



# CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The Mission Statement of Holy Cross Catholic School is to educate tomorrow's Christian Leaders by fostering Academic Excellence in a Christian Community.

November 3, 2011

## A Word

'Lord, Lord, open the door for us! 'But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you. 'Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.' MT 25 11-13

## Protecting God's Children Workshops for All Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese—to find one that fits your schedule: go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and select "Registration." You will be directed to a prompt to search for locations. You will need this to do ANY classroom or lunchroom volunteering! Contact Mrs. Smith (810.765.8300) or the "virtus" website for more information. Remember, you need this workshop completed in order to volunteer for field day or camp or chaperone field trips.

## got scrip?

**SCRIP office hours:**  
Mondays and Fridays 7-9am;  
Mondays 5-7pm; and  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and  
Thursdays 1-3pm  
**"Peddler" hours: almost 24/7/365!**  
Peddlers:  
Patty Smith (St. Clair)  
Kelly Glowski (Algonac)  
Sue Sharpe (Marine City)

## Thank You!!

...to the Wolf and Schultz families for taking care of sports concessions all season!

**PTO meets**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 9 2011**  
**8am—FAB porch**  
All parents welcome to attend!

## Spring Sports--Volleyball

We will be looking for a coach for girls' volleyball beginning mid-February: please contact the school office if you are interested (or know of someone who might be).

## Basketball

We played St. Mary-McCormick during our first game of the JV tournament. Our girls held them to 0-0 for the first 12 minutes of the game, but were unable to pull ahead. We went on to play against IC; after trailing by a large margin for much of the first half, Ms. Quinlan was proud to see the Holy Cross girls narrow the gap. Congratulations to our JV girls on learning about the game and sportsmanship and having a fun season!

The Varsity tournament began on Tuesday, Nov. 1, and we again faced St. Mary-McCormick. That game ended in a 29-19 HC victory! **Lilly Wolf** scored 9 points; **Beki Schultz**, 8; **Abbey Guilliat** added 6; **Alexis Weston**, 4 and **Rachelle LaFontaine**, 2. The tournament continues tonight and Saturday: our next game is at 6:45 tonight. If anyone is available to help with concessions and admissions this evening or Saturday morning, the Boosters would really appreciate your help (so those parents can watch their girls play!): please call the school to offer your help.

## Boys' Basketball / Girls' Cheer

Our league practices may begin next week--your coach will be calling you to let you know when your first practice is.

Introducing our JV boys' basketball team members: 4<sup>th</sup> graders **Ethan Rogus, Zachary Schafer, John Templeton** and **Drew Whetstone**; 5<sup>th</sup> graders **Calvin Barr, Joseph Cullen, Joshua Doan, Spencer Fox** and **Adonis Mona**; and 6<sup>th</sup> graders **Joseph Goldenbogen** and **Calvin LaBelle**; and our cheerleaders: 4<sup>th</sup> graders **Jessica Barr, Alaina Laster, Hannah Schultz, Cameryn Smith** and **Megan Weston**; and 5<sup>th</sup> graders **Lauryn Janski, Kaitlyn Rittner, Jacklyn Smith** and **Anna Tucker**. We know you're going to have a great season!

Athletes: remember that you have to have a completed physical form on file at the school office before you may begin practicing.

## Sports Parents Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2011, 6:30 on the porch of the Fine Arts Building, there will be a meeting for all parents whose child is or will be in a sport for Holy Cross this year. At the meeting we will discuss eligibility, care of uniforms, league philosophy and purpose, and your role as a sports booster. If your child is or will be new to sports at Holy Cross, or if you want to know more about the BWPAL, this meeting is for you.

## Nacho Lunch

Tomorrow's lunch is Mrs. Heitz's delicious nachos. Lunch is \$2 (add \$1 for an extra serving) and will include nachos and cheese and your choice of toppings: ground beef, onions, lettuce and tomatoes, a drink, and fruit. Please be sure your order is in the office first thing tomorrow so we have enough food prepared for you!

## TOILETRIES FOR TROOPS

Collection boxes will be in the school hallways through next Friday (November 11) for donations for soldiers in Afghanistan. If you have any questions, Mrs. Senger can help you. Thank you to all the men and women of the US Armed Forces for what they do to safeguard our freedom!

## Food Pantry

Once a month, Holy Cross School students and families have the opportunity to help local needy people by participating in our monthly food drive. Students are invited to bring nonperishable food items to mass on the second Friday of each month; the food is donated to the Holy Cross Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which operates a food pantry for the benefit of local needy families.

The pantry relies on our ongoing help—the bad economy hits the needy especially hard. This month's special need is spaghetti / pasta and jelly; they always need canned protein foods like tuna, peanut butter, hash, or canned ham or chicken, as well as fruits. Our hungry neighbors thank you.

### **"The Ultimate Gift"**

Our seventh and eighth graders are engaged in a year-long project for Reading class. This project is based on a book *The Ultimate Gift* by Jim Stovall. Each month they focus on giving. This month, each student was given \$10.00 (from Fr. Bob). Their assignment was to use it to help someone else. The students touched the lives of 18 people plus a group of Boy Scouts with their gifts. Through their gift, people who didn't have gas for their cars, now have it. People who didn't have lunch, got it. People were helped with groceries and camping supplies. Guess who were changed the most? We think it was kids doing the giving. Their hearts and minds were touched with the gift of "seeing" the needs in other people's lives. They responded with generosity and compassion. This was a lesson worth learning.

### **BREAKFAST WITH FR. BOB**

Your child has a chance to have breakfast with Fr. Bob! How can he/she qualify? By filling out one of the attached coupons, going to a weekend mass, having you, an usher or Fr. Bob sign it and putting it in the offertory basket at Mass this week end. Attached to this newsletter is a sheet of 12 coupons for the school-aged children in your family to use at the week end Mass. Your child can deposit a coupon every Saturday or Sunday during the mass s/he attends. Names will be drawn quarterly and the winners will be notified. There are a lot more coupons at school once these are used up, so you never need run out.

### **FALL SPORTS MASS WITH CMC**

All Holy Cross fall athletes and their parents are invited to participate in the Cardinal Mooney Fall Sports Mass, Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Holy Cross Church. The Mass will begin at 6pm followed by refreshments in the cafeteria. Please wear church attire with game top over it. Teams will sit together in reserved pews in the front of church. All families are asked to bring a donation to the parish food pantry. RSVP to the school office by tomorrow.

### **Hallowe'en Photos:**



Our preschool friends making "pumpkin jars."



Eighth graders getting into the Hallowe'en "spirit"!

### **"Books Are Fun!"**

The traveling book display is here! Items can be ordered this week and they'll go home with your student on Wednesday next week. (Order and payment need to be in the school office by Tuesday, Nov. 8.) The school earns a book for every 10 sold.

### **Middle School Science Classes**

Our middle schoolers have been doing some hands-on learning about anatomy by dissecting specimens. They began this week with earthworms and will continue next week with larger and more complex creatures and organ systems.

### **Altar Servers**

...scheduled for this weekend: at Holy Cross Sat. Nov 5 6 pm—**Anna & Thomi Tomlanovich**; Sun. Nov 6 8am--**Abbey Guilliat**; 9:30 am—**Ethan & Owen Rogus** and **Emily Bryer**; at St. Catherine Sat. Nov 5 4 pm—**Calvin & Jessica Barr**.

### **Auction 2012**

A reminder that all auction donations are due at the end of this month—thank you! (If you choose to make your donation by cash/check, payments made before Dec. 1 get a \$20 discount: \$60 instead of the \$80 it will be after the end of November.)

### **3rd Graders Get Dictionaries**

Thank you to the Marine City Rotary Club for bringing dictionaries for each of our third graders!

### **Thanksgiving**

Our annual school Thanksgiving feast is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18. The feast is a long-standing Holy Cross custom: all the classes help to prepare the meal in some way, and then we all sit down together to share in the feast.

We ask that each student bring the part of the feast assigned to his class:  
Kindergartners: 1 pound of butter each  
1<sup>st</sup> grade: 3 (16 oz) cans of corn  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 2 dozen rolls  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 2 small boxes of Jello (one red, one yellow)  
4<sup>th</sup> grade: 2 boxes of Stove Top turkey or chicken stuffing mix  
5<sup>th</sup> grade: 2 baked pumpkin pies  
6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades: will be making deviled eggs—Mrs. Wade will let you each know what ingredient to bring  
8<sup>th</sup> grade: will cook turkeys and set up & clean up our "dining room."

(If your teacher doesn't specify the date, the food items can come to school on Thursday, Nov. 17.)

We are looking for donations of turkeys (either cooked at home and sent to school on the 18<sup>th</sup>—with drippings, please!—or brought earlier in the week for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to roast); if you can help, please call school: 810.765.3591.

We will also need a few parents to help supervise and serve the meal. Mrs. Jennifer Laster will be happy to put you to work—call school to volunteer.

## End of the Quarter / Report Cards / Conferences

Report cards will be going home next Monday, Nov. 7. Soon after, you will have the opportunity to make an appointment for a conference with your child's teacher(s).

Teachers in grades 4-8 see many more students than their counterparts in the lower grades. Therefore, to help maximize efficiency they will be sending you a letter next week indicating whether or not they request that you come for a conference. Please note that their asking for a conference with you is not necessarily bad news!—they just want to be sure to touch base with every family in one way or another. (You are still welcome to schedule a conference even if they've indicated it's "not necessary".)

Parents of younger students: attached to your newsletter next week you'll find a conference request sheet.

## PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

In the culture of "easy superlatives" in which we live, oftentimes we forget what report card grades mean. The grade on your child's report card is a summary statement of his/her mastery of the curriculum that was studied in school from the time of the previous report card (in this case, the beginning of the school year) until the close of the marking period. (in this case just recently) Holy Cross follows the more rigorous grading scale of the Archdiocese of Detroit for grades 4-8. For example, where an 80% might be a "B" in other settings, it is a "C" at Holy Cross. Keeping those factors in mind, please remember that a "C" grade is a good grade for a child. It indicates that your child is performing as an "average" student in the mastery of the curriculum. Since the vast majority of us are average, that is still a good place to be.

## Doing Our Part

Your November statement will be in your mailbox soon. Just a reminder: preschool families should have 50% of their tuition paid by Thanksgiving, and school families will be making their 7<sup>th</sup> (10%) payment at the end of the month. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully honored their financial commitment to Holy Cross!!!

## NEW REPORT CARD LOOK FOR PRIMARY GRADES

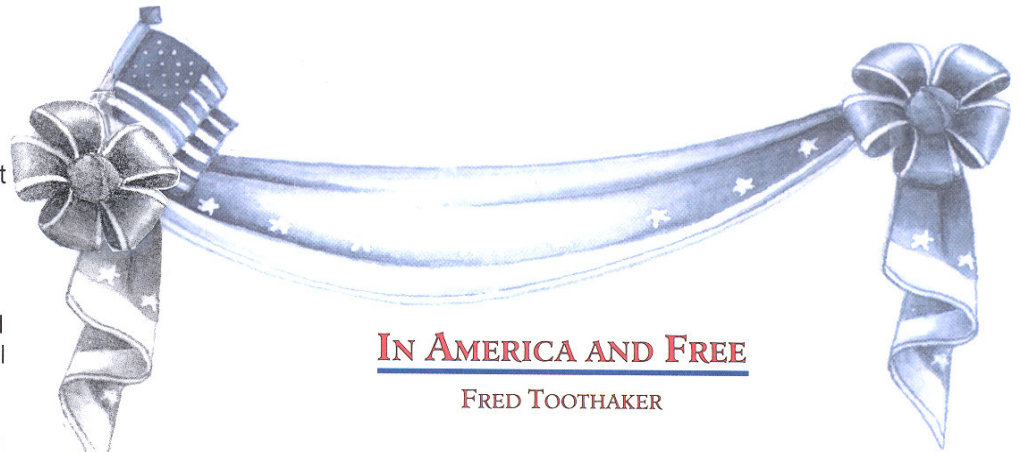
All of the teachers reviewed the report cards earlier this year in an effort to make them more informative for parents. After much discussion, we decided to change items on the cards in grades 1-3 and leave them the same in grades 4-8. We made the changes in grades 1-3 because these are the grades where the children develop the foundational skills they will use the rest of their lives. There is a lot of teacher support in these grades. Grade 3 is a transitional grade where students learn to depend more and use the skills they developed in previous grades. Your child's report cards in those grades will reflect that mindset. You can follow the curriculum as it unfolds through the papers your child brings home, through Engrade and though consultation with your child's teacher.

## Veterans' Memorial

On 11/11/11 at 11:00am, students from grades 3-8 will be walking to the VFW Memorial to witness Shane Reifert's name being added to the list of local military heroes. You are welcome to join us—we will leave school about 10:30am.

Going home with all students in grades 3-8 today is a permission slip for that field trip. If your child has your permission to attend, please return the signed permission form to the classroom teacher ASAP.

As the ceremony begins at 11am, we will be shifting our lunch schedule for that day. Grades K-2 will go to lunch at 11:15 with recess after; grades 3-8 will eat their lunch as soon as they return (about 11:35).



## IN AMERICA AND FREE

FRED TOOTHAKER

It's a privilege to be living in America and free,  
In a land of country churches where we worship faithfully,  
Where our burdens are forgotten with the pleasure  
freedom brings,  
And our sorrows are abandoned in a land where  
laughter rings.

Where the stars and stripes are waving, where our  
youths are unafraid  
While believing in their country and a future not dismayed.  
In a land where classes mingle with a smile upon each face,  
Oh, I'm glad to just be living where such friendship  
keeps apace.

In a land where faith is common, born unto us from the start  
And we choose our destination by the dictates of our heart.  
Yes, there's something seems to tingle way down  
deep inside of me;  
'Cause I'm glad that I am living in America and free.