



Holy Cross Catholic School Newsletter November 19 – December 2nd, 2011

Dear Parents,

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” (Matthew 3:3) With these words John the Baptist, one of Christianity’s earliest evangelizers, framed the purpose behind the rituals of Advent and the significance of Christmas. He proclaimed that the Lord is coming, and our hearts and minds must be ready to receive him. We are called to spread this message to others. This is the essential mission of the Church – to proclaim the message of Christ through words, witness, teaching, sacrament and love of neighbor.

Advent is truly a time when God calls us to respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers. It challenges us to live and speak the word of God in our daily lives, and reminds us of the hopefulness and goodness this season inspires. At Holy Cross School we observe this time of quiet waiting with increased opportunities for reflection, prayer, and helping those in need. Please read the note section of this newsletter for more details.

Yet, before we get ahead of ourselves, we observe the Thanksgiving holiday by thanking our good and gracious God for our many gifts. During this special time of gratitude and gratefulness, know that we (the faculty and staff of Holy Cross) give thanks to God for you and your children, and regularly uphold you in prayer. We are grateful for everything you do to promote and support our school. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Advent!

Ms. Scipioni

Monday, Nov. 21 –

8:30 – Join us for Mass at the Holy Cross Church. Various children across the grade levels will assist at this celebration.

*****WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23*****

EARLY DISMISSAL FOR HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Students at Holy Cross School will be dismissed at 12:00 today as indicated on the school calendar. Bussing will NOT be available; therefore all parents will need to provide transportation home for your child/ren today. There is also no Angel Care for after school care.

Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 –

Thanksgiving break! School will not be in session at Holy Cross on Thursday and Friday. Enjoy the extended break with your kids!

THANKSGIVING TABLE PRAYER

Good and Gracious God, Creator and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks.



Thank you for your every grace and blessing. You have given us all we need.

We are grateful to live in a country where we are able to praise you aloud.

We are grateful for our families, good health, meaningful work, food and shelter. Grant that we, who are filled with good things from your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless and the poor.

In your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessings throughout the coming year. This we ask in the Name of Jesus, your Son and our Brother. Amen.

Saturday & Sunday, November 26 & 27 –

This weekend marks the beginning of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus. We begin the changes with the liturgy this weekend as well.

Monday, Nov. 28 –

Monday Meeting Advent Angel Prayer and Giving, Week #1. See note section for more details.

Friday, Dec. 2 –

VOIGT BUS (ROCORI) will not be running today. **ALL STUDENTS WHO RIDE THIS BUS WILL NEED TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO AND FROM HOLY CROSS SCHOOL TODAY** (as Rocori schools are not in session).

8:30 – Mass, assisted by the students in grades 3/4. All are welcome to join us at this Eucharistic celebration.

Today marks the end of Trimester #1.

ADVANCE NOTICE - FIRST RECONCILIATION – DECEMBER 3RD

All Catholic second grade students and their parents are requested to meet at the Immaculate Conception Church in Rockville at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3rd to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Congratulations to our second grade students as they receive this sacrament of forgiveness, mercy and grace.

NOTES

ADVENT ANGEL PROGRAM – AN EXPLANATION

Our Holy Cross School community will prepare for the coming of our Savior through our Advent Angel program of prayer and giving. An all school gathering will be held weekly as an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and to assist those in need. This community, however, is already so generous ... so please participate only as you feel you are able:

Week # 1 (Mon. Nov. 28)– Gently used or new winter wear (coats, boots, hats, mittens, etc.). All used items should be of the quality you would give to a friend – clean and in good repair. All donations will be given to Catholic Charities.

Week # 2 (Mon. Dec. 5) – Personal hygiene items for the Anna Marie’s Alliance. Items such as toothbrush/toothpaste, combs, hand sanitizer, foot powder, soap, deodorant, etc. Wrapped, nonperishable treats such as trail mix, dried fruit, cookies, candy, etc. would also be appreciated.

Week # 3 (Mon. Dec. 12) – New or gently used baby items (clothes, blankets, diapers, bibs, toys, etc.) will be given to Catholic Charities.

Week #4 (Mon. Dec. 19) – All donations must be received by this date.

Once again, parents, thank you for setting such a good example of giving for your children. Don’t feel obligated to participate weekly in this program, but maybe find one opportunity that is meaningful to you and your family, and consider a small gift. Students are encouraged to bring their offering on the date listed, to give it in conjunction with our weekly prayer service. Thanks again for your generous support.

PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCE INFO

In today’s (11/18/11) office envelope all PreK and Kindergarten families will find a conference form that you are asked to return to the school by Wednesday, Nov. 23rd. We will then schedule parent teacher conference appointments, and get your individual conference appointment sent to you in the Friday, December 2nd Friday Folder. Parent Teacher conferences for grades PK and K will be held after school/early evening on Tuesday, December 6th.

ACCREDITATION – PARISHIONER SURVEY

All parents who are parishioners at Holy Cross Church are strongly encouraged to complete a “Parishioner Survey” as an important part of the accreditation process. Make your opinion as a parishioner known, as it is necessary to the accreditation process to understand if the school is seen as an asset or a liability by our parish community. It is important that both you and your spouse complete a form individually to help boost our survey numbers. Also, please encourage your family and friends who are parishioners to complete a survey as well. Your input is important and necessary!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM INFORMATION

Our annual Christmas program is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13th at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.** As always, this year's program promises to be a wonderful and memorable event, with Mrs. Faber and your talented children ready to perform. Like many of you, I find the children's program to be the highlight of the holiday season, and am looking forward to seeing you and your relatives at the show! I'll send out a more thorough explanation of program specifics in early December. In the meantime, here are a few quick reminders:

- As you are doing your holiday baking, please save one dozen cookies (or so) to donate to our social that will follow both performances. Your kind offering will make a wonderful snack for all of our visitors, and is much appreciated.
- We'll have a musical prelude preceding each program where students can demonstrate their musical talents as guests are being seated. If your child takes lessons on any instrument (not vocal) and would like to play during this informal opportunity to showcase their talents, please have your child sign up with Mrs. Faber.

SCRIP – SHOPPING MADE EASY!

In last week's Friday Folder you were sent information regarding the gift cards that we carry in our SCRIP program. Just in case you have forgotten, we purchase SCRIP (gift cards) at a discount and make a profit by selling you the card at its purchase price. Please keep SCRIP in mind when you do your Christmas shopping in the coming weeks. Not only can you purchase the local SCRIP cards that we carry as inventory, but you can also go to the website (glscrip.com) to find SCRIP for national chain stores as well. Bring in your on-line orders to the school and we will place the order for you and pay the shipping! We will do one on-line order on Wednesday, December 14th, so all SCRIP orders must be received at school by 8:00 a.m. on that date.