

Holy Cross Catholic School

+ Teaching as Jesus did, since 1868 +

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December 7, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Well, it's officially December and we find ourselves in the second week of Advent! Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas. I found the following reflection particularly timely to share with you this week:

"Some years ago, writer Mary Collins said, "Anyone with an imagination can't help but wonder if the last days are upon us: drought, earthquake, consuming fires, riots in the streets, violence in the homes, corruption in high places, justice for sale, children killing one another, disease of epidemic proportions that has no cure, the homeless, the poor, people most different from us treated as enemies of the society... We do not make a very pretty picture." Her words are as contemporary today as they have ever been.

A broken and hurting world does not provoke God's anger; it evokes God's grace. A hurting world is merely barren ground ready to be renewed by God. And we are called to follow. "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." The compassion and love of Jesus now evokes our own care freely given to a world in need of grace and renewal.

Saint Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints. And he is just as influential outside the church as he is inside. We know him as the inspiration for Santa Claus. Legends are told about how he showed the love of God by caring for the poor. In one of the most famous stories about Nicholas, he gave an anonymous gift of three bags of gold to the three daughters of a man who had been planning to sell them into prostitution since he couldn't afford their dowries. By that gift, Nicholas took away the daughters' shame.

Nicholas showed God's care by reaching out to a broken world. Nicholas embodied the mercy of the Lord. His example inspires us to care for others, even through anonymous gifts given to people in need through this Advent season."

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=2471>

LITURGY:

This week's Liturgy will take place TOMORROW, Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 8:00AM, led by Grade 3 and Mrs. Wennesheimer. Mass is on Thursday this week, as it is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As always, please join us for our school led masses, if you are able to do so. Please note that there is no school led Mass on Friday of this week.



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FIRST TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS:

First Trimester Report Cards are being sent home with students in Grades K through 8 today. Please review your child's report card, with your child. Discuss strengths and identify areas for improvement. **Please SIGN your child's report card and return it to your child's Homeroom Teacher when you have completed your review.** If you have any questions about your child's grades, please contact the teacher. Thank you.

PACKER DRESS DAY:

Friday, December 9, 2011 will be designated as a **Packer Dress Day**. We do not have Mass this Friday, so it is a good day to show support for the undefeated 12 and 0 Packers! If your child chooses to wear Packer attire, they may also wear jeans. If your child does not wish to wear Packer attire, they may wear normal HCCS dress code.

HCCS CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

Please be reminded of our Christmas Concert that will take place on **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**. The final rehearsal for **K-8 students, Band, Choir and the only 4K performance will be at 12:45PM in the Gym**. The evening performance (Grades K-8 only), Band and Choir will be at 6:30PM in the Gym. ***Please refer to the requirements for attire and arrival that are being sent home in today's Parent Folders (white) from our Music teacher, Mrs. Maertz (formerly Miss Kulas).*** If you have any questions regarding the Christmas Music/Band/Choir concert, please contact Mrs. Maertz skulas@gracesystem.org or Ms. Fonferek mfonferek@gracesystem.org

GINGERBREAD HOUSE:

Thank you to our FABULOUS FAST FOLKS and all of the parent volunteers who were responsible for making this year's Gingerbread House possible for our students and their families! This is a very special opportunity that FAST provides for our school families. We are incredibly grateful for all who contributed to making this event possible in any way: shopping, wrapping, setting up, assisting student shoppers, communications, take-down, etc. HCCS is truly a very special place because of so many who do so much here as volunteers! I wish that you could see the beaming smiles on the faces of the children as they leave the Gingerbread House and walk through the halls with their Christmas purchases! It is truly a "gift in itself" to see them so happy and so proud to be able to do their very own Christmas shopping! THANK YOU FAST!

CLASS PICTURE "COMPOSITE":

Your child's class composite photo will be sent home with your student today. Please ask them for it! The pictures were delivered to us in "Grade packs", therefore it was easiest to have the teachers distribute them to the students, rather than putting them in the Parent Folders.

6TH ANNUAL HCCS LOCK-IN/PARENT'S NIGHT OUT:

REMINDER: Please refer to the insert sent home in a previous Parent Folder from Mr. Johnson (green) regarding this year's Lock-In! This event will take place on Friday, December 16, 2011, here at HCCS! Please be sure to reserve your child's spot by returning the Permission Form with signature, information and payment on or before December 12th! Thank you!

LIFETOUGH CHRISTMAS PHOTO PACKS:

REMINDER: Please be reminded to return your Christmas photo packs if you do not wish to purchase them! Please do this on or before Friday, December 9, 2011, so that we can get them shipped back to Lifetouch and out of Mrs. Lardinois' office in a timely manner! Thank you!

YEARBOOK ORDERS:

REMINDER: Please remember to return your Yearbook order forms! These forms are blue and were sent home in your Parent Folders several weeks ago! Don't miss this opportunity to order this wonderful keepsake for your child!

DECEMBER COLLECTIONS FOR ST. PATRICK'S FOOD PANTRY:

REMINDER: Once again, a collection basket for non-perishable food items has been placed on the steps to the altar of our church. **On school mass days, students are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to St. Pat's food pantry.** Father Tom will call forth those who bring food items to place them in the basket during our masses. Please send these items to school with your child on our mass days.

WEEK 13 FOOTBALL MANIA WINNERS!

Congratulations to:

#861 - \$500.00 to Lisa Schimmel

#90 - \$200.00 to Carmen Brady

#2492 - \$25.00 to Jeffrey Quass (Faith Formation family)

#859 - \$50.00 to Carl Hedstrom (sold by the Schauer family)

Good luck to everyone in week #14!!

\$SCRIP:

\$scrip sales for the week of November 28-December 4 were \$26,390; Tuition credits of \$657.86; and Parish profit \$581.52. Remember, your **\$scrip purchases directly benefit your family by reducing your tuition!** There is *no limit* to the dollar amount of \$scrip credit that can be applied to your tuition each year. Thank you for your support of the Holy Cross \$scrip program!

MILK CAPS AND BOX TOPS, ETC:

REMINDER: Please continue to save Kemp's, Kwik Trip and Morning Glory Milk Caps, as well as Box Tops for Education, empty printer ink and toner cartridges,

and Campbell's Labels for our school! Every LITTLE bit helps our school a LOT!
Thank you!

VIRTUS TRAINING:

REMINDER: Do you wish to help out at school this year? Chaperone a field trip or two? Help in your child's classroom? Work on extra-curricular projects and events with our students? If so, you must be VIRTUS trained and must complete an eApps Background Check application. All parents who wish to be trained should visit www.virtus.org to pre-register for the one time training. If you plan to complete the training and the background check, please send me an e-mail and I will send the necessary paperwork and instructions home to you. Thank you!

PARENT FOLDER ENCLOSURES:

The following documents are included in today's Parent Folders: Youth Stewardship Envelopes; Permission Slips for Grades 4K and 5 Field Trip; and Market Day Order Forms. Please pay special attention to the items in your Parent Folders! Please address all of these items by reading them carefully and *returning the folders*, all necessary *documents* and *payments* to school. Remember, folders need to be returned each week, to be prepared for the following week! Please note the *required due dates on forms and paperwork.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 7, 2011 – First Trimester Report Cards Sent Home; Choice Dress Day; Gingerbread House;
December 8, 2011 – All-School Mass 8:00AM-led by Grade 3-Feast of the Immaculate Conception;
December 9, 2011 – Packer Dress Day; Athletics' Cookie Walk-3-6PM; DEAR-1PM;
December 10, 2011 – Athletics' Cookie Walk-8-11AM;
December 11, 2011 – Third Sunday of Advent;
December 13, 2011 – HCCS Christmas Concert-12:45PM Dress Rehearsal (including 4K); Concert 6:30PM (Grades K-8);
December 15, 2011 – Magazine Sale Pig Races 1:30PM;
December 16, 2011 – All-School Mass 8:00AM-led by Grade 2; Grades 4K and 5 to Nursing Homes; NDA Dance 6:30-9PM; LOCK-IN-2:40PM to 8:00AM Saturday morning, December 17, 2011!
December 18, 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Advent;
December 20, 2011 – Gr. 5 Charlie Brown Christmas Play-1:30PM Dress Rehearsal;
December 21, 2011 - Bookmobile; Gr. 5 Charlie Brown Christmas Play Final Performance 10:00AM; FAST Sponsored Santa Visit (PM);
December 22, 2011 – All-School Mass 8:00AM-led by Grade 1; Christmas Dress-Up Day; **EARLY DISMISSAL!**
December 23, 2011-January 1, 2012 – Christmas Vacation – **NO SCHOOL;**
January 2, 2012 – **CLASSES RESUME!**

SERVICE PROJECTS:

Please continue to save your can tabs for our September (and ongoing) Service Project. **Our December Service Project is “Outreach to Local Nursing Homes and Shut-ins”.** Our students will be making Christmas cards for community members and family members. We would welcome names and addresses from our school families of those you would like us to send cards to. Please send these names and addresses to the school office in an envelope entitled “November/December Service Project”.

CATHOLIC VIRTUE AND VALUE PROGRAM (CVVP):

Through the remainder of December we continue our CVVP focus, to learn about the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries can be said on Monday and Saturday and during Advent and the Christmas Season.

The 5th Joyful Mystery – Finding Jesus in the Temple

“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him, and it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him: "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing". And he said unto them: "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. (Luke 2:41-51)

Let us think of how many times we have been far from Jesus; from that Jesus, who with so much love has died for us. Let us meditate that in the difficulties of life the only safety is finding Jesus and never again leaving his great love.”

Wishing you continued blessings during this Second Week of Advent!

Peace,

Robin Jo Jensen

Robin Jo Jensen
Principal

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38