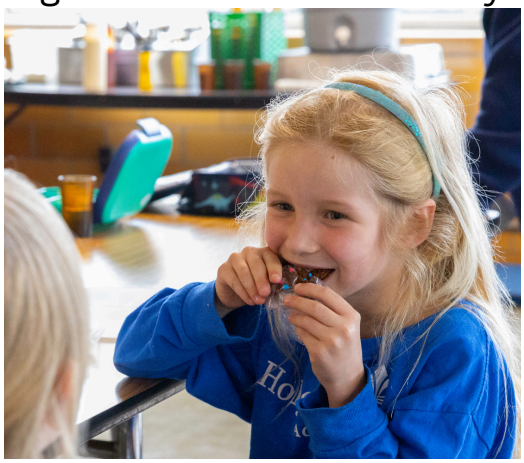
### What to know before you go!

- **Doors open at 6pm** – Head on over to the gym after Mass and enjoy cocktails, appetizers, & time to browse our silent auction and raffles before dinner.
- **Attire** – Dress to impress in cocktail attire.
- **Dinner & Live Auction** – Enjoy an incredible evening celebrating our Holy Cross Academy community!
- **Don't have a table?** We've got you covered. We'll seat you with a fun crew for a night to remember!

# Raffles & Silent Auction

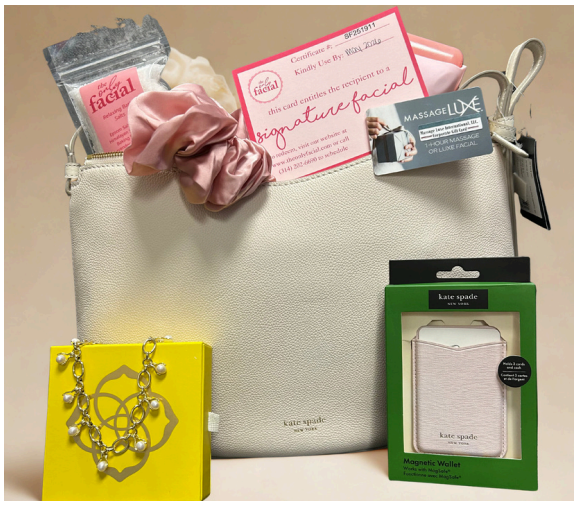
## Win Free School Lunch

- This is your chance to win the ultimate prize for your student – FREE lunches at school from December all the way through the end of the school year!



## For Her

- Kate Spade Bag
- Kate Spade Wallet/Card Holder
- The Ultimate Facial Gift Box
- Massage Lux Treatment
- Kendra Scott Necklace




## For Him

- Blackstone Grill
- Blackstone Cover
- Blackstone Tool Kit
- NFL Backpack Cooler
- Gift Card to St. Louis BBQ Store
- Selection of Modern Brewery Beers

## Silent Auction

From one-of-a-kind experiences to must-have gifts, our silent auction has something for everyone! A few of our items include:

- Teacher Experiences
- Sports Mom Survival Kit
- Date Night For a Year
- Family Game Night
- Gateway Grizzlies Party Suite
- St. Louis Symphony Dinner Date
- Spring Break at Holiday World

Click the link below for more details about our raffle items and to purchase your raffle tickets!

Raffles Link

# Middle School Grandparents Day

We were delighted to welcome our Middle School grandparents for a special Mass and celebration. The day was filled with joy, gratitude, and connection as students shared this meaningful time with their grandparents. During Mass, Fr. Callahan reminded everyone that “Grandparents are special and bring love and wisdom.” What a beautiful reminder of the important role they play in our lives and community.

# ECEC Mornings With Mom

Our Early Childhood Campus was filled with smiles and sweet moments during Mornings with Mom! Moms enjoyed a special morning featuring a tea party, relaxing spa experiences, bouquet making, and more. The celebration ended with snow cones on the playground – a perfect finish to a joyful day together. We love our amazing HCA moms!

# Trunk or Treat

Our HCA families had a spooktacular time at this year's Trunk or Treat! From minions to aliens to ghosts, our parking lot was full of creativity, laughter, and community spirit. A big thank-you to the Holy Cross Parents Association for organizing this fun-filled evening and to all the parents who decorated trunks and handed out treats.

# Faculty & Staff Corner

## Q & A with Mr. Greg Sullentrup

**What is your role at HCA?**
I am the Middle School Art Teacher
**How long have you been with HCA?**
8 years.
**If you could give one piece of advice to students or families, what would it be?**
Learn to love who you are.
**What is one thing your students might be surprised to learn about you?**
I have produced over 50 television commercials and once designed the paint scheme for a major airline.
**Which Core Value resonates with you the most and why?**
Community. Because we're all better when we're part of something bigger.
**Where is a favorite vacation spot?**
Michigan.
**Favorite HCA Memory?**
Taking students to the St. Louis Art Fair as part of the Art Aficionados program.

## Q & A with Mrs. Erin Grate

**What is your role at HCA?**
I am a Pre-K lead teacher in the Flamingo Room at ECEC.
**How long have you been with HCA?**
10 years.
**What is one thing your students might be surprised to learn about you?**
I am scared of open water...lakes, rivers and oceans.
**Favorite treat or dessert?**
Sweet candy! Gummy clusters, Sour Watermelon, Laffy Taffy, Mambas...the list goes on!
**Tell us a little bit about your family.**
I have three kids—Seamus, Louie, and Charlotte—who all attend or have attended HCA. I've been married for nearly 16 years and come from a big family with five siblings and 13 nieces and nephews!
**Favorite HCA memory?**
The laughs I have with my co-workers. We bring each other such joy.

# Holy Cross Parents Association

## Recap

Moms from all four campuses enjoyed a well-deserved night out at Helen Fitzgerald's on October 2! Between laughter and great conversation, it was a wonderful evening of connection and community. Special thanks to Julie Seyer, Elizabeth Syberg, and Alison Lubischer for hosting!

## Upcoming HCPA Events

**Uniform Resale | Sunday, Nov. 2 | 9am-1pm | Primary Campus**

The Fall Uniform Resale is a great time to gear up for the next season, but also an opportunity to clear the closets of gently work, outgrown items. Donations can be dropped off at any campus the week before the resale. Volunteers needed to work the sale. Sign up here.

**HCPA Quarterly Meeting | Thursday, Nov.13 | 7pm | Primary Campus**

Join us to learn about the events and efforts HCPA sponsors throughout the year, 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.

**Magic House Event | Sunday, Nov. 23 | 6pm-8pm**

Join us for a private playtime at the Magic House. This is a free event for families at the ECEC and Primary Campuses (siblings are welcome to attend). RSVP by Nov. 7. Sign up here.

**Lunch for Faculty and Staff at Parent/Teacher Conferences | Monday, Nov. 24**

Volunteers are needed to deliver lunch at the various campuses on Parent/Teacher Conference day. This is an easy way to show appreciation for our HCA educators. Sign up here.

**Christmas Collection for Staff and Administration**

Details will be sent in mid-November about the Christmas collection. Volunteers are still needed to assist. Sign up here.