

Dear ECEC Parents,

I am sending the newsletter early, due to being out of town on Nov. 4 and Nov. 5. I will be back at school on Monday, Nov. 8. Please contact the school office if you need anything, 314-832-4161 or Melissa Buttice, mbuttice@hca-stl.org

November Saint of the Month: St. Cecilia

- Cecilia has been honored as a **patron saint of church music** since the 16th century. According to the Holy Tradition, she prayed to God and sang sacred chants as she was being led to the altar on her wedding day. Later an angel descended to the bridegroom and bride and placed wreaths of roses and lilies on their heads. Cecilia did not want to marry, instead she wanted to serve the Lord. But she did marry as an example of trusting in the Lord's plan and being fearless even in the face of death. By her example, she was able to convert others and introduce them to God, her first love.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program: Here is a link to a YouTube video that talks more about the CGS program and shows children using the different materials in the program. The video also shows there are 3 levels to the program. Level 1 is for 3-6 year olds. The second video shows children working with materials from the Last Supper in a variety of ways. You can also find other videos and resources on the national website: <https://www.cgsusa.org/>

Children in the Flamingo, Seahorse, Tiny Tortoise, Zoo Train and Butterfly room have been going to the Atrium for several months. Please ask your children to tell you about their "work" in the Atrium with Ms. Duggan. What do they enjoy and wonder about when in the Atrium? Three year old classrooms have just started going to the Atrium and will continue to attend.

- ▶ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- ▶ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the Last Supper

St. John Paul II Mass at the ECEC campus, Saturday Nov. 6 at 4:00 p.m. followed by a Chicken Dinner call to RSVP your dinner 353-7629 or come enjoy the music in the Grove at 6:45 p.m. and the Football game on the Parking Lot Big Screen at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Workshop Donations Needed:

We are also looking for parents to help organize donations and set-up the event in December. Shopping days will be Dec. 6 and Dec 7. All items cost \$1 each

We ask families to donate new or gently used items. These items allow children to purchase up to 4 items for adults in their family. Mom, Dad, Grandma, Papa, or special family member.

Children do NOT shop for their siblings.

We are looking for gifts for both men and women. Items can include: fun socks, necklaces, holiday decorations, picture frames, mugs, small tools, scarves, lotion, candles, religious figures, new kitchen towels, cookware, sports items, golf balls, small household decorations, or other

items you may have. Donations can be dropped off at the main doors. Please share with friends or family that may be interested in donating items. We are also accepting donations of gift bags to wrap presents in and for children to carry home.

HCA Gala: Get your family and friends together to celebrate HCA on November 20. You can sign up individually or as a group. You can also request to have seating with other ECEC families if you plan to attend in person. You can also host a small gathering with family at your house that night and watch the GALA virtual at your home.

Halloween Candy: Too much halloween candy left at your house. The teachers would love to stock the drawer of chocolate that we have for them in the teacher's lounge. You can send in candy donations to the office.

The attached photo is from a day in October that we took an all school photo. We will be putting the photo on the wall inside the school.

Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer at the Christmas Workshop, Christmas Party or Valentine / Easter Gathering, you will need to complete the Protecting God's Children workshop. There are several virtual zoom training sessions in the next few weeks. There are only a few workshops in December and the 2022 schedule has not been posted. All volunteers, coaches, employees and those working with children are required to have the class. The class is only needed to be completed once over your child's enrollment with HCA. Enroll in a class through the Archdiocese website, www.archstl.org You will need to select: **Nonparish** to find our school name, Holy Cross Academy. Since we are associated with 5 parishes, we are listed as a nonparish.

We will soon be sending out a sign-up genius for the Christmas workshop and Christmas Party.

Upcoming Dates:

November 11, Veterans Day, Happy Veterans Day to John Bailey our custodian. School in session

November 15-Dec. 3 Toy Drive Collection

November 19 Feast Day of Our Lady of Providence, school in session

November 20 HCA Gala

November 24, 25, 26 School Closed, Happy Thanksgiving

December 1, Early Dismissal Day 11:45, year round can stay a full day

December 5 Christmas Workshop set-up, volunteers needed

December 6-7 Christmas Workshop shopping volunteers needed

Dec. 22 Early Dismissal at 11:45 for all students NO ASP is offered

Dec. 23-January 3 Christmas Break

January 4, 2022 First Day back from Christmas

See Photo on bottom of page

