



CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The mission of Holy Cross Catholic School is to provide a setting that ignites a joyful spirit of Christian discipleship in collaboration with families, staff, and the parish in a personalized learning culture.

November 5, 2020

Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese. EVERY classroom or lunchroom volunteer or employee needs to have attended. To find a session that fits your schedule, go to www.virtus.org and select "First Time Registrant." Then choose "view list" of class sites, and choose "Detroit." Scroll through to find your session, then go back to the top of that page to create your login. The training is also available online: if you don't find it on the "Virtus" website, call school.

When attending a "PGC" workshop, be sure to be on time, as the Archdiocese does not allow latecomers to enter.

All volunteers working with children must have attended a "PGC" workshop.

Remember: you need to complete this workshop in order to volunteer for field day or camp or to chaperone field trips.

If you have recently attended a "PGC" workshop, please send a copy of your certificate to school ASAP so we have it on file--thank you!

got SCRIP?

**Mondays 7-9am and 5-6pm,
and Fridays 7-9am**

Patty Smith 810.434.9557--
Call or text your order ahead of time
to arrange "no-contact" pickup!

If you're not sure how SCRIP can help pay your tuition (at no cost to you), please call Patty or the school office for a quick lesson!

Report Cards

...will go home with students tomorrow.

East China Buses

Students who live in the East China School District are eligible for free busing through the District. For more information, please contact ECSD's transportation department at 810.676.1100. (Students in the St. Clair area: your bus will leave Holy Cross at 2:25, so you will miss part of your last class if you take the bus. Talk to your teacher about how to make up any classwork missed.)

Mark Your Calendar....

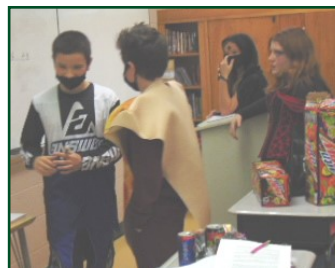
- Th.&F. Nov 12-13: no classes--parent-teacher conferences
- F Nov 20: "Thanksgiving Feast"
- W-F Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving break--no school
- M Nov.30: back to class

League of Catholic Women Scholarship Contest

Congratulations to **Vivian Gray, Leo DeVeney, Ella DeFauw** and (tied) **Veronica Daugherty** and **Gianna Ringeisen** for winning the contest! They submitted their replies to the question "What is God asking of me in school?". Vivian included being patient, determined and brave: she says that instead of saying "I'm going to give up--this is too hard," she tries to say, "This is very difficult, but I am going to keep on trying and do my best." Leo wrote that God wants him to listen to his teacher, who "treats me the way that Jesus would: with love and respect." Ella thought "God wants me to work hard in school and follow His path." Veronica said God wants "me to be different, because God makes us all different." Gianna summed it all up: "God wants me to be good."

Hallowe'en

It was fun to be able to do something where wearing masks is "normal"!



Volleyball

The Crusaders won last Thursday's game: congratulations on your second win, ladies! The team's last game was Monday. The crowd was amazed at our girls' growth over this short season! Congratulations to each team member on a great season. Thank you, too, to Mrs. Kowalewski and her assistant, Kayla Beecherl, for making the season happen for the girls.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held next **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 12 & 13 (no school for students those days)**. Both inperson and virtual conferences will be available. Attached is a form to request a conference. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY receiving confirmation of inperson conference appointment(s), you're all set! If not, and you want to speak with your child's teacher, please fill out the form and send back **by the end of school on Monday** with your 1st, 2nd and 3rd appointment choices. We'll send confirmation of new inperson conference appointments. Teachers will contact parents who have request virtual meetings to arrange those.

Thank You!!

...to the Crusader families who answered the call last week to mulch the playground: thank you to **Mr. and Mrs. Davenport** and **Dylan and Preston, Mrs. Guyor** and **Conor and Liam, Mrs. Smalley, Mrs. Steinmetz, Mr. and Mrs. DeVeney** and **Ava, Dominic, Leo, Lily and Nina, Gabe Jacobs, and Mr. Phelan** and **Matty**. Many hands made light work: the job was completed in about an hour--and now the playground is safer for all of our students. Thank you, all!



"Remember Your Mask!"

We seem to be getting more forgetful, and it's expensive for the school to keep buying masks. As long as it's the law, think of your mask as part of your uniform. Lay it out with your school clothes, or with your book bag or your lunch box: something you know you won't leave home without! Keep a disposable mask in your homework binder, just in case. Parents: please help your kids remember their masks when they leave home in the morning, and carry a few extras in your glove box, or purse.

Washable Fabric Masks

We received a donation of white, reusable fabric masks. Please call if you'd like us to send one home with your student so you will have an extra.

Remember Your Charged ChromeBook Every Day!

Students: you need your charged ChromeBook EVERY DAY at school--charge it every night and bring it every day. We don't often have spare ChromeBooks to loan out!

Basketball and Cheerleading

Basketball and cheer season begin next week. **Mr. Bill Guyor** returns as our boys' coach; his team includes 5th graders **Anthony Boedeker, Alex Ogden, CJ Pennington, Gavin Remier** and **Xavier Zammit**; 6th graders **Micah Arlow, Dylan Davenport, Miles Dixon, Gabe Jacobs** and **Charles Zech**; 7th grader **Kaden Remier**; and 8th graders **Brennen DeMeulenaere, Conor Guyor, Evan Jacobs**. Girls who want to play are 5th grader **Mila Mkrtchyan** and **Bella Smalley**; 6th grader **Abigail Westrick**; 7th graders **Katie Kowalewski** and **Lylah Schaening**; and 8th graders **Ava DeVeny, Skye Moss** and **Angie Winne**. BUT THEY NEED A COACH!! **Coach Samantha Duncan** returns, with her cheer squad of 5th graders **Bella Smalley** and **Makenna Toupin**; 6th graders **Allie Maykowski** and **Abigail Westrick**; 7th graders **Katie Kowalewski** and **Lylah Schaening**; and 8th graders **Ava DeVeny** and **Skye Moss**.

Athletes: get your sports physical taken care of ASAP so you don't miss any practice!

Adults who know basketball: we still need a coach (or two) for the girls. Anyone interested: please contact the school office!

There Are More Bingos!

To schedule to work bingo on Wednesdays at St Catherine's: please contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

"Thanksgiving Feast"

A long-standing Holy Cross tradition that our PTO has been working hard to keep alive this year is our school Thanksgiving feast! (The entire school body: students teachers, and a few parent helpers--share the work, and then the meal.) After much research and deliberation, we have scheduled it for **Friday, November 20**. Chartwell's will not be serving lunch that day; instead, we will have a volunteer work crew headed up by **Ms Trish Babel** and **Mrs. Becky Bryson**. A few concessions had to be made to the coronavirus...seating will be more distant, student involvement in preparation has to be postponed until the pandemic is over, and we'll have Neiman's chicken instead of roasted turkey. But the feast, and what we're thankful for, is about WAY more than the menu! We love opportunities to gather to celebrate our "school family," and this is a prime one.

Please see the attached "PTO Particulars" for more details. Paperware and some bulk food items have been donated. Instead of the food donations usually requested, **we are requesting \$3/student** to help pay for the things we will need to buy (turn in to teacher), and/or other donations toward the rest of the meal. If you can help, please contact Trish Babel at 810.643.6085.

"PTO Particulars"

Please see page 5 attached for "PTO Particulars for November." PTO is seeking volunteers for the following events:

1. Book Fair-Nov 11-13. Contact Brigitte Pennington at 810-858-7068;
 2. St. Clair Parade-Nov 20. Contact Becky Bryson at 757-334-9662;
 3. Marine City Christmas Parade-Dec 1. Contact Becky Bryson at 757-334-9662;
 4. Santa Shoppe-Dec 9-10. Contact Becky Bryson at 757-334-9662
- (Details about all these events is in the "PTO Particulars" page!)

Service Credits: Lunch Aides

Thank you to those who have been signing up and working as lunch aides! (A reminder to sign up for shifts in advance to be sure you receive the credit: if you just show up and we have enough workers already, we can't offer the extra credits.) The signup schedule is online at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tqQWXOy86EdecEz7Sq0dzzPy6NK6SUjTd9zNJXEHIfe/edit#gid=1>

--and runs through the end of the school year. You can take any open slot: just fill in your name. However, remember that everyone working at lunch must be an adult, must have taken the "Protecting God's Children" class (which you can do online!--see the first paragraph of this newsletter) and submit to a background check.

Signups have been lightest on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and we would really appreciate having four aides all days before anyone signs up to be the 5th person on any other day. You can earn your service credits while seeing your kids! If you are interested (or for more info), please contact the school office.

Auction 2021

Have you seen any great bargains or really interesting items during recent shopping trips? It's not too soon to think of your Auction donation!

Auction time will be here before you know it--and its success will depend on the items we've been able to gather. Keep the Auction in the back of your mind as you shop clearances or during your travels! (If you'd bid on it, chances are good that someone else would, too.)

Due to the pandemic, this year's Auction is being planned as a virtual event. This means that fewer service credit work shifts will be available than in the past. Please contact the school office if you are interested in earning credits by working the Auction.

A Plea On Behalf of Your Parish:

Your parish needs you now more than ever. Please keep your pastor and his staff in your prayers during this pandemic crisis. You are invited to join in Our Lady on the River's daily and weekend services. However, if you prefer not to venture out into crowds just yet, please continue to send in your "tithe" or weekly donations, as you are able. Just as your household has ongoing expenses regardless of governmental orders, your parish, also, has such needs, and no other way to meet them than its parishioners and other donors.

To give online to Our Lady on the River go to:
<https://ourladyontheriver.weshareonline.org/>

Sports Program Fundraiser

So that our families do not have to "pay to play," the Holy Cross Booster Club funds our junior high sports program, from the costs of uniforms through league, tournament, and referee fees. Athletes' parents are asked to help with admissions and concessions at home games to help generate income to cover all those costs.

The Boosters also sponsor a magazine sale every year. This year the fundraiser is entirely virtual, and continues all year! You'll find many popular magazines, as well as gift items (think: holiday time?). Renewals and digital subscriptions can also be processed through this program, so that Holy Cross athletes benefit from items you're buying, anyway. To see what's available, follow this link (or copy and paste into your browser URL line):

<http://www.gaschoolstore.com/landing.aspx?SID=2709251>

PTO Pies

Who doesn't love pie? PTO sent flyers home with all students last week describing their pie coupon fundraiser: use the coupons yourself for Achatz's delicious pies for your dinner table, or give them as gifts. Orders need to be in the school office by Nov. 10.

Box Tops for Education

Just a reminder about "how to" digitally save those little box tops...download the app, scan the receipt, and you've done it! For details on the new program, please go to: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/newbtfte>

As long as you see "Box Tops" on packages, please do continue to clip and send them in--they will be honored until their expiration dates.

Food Drive at Mass

Since we have no school next Friday (the second Friday of November), our monthly food drive will be tomorrow, instead. Students are invited to bring nonperishable food and other items to give to the pantry at mass tomorrow.

The pantry needs canned fruits, proteins (like peanut butter and canned hams or other meats), and items for Thanksgiving dinner baskets (like stuffing mix, green beans/cream of mushroom soup/French fried onions), potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy. Toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo and feminine products are also always needed. Thank you for any help you can offer our needy neighbors!

School Closings

Time to start thinking about "snow days"! Holy Cross will make every attempt to be included in the TV and radio school closing lists, but remember that if East China School District closes its schools for bad weather, Holy Cross will close along with them. (Cardinal Mooney may or may not with East China and Holy Cross; as their students come from more diverse areas, Cardinal Mooney may close on days when East China and Holy Cross remain open.)

School families will also receive email notification of closings.

You can request text notifications, via your SchoolSpeak account:

1. Log in to School Speak and click "Start profile update."
2. Scroll down to "Please enter your mobile phone number and carrier."
3. Enter your mobile phone number, choose your carrier, "uncheck" the box to "receive all school text messages, and "check" the box to receive only emergency notifications.
4. Click "done" to save your changes.

Shirts and Hungry Howie Cards

The \$10 card includes a free large one-item pizza: hard to go wrong! PTO also has a few "vintage" t-shirts (old logo) and caps available at the school office: \$5 each

On behalf of all of our student athletes: thank you!

Honoring Our Veterans

Next Wednesday, Nov. 11, is Veterans' Day. Are there veterans in your life or in your family's history? Please bring a picture, if you can, and your veterans' stories to share with your class that day.

VG's Receipts

Please keep saving the entire paper VG's receipts, including the "Direct Your Dollars" paragraph. ("E-receipts" are not accepted.) We have started compiling them for our next reward, and will continue to collect receipts until the store tells us to stop! Receipts can be dropped off at the school office (or SCRIP office) when you're out and about, or turned in at the rectory, or in the box at the river entrance at church.

"Amazon Smile"

Do you shop online? You can designate Holy Cross to receive credit from online shopping through Amazon Smile! We are registered in Amazon Smile as "Holy Cross School Marine City:"

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1542098>

Please complete a "review" on our Holy Cross School Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholicmc/>

You can follow us on Instagram:
#mcholycross

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Who: The first graders

What: Canned Food Drive

When: November 9th –
November 24th

Why: To give food to the poor.

Most needed items: peanut butter, jelly, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, mac & cheese, canned soup, spaghetti, canned fruits and vegetables, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies

Our goal is to bring in 300 items. If we meet our goal, Mrs. Davenport will get a pie in the face!





Student Highlights

...for October:

Kindergartner **Josie Cherro** is a welcome addition to our Holy Cross family! She is a hardworking, conscientious 5-year-old. Josie is responsible, caring and well liked by her peers. Her classmates consider her a good friend.

First grader **Lauren Jaracz-Pisarski** is quiet and kind. When she grows up, Lauren wants to be a nurse. Her favorite foods are sushi, steak, and lamb chops. At home, she likes to go on the trampoline with her brother Caleb. Her favorite part of school is recess, but she's great at Math! **Lucas Babel** is an awesome leader in the classroom. He does his best to help his classmates (and his teacher!) any way he can. When Lucas grows up, he wants to be a nurse. His favorite food is watermelon. At home, he likes to play Candy Crush on his tablet. His favorite thing about school is gym.

Third grader **Grace Heinrich** is new to Holy Cross this year and joins us from Pine River! Grace likes to play soccer. She also likes to sing, dance, and perform. Grace was recently in the play "Hey, Hey Halloween!" She did a fantastic job! Grace's favorite color is green and her favorite animals are dogs. A fun fact about Grace is that her favorite holiday is Easter! students. **Joshua Jacobs** likes to play soccer and basketball. He likes to play those sports because he gets to run. His last favorite trip was to Mackinac because he enjoyed seeing the Mackinac Bridge. He even got to swim in Lake Superior! Josh's favorite color is green and his favorite animals are dogs. A fun fact about Josh is that his favorite snack is Little Bites! Holy Cross is blessed to have these two students as part of our community!

Justin Williamson is new to our Holy Cross family, but has quickly fit right in. Within the classroom, Justin is really good at math. He enjoys a good "curveball" problem to solve. Outside of the classroom, Justin is quite the athlete. His favorite sport is football. His favorite food is PIZZA. I am happy Justin is part of our 4th grade community.

Fifth grader **Vivian Gray** is a wonderful young lady with a lot of leadership potential. She always steps up to help others and makes others feel welcome. Vivian knows when it is time to work, and when to have fun.

Caleb Jaracz-Pisarski is an awesome sixth grader with a great imagination. While he may seem on the quiet side, he is very intuitive to what is happening around him. Caleb has a creative way of thinking and always tries to do his best.

Eighth grader **Ava DeVeny** enjoys playing volleyball, running cross country and cheerleading. Ava likes to read, especially The Wings of Fire Series. Ava is a very compassionate young lady who always thinks about her peers. She is very intuitive and mature beyond her years. I remember when Ava was in the first grade she always brought "bunny" to school to keep her company. Now, Ava prefers hanging out with her friends in school. Ava is a wonderful role model for her younger siblings, and I am certain she is a big help at home. I am proud of Ana and I have thoroughly enjoyed being her teacher for so many years.

PTO Particulars: November 2020

Greetings Holy Cross family!! We hope everyone had a lovely October and Happy Halloween. As we jump right into November, we have some fantastic opportunities for you to stretch your volunteer muscles!

The Fall Achatz "Pie" Sale is underway. Achatz order forms were sent home with your eldest Crusader. This "coupon style" fundraiser means you will purchase a coupon for whichever products you like, then you pick up the product from any Achatz location when YOU are ready! What a great way to ease your burden for Thanksgiving and Christmas desserts! Achatz also carries savory pies that are fabulous meal on a cold night. Please contact Deb Callahan with any questions at 810-650-3140.

Next week we will hold our Scholastic Book Fair from Wednesday, 11/11-Friday, 11/13. Wednesday, the fair is open to allow students the chance to peruse their selections. Thursday and Friday provide parents the opportunity to shop during Parent-Teacher Conferences. What a great way to knock out some early Christmas shopping! We are seeking volunteers to help man the Book Fair. Please contact Bridgette Pennington at 810-858-7068 with your availability. Book Fair hours: Wed-7:30-3; Thur-12p-8p; Fri-8a-3p

Friday, November 20 brings not one, but two events for HC! During the day we will hold our Thanksgiving Feast for the students and staff. While we know things may look a bit different this year, we are proud to say we have been able to uphold this HC tradition. In lieu of the food donations we usually request (which each class prepares), HC is asking for a small monetary donation to cover the cost of commercially prepared food items. Please contact Trish Babel at 810-643-6085 with any additional donations such as bottled water, desserts, etc. you may wish to offer.

The second event on Friday, 11/20 will be our first ever participation in the St. Clair Santa's Lighted Parade. The parade begins at 6pm, therefore we will need volunteers available at 5pm (or earlier) to help coordinate our group. We would also like to welcome students and families to walk with us as we celebrate the season! Be on the look-out for an email with more details as we receive them from the parade committee.

To jump ahead into December, please also mark your calendars for the Marine City Lighted Santa Parade Tuesday, 12/1 at 7pm. We will meet in the parking lot of HC by 6pm (or earlier) to coordinate. As with the St. Clair parade, we will need volunteers to coordinate and students and families to walk the parade as well!

Wednesday, 12/9-Thursday, 12/10 brings us our Santa Shoppe! This is a fantastic way for students to shop for their loved ones...and hone their math and budgeting skills! Each class will have a specific time slot during the day for shopping and wrapping their gifts. More information will be coming home with your eldest Crusader in the next few weeks. As we implement the safest possible shopping experience for your child, we will need plenty of volunteers on hand to make this a safe and pleasurable experience!

We hope you will join our next meeting which is Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30am via Zoom. Please contact Becky at: beckybryson123@gmail.com or 757-334-9662 with your email address so we can get the Zoom meeting codes to you! We ask this instead of a sending out a blanket invitation to the whole school to try to avoid any hacking incidents.

Warmest regards, HC PTO

Dear Families,

Nov. 5, 2020

This is the schedule of times for conferences on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 12 and 13. Please mark your preferred time(s) in the appropriate boxes for each teacher you'd like to see, and sign and return this form by Monday, Nov. 9. (No spots will be guaranteed after this time.) You will receive a confirmation of your appointment(s) by Wednesday, November 11.

	Ms. Jondron	Mrs. Gryszkiewicz	Mrs. Kiger	Ms. Tersigni	Mrs. DeMeulenaere	Mrs. Wade / Ms. Johnson / Mr. Van- derGraaff
Th Nov 12 noon-330pm						
Th Nov 12 5-7:30pm						
F Nov 13 8-10:30am						
F Nov 13 noon-2:30pm						

If you prefer a virtual conference, or if you wish to speak with one of our itinerant teachers, please check appropriate teacher's name, give names and your preferred method of being contacted, and the teacher(s) will contact you:

_____ Ms. Novak (art)	_____	_____
_____ Ms. Suchomel (technology)	_____ student name(s)	_____ parent name
_____ Ms. Volz (music)		
_____ Mr. Middleton (P)		
_____ Ms. Choate (library)		

_____ preferred method of contact--phone number or email address

_____ **parent signature**

