



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.

December 10, 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!

Get Well Soon!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Path (dad of 4th grader, Alex) as he recovers from surgery this week.

"Make a Difference" Poster Scholarship Contest

So many nice posters! It made selecting the winners a challenge for the judges! Congratulations to Kindergartner **Lily DeVeny**, first grader **Theo Gray**, fourth grader **Gracelin Cusumano**, and fifth graders **Mila Mkrtychyan** and **Vivian Gray**! Posters will be displayed at the school office. Thanks for entering!

Mark Your Calendar....

- **F Dec 11: 9am mass with food drive for parish pantry**
- **W Dec 16: bring "Santa hat" or headband for music class**
- **F Dec 18: last day of school before Christmas break**
- **M Jan 4: classes resume after Christmas break**

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. (Of course, there are no buses running while East China District is entirely "virtual.")

Bingo

Bingo halls are still "on pause," but will be eager to re-open as soon as the "pause" is lifted. To schedule to work bingo on Wednesdays at St Catherine's after the "pause": please contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

Service Credits

Your family's service credit record is on its way to you, and should be in your USPS mailbox soon--please check it to be sure we've recorded all your service credits worked to date.

If you have not yet signed up for your service credit work shifts this year...the service credit portion of the "tuition contract" calls for families to be assigned to "Plan A" (simply paying for their service credits) if they have not signed up for credits by September 15. With all the uncertainties this year we have been more lenient with that deadline than in the past. However, as the year nears its halfway point, we need to know our families' plans. Please be advised that if families have not signed up for their service credit work shifts by the end of December, they will be assigned to "Plan A" on January 1.

To sign up for Wednesday bingos (at St Catherine activity center in Algonac), contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

For Auction or Lenten fish fries, sign up at the school office. (Please be advised that there are only a few credits available to be earned via the Auction.)

Thank You!

...to the **Zech family** for their donation of masks!

...to **JoAnn and Bill Westrick** for the many items they donated for our "Santa Shoppe!"

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 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.

"...and 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 have spare ChromeBooks to lend.

Food Drive at Mass

Tomorrow is the second Friday of December. On second Fridays, students are invited to bring nonperishable food and other items to give to the pantry.

This month the pantry needs breakfast foods, and canned fruits and proteins (like peanut butter and canned hams or other meats). Toilet paper, diapers, laundry detergent, shampoo and feminine products are also always needed. Thank you for any help you can offer our needy neighbors!

T-Shirts and Hungry Howie Cards

The \$10 Howie card includes a free large one-item pizza along with pizza discounts: a nice gift to include in a Christmas card.

PTO also has a few "vintage" t-shirts (old logo) and caps available at the school office: \$5 each.

Auction 2021

It's time 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 something, 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.

Due, also, to the pandemic causing the event to go virtual, there is a little more time to gather items. The due date for families' donations has been extended to **January 5, 2021**.

Winter Wear?

Especially this year, we want to get the kids outside as much as we can. Please be sure your student has appropriate outer wear for cold weather recess --coat, hat, gloves, snowpants, boots.

Service Credits: Lunch Aides

Thank you to those who have been signing up and working as lunch aides!

Please to sign up for all service credit shift 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.

Looking ahead, **we will really need your help after the first of the year!**

As a lunch supervisor, you can earn your service credits while seeing your kids! If you are interested (or for more info), please contact the school office.

Basketball and Cheerleading

Basketball/cheer season has been postponed by the state until January. We'll keep you posted as to sports seasons' start dates!

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>

"Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest

Our local Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a poster contest to help us remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas." Children in each of three age groups (5-7, 8-10, and 11-14) are invited to create 11x17" posters reflecting that theme. Please put your name, age and phone number **ON THE BACK** of your entry, and drop off by Dec. 18 at Holy Cross school or OLR parish office. (Posters will not be returned.) Judging will take place at St Catherine's after their 11:30 mass Dec 20. (Students are working on these in art class, too.)

"Warming Tree"

The Holy Cross Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is collecting scarves, hats, and mittens or gloves for its "Warming Tree" in school. The items collected will be given to local needy children.

If you are able to help, please send any of those items to school to put on the tree. We will be collecting them through tomorrow only. Thank you for your concern for our neighbors in need!

You can follow us on Instagram:
#mcholycross

VG's Receipts

Thanks to everyone who continues to save them for us!

Please keep saving the **entire** paper VG's receipts, including the "Direct Your Dollars" paragraph. ("E-receipts" are not accepted.) We are already about a third of the way to 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.

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/newbtf>

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.

"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>

Gym Clothing

TP Logos has come up with school-approved and logo'd PE wear! Here is a link to TP Logos' ordering information for Holy Cross:

<https://holycrosscatholic.itemorder.com/sale>

Look at the bottom of the form, under "accessories," for the T-shirts and jogging pants approved for PE classes.

"Snow Days"

As wintry weather becomes our reality, all are reminded to check their email and the news before leaving for school each morning! Sometimes school cancellations are for weather; other times, something like a building problem. In any case, you'll receive an email at the same address this newsletter comes to.

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

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

PTO "Santa Shoppe"

Thank you to Mrs. Bryson, Mrs. Westrick, Mrs. Smalley, Mrs. DeFauw, "Aunt Jodi" Farrand, Mr. and Mrs. Zammit, and Mrs. Trombley for helping students with their Christmas shopping yesterday and today! The kids enjoyed being able to shop "in secret," and having to stay within their budgets was a learning experience for many. They were even able to wrap their gifts at the Shoppe.



Flu Vaccines Available!

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Community Members

Vaccines for those 18 years and under will also be available.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Teen Health - Port Huron
2215 Court St, Port Huron, MI 48060

There will be a drawing to win a free iPad!
Register at www.scchealth.co

Calendar Raffle

It is time for our annual **Calendar Raffle** to raise money to help our wonderful school with financial support used toward educational needs to best support the students. If you are new to this fundraiser, the **Calendar Raffle** is full of prizes, with 34 cash drawings totaling \$4,300 available. Drawings will be held on the second Monday of each month throughout 2021. There are a total of 33 drawings at \$100 each and one grand prize winner drawn in December 2021 of \$1,000. And--yes, if your ticket is drawn, it is re-entered into the raffle for the next drawing, giving each entry multiple chances to win. Tickets are \$25 each and make great gifts for family, friends or that special teacher. Tickets are available in the school office with Mrs. Steinmetz or at the church office.

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/>



Student Highlights

...for November:

Kindergartner **Lily DeVeny** is an energetic 6-year-old who also has siblings attending Holy Cross. Her favorite color is red and she enjoys eating spaghetti. Lily likes playing hopscotch and would like to be a ballerina when she grows up. Lily is well liked by her classmates and is a smiling addition to our classroom.

Theodore Gray is a great helper in the first grade classroom. He is a math whiz, but his favorite subject is actually science. At home, Theo likes to play Roblox with his big sister, Vivian. Theo's favorite food is pizza. When he grows up, he thinks he would like to be a firefighter or an Army soldier. I know Theo can do whatever he sets his mind to! **Svetlana Mkrtychyan** is smart, funny, and full of spunk! Her favorite food is grapes with peanut butter. Lana's favorite special is gym. At home, Lana likes to play Roblox and IXL on her new Chromebook. When she grows up, Lana would like to be a movie star. With her personality, I'm sure she will be a great actress!

Second grader **Gavin Williamson** is new to Holy Cross this year. Gavin likes to ride his dirt bike and play baseball. His favorite food is pizza from Cloverleaf. He enjoys going up north to his cottage and likes to ride his dirt bike there.

Theryn Snyder is new to Holy Cross this year as well, and has quickly fit right in. She says a fun place to visit is Florida because it has wild storms and sandy beaches. Her favorite color is pink and her favorite sport is gymnastics. I am so happy that Gavin and Theryn are part of our class.

Ella DeFauw is new to Holy Cross's third grade this year and joins us from St. Mary St Clair! Ella is a fantastic reader and has incredible D'Nealian handwriting. She enjoys biking and take rides to the park. Ella's favorite color is lavender and her favorite holiday is Christmas. Ella is a good friend to her classmates and always helps others! She is also an incredible big sister. Ella is an amazing young lady

And Holy Cross is lucky to have her as a part of our community! **Preston Davenport** has been at Holy Cross since preschool. His favorite animal is a dog and his favorite sport is football. He enjoys snacking on 'Flamin' Hot Cheetos'® and drinking lemonade. A fun place he has visited is the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee. He loves the view of the mountains and thinks they are cool! Preston says that the best way to show family that you care about them is by saying "thank you." Holy Cross is blessed to have him as a part of our community.

Paige Arlow works hard each day on her fourth grade school work. Although math isn't favorite subject, she does a great job. She loves to write and has beautiful cursive. Paige loves panda bears and cats. Her family recently adopted a new cat. Paige is a wonderful role model for her classmates.

In the fifth grade, **Anthony Boedeker** is a very respectful and courteous young man. He gets along with everyone and is always willing to help others. Anthony works hard and always tries to do his best.

Charles Zech is a sixth grader with great leadership qualities. He works hard and is always willing to step up when the situation calls for it. Charles is helpful to others and can see things from all angles. He has the determination to achieve his goals.

Michael Kiell is an 8th grade virtual learner at Holy Cross. Michael joins our daily class lessons and a wonderful asset to the class. He is smart, hard-working, funny, helpful, courteous, and just an all-around polite young man. Michael enjoys playing basketball and he is involved in karate. Michael makes me very proud with the intense amount of effort that he puts toward his work, and that he is open to share his ideas with the class. We are truly blessed to have Michael in our eighth grade class this year!