



Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-7003
fax: 539-9082

Reverend Peter Pilon
Pastor
Mrs. Anita M. Kobilsek
Principal

February 16, 2021

Dear Parents,

Our students made Valentine cards with your awesome supplies. We delivered them to Heritage Health in Mendota, Stonecroft, the LaSalle County Nursing Home and to Senator Sue Rezin's office for distribution to nursing homes. Thank you for your many supplies!

We have already gotten a phone call from a resident that stated our card made their day. They were so excited to receive it!

Our 5th Graders helped put the goody bags together for some of our essential workers. The bags were delivered to the Mendota Police department, the Fire department, and the City of Mendota workers. Thank you for those of you who donated to this project. Thanks to those of you who made the deliveries. We appreciate it!

Peace,
Mrs. Kobilsek

Prek to Grade 8 Remote Learning Thursday and Friday

Remember that Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19 will be remote learning days for Preschool to Grade 8. The homeroom teachers will communicate with you or your children to inform you of how they will plan their days. If you have any questions, please communicate with your child's teacher.

Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care will be available. Please arrange your care needs in advance. The daycare number is 815-538-7604. If they do not know your plan ahead of time or you do not contact them by 8:30am, and if no students are there, we close for the day.

The drop-off/pick-up will be Wednesday, February 17 from 2:00-2:30pm for the usual remote learners.

Lent

As we begin our Lenten journey, we remember that we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM

1. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. Priests, religious and laity are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, attentiveness to prayer, and especially to works of charity and mercy.

(See the next paragraph entry for our Holy Cross School almsgiving challenge. Thank you, Cal Doyle, Grade 4, for the great idea!)

2. Everyone of 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and all the Fridays of Lent.

3. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

4. On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

5. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter.

May our Lenten journey bring us closer to the cross and our Resurrected Savior.

Holy Cross School Lenten Challenge



LENT ALMSGIVING

Donating to the IVPADS homeless shelters in Peru & Ottawa

Contact: Cal Doyle- 4th grade- Holy Cross School

Donations due by: Thursday, April 1st, 2021

Loving & Caring

Are you looking for some way to do almsgiving during Lent? Well, I have the perfect way of how to do it. I'm planning to give the donated items to IVPADS in Ottawa & Peru.

Items Needed for Donation:

Juice boxes	Dryer Sheets	Bleach	Bottled water	coffee
Dry Cereals	Laundry Soap	Hair Brushes	Paper Plates	Clipboards
13-30-39 gallon garbage bags	Air freshener spray	Pump hand soap	Pillow covers (new/ like new)	White copy paper
Paper Bowls	Powder coffee creamer	Multipurpose cleaning spray	Toilet bowl cleaner	Individually packed snacks
Paper Napkins	Dish Soap	Toilet paper	Adult socks	Paper Towels

You can brighten someone's day by giving just a little help.

So spread love to the world and give!

Bring your donations to Holy Cross School care of Cal Doyle.

Contact Mrs. Doyle at ldoyle@holycrossmendota.com if you have any questions!

Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word Service at School

Ash Wednesday is February 17. Our students will not attend Mass but will have a Liturgy of the Word service with Fr Pilon in the school building. Fr. Pilon will then go classroom to classroom and sprinkle each person with ashes.

Thank you, Fr. Pilon, for getting our Lenten journey off to a good start.

Ash Wednesday Masses February 17 at Holy Cross Church are as follows:

- 6:30am in English
- Noon in English
- 7:00pm in Spanish

REPEAT - Penitential Meal

For the past thirteen years, as part of our Lenten practice, we have had a Penitential Meal. The Penitential Meal is planned for Wednesday, February 17, 2021. We ask that all students and staff participate in this meal. Students who normally eat a cold lunch are asked to join us for \$2.50 for hot lunch that day. We realize there are some food allergies so you can contact Mrs. Christman if you need to check the ingredients.

Penitential Meal: Remembering the suffering and death of our Lord and the suffering of those, in other parts of the world, who are so less fortunate than us, we will all participate in a Penitential Meal. We will partake of a meal similar to what a child in need would eat. The meal will consist of a bowl of broth with little rice, a piece of bread with no butter, and usually the children would drink water (if they had it). The Holy Cross School children will be offered one white milk with no options for a second milk. Seconds will not be offered. All students and staff are asked to participate. The money that is saved from the lunch will be donated to the Holy Childhood Association.

How wonderful it is to hear the young students ask when we will do this because they look forward to it. If you have questions or comments, please contact Mrs. Kobilsek at 539-7003.

Home Boys' Basketball and Home Girls' Volleyball Games

Our Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball seasons for Grade 7 & 8 are underway. We are sad that we are unable to have spectators in the stands. As long as the visiting teams have players who have their Publicity Form signed from their school, Mrs. Kobilsek will be live streaming the home games on the Holy Cross Catholic Church & School - Mendota facebook page.

I preface this with: No guarantees. No zooming in. Just a court shot. Mrs. Kobilsek tries to add the score to the comments since the score board is hard to see in the stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/MendotaHolyCross/live/>

- Tuesday, February 9 - Boys played at Holy Cross at 5:00 and 6:00 vs. Holy Family
- Saturday, February 13 - Boys played at Holy Cross At 9:00 and 10:00 vs. Peru Catholic
- ~~Monday, February 15 - Girls played at Holy Cross at 5:00 and 6:00 vs. Peru Catholic~~
- Wednesday, February 17 - Girls play at Dimmick at 5:00 and 6:00
- Saturday, February 20 - Girls' Volleyball Gr. 8 only - at 9:00am at HCS vs. Peru Catholic
- Monday, February 22 - Girls play at Holy Cross at 5:00 and 6:00 vs. Holy Family
- Wednesday, February 24 - Girls play at Trinity at 5:00 and 6:00

- Thursday, February 25 - Boys play at Dimmick at 5:00 and 6:00
- Friday, February 26 - Boys play at Trinity at 5:00 and 6:00

The games that are played away may or may not be live streamed depending on the host school.

8th Grade Fundraiser Non-uniform Day - February 25, 2021

Hello, Holy Cross Families! The 8th grade class officers have planned a non-uniform day for Thursday, February 25, 2021. The theme is Fancy Pants. Wear your take on a nice outfit. An example of what to wear is an outfit for a fancy dinner or a wedding! Bring \$1 or more to participate.

Reminder to the girls that dresses and skirts must be knee length. No leggings as pants unless the covering goes to your knee.

REPEAT - Spring Pictures – Friday, February 26th

We will have Spring Picture day on Friday, February 26th in the morning. You will need to purchase the picture package in advance this year. I will be sending out the flyer in a separate parent alert.

Since this picture day is on a Friday, the 3-year-olds may come in any time between 8:30am and 11:30am or 12:30-1:00pm to get their picture taken if they would like. Pictures will be in the gym balcony. Group sibling pictures are not an option any more.

Uniforms do not have to be worn. Shirts must have sleeves and cover the stomach. Words or pictures must be appropriate. Skirts must be knee length. No legging-kind of pants may be worn without a knee length skirt or knee length sweater. No shorts. No capris. No exercise clothes or sweat pants. Khakis or corduroy pants may be worn. A belt must be worn if the pants have a belt loop. Jeans may be worn. No rips or tears.

If you have any questions, please call the school office.

Fall Picture Retake Day Cancelled

We recently heard from Lifetouch, that there will not be retakes of the fall pictures. If you paid for fall pictures and were not able to get your pictures taken, you can contact Lifetouch and they can transfer your credit to spring pictures. The Spring picture date has been set for Friday, February 26, 2021.

Let us know if you have further questions.

REPEAT - Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for K-8

Thursday, March 4 in the Afternoon

K-8 11:30 Dismissal on Thursday, March 4, 2021

Kindergarten through Grade 8 have optional parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon of Thursday, March 4. You can sign up through www.OptionC.com. You will have to log in as the parent and not the student. They will be held from 12:30-3:30pm with 10 minute conference times.

The conferences will be in zoom or google meet. The teachers will communicate with you on which platform they will use if you sign up.

Let us know if you have questions. 815-539-7003. It is all set up and ready for you to register.

There will be an 11:30am dismissal for Kindergarten to Grade 8. Preschool is in session in the AM and PM.

REPEAT - Preschool is in session for a Full Day on Thursday, March 4, 2021

On Thursday, March 4th, the K-8 families have optional parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon. Preschool will be in session in the morning **and** the afternoon.

REPEAT - No School Friday, March 5, 2021

There is no school for preschool to grade 8 on Friday, March 5, 2021.

REPEAT - Holy Cross School Spirit Day

Holy Cross School Spirit Day will be every Friday. Let's keep up our much needed school spirit. This means spirit wear shirts with school pants or school skirt or jumper.

REPEAT - Box Tops for Education has a New System

Our school will continue to collect Box Tops for Education this school year. You download the Box Tops for Education app on your phone. You scan your receipt. By scanning and choosing Holy Cross School, you are helping Holy Cross School earn cash. If you have any paper Box Tops, please send them into school.

A good rule to have is to check the boxes and bags before they go in the garbage. With the new system, the box top icon is not a coupon but an image to remind you to scan your receipt. If you see a Box Top icon, scan your receipt and choose Holy Cross School, Mendota.

Collect Your Empty Cartridges

One of our fundraisers is to collect your empty ink cartridges. We send them in and receive cash in return. Please help us.

Scrip

The Scrip order form is in the File Library in OptionC. The businesses listed are only a few of the choices. If there is something you would like that is not listed, please write it on the order form and write the amount that you want. You can always direct your questions to Lorraine Walter in the business office at 538-6151.

This is an easy fundraiser for the school and it helps reduce your tuition for next year, as well.

Coming Up:

Theme for the 2020-2021 School Year - Fruit of the Spirit. Here is the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCU0IP5ioa8&t=16s>

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Zoom link for Masses - this link never changes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 805 0856

Password: 811195

We have several items ready for 2021-2022.

In the OptionC File Library optionc.com, you will find:

- Preschool registration form
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 registration form
- Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care Fees Sheet
- Learning Lambs Preschool Tuition Amounts
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 Tuition Amounts
- Spalding Scholarship Application Protocol
 - must complete this before the HCS Monsignor Wissing Scholarship Application
- FACT Financial Application - must be complete for the Spalding Scholarship - If you already have an account, you can just update how you want to pay
- Empower Illinois Application - <https://empowerillinois.org/apply/how-do-i-apply/>
- HCS Monsignor Wissing Scholarship Application - complete the Spalding Scholarship first

Wednesday, February 17 Ash Wednesday - Holy Cross Church Masses: 6:30am in English, Noon in English, 7:00pm in Spanish - students will have a Liturgy of the Word service at school

Wednesday, February 17 - Penitential Meal for lunch: a school-wide act of sacrifice

Wednesday, February 17 - Regular Remote learner drop-off/pick-up 2:00-2:30pm for next week

Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19 - Remote Learning days for Prek-Grade 8

Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care will be available. Call 538-7604 - arrange in advance

Thursday, February 25 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "Fancy Pants" non-uniform day - \$1.00 or more

Friday, February 26 - Spring picture day - Lifetouch does not take family pictures anymore

Thursday, March 4 - 11:30am dismissal for Kindergarten to Grade 8 for optional parent/teacher conferences from 12:30-3:30pm.

Thursday, March 4 - Preschool in session in the morning and afternoon

Friday, March 5 - No school for Preschool to Grade 8 - Extended Care is available - arrange in advance 538-7604

Friday, March 26 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "tie-dye/neon day" - \$1.00 or more

Thursday, April 1, 2021 - Lenten Almsgiving challenge items are due to Holy Cross School

April 2-11 - Easter Break - Happy Easter! - No school - Extended Care is available 538-7604

Friday, April 30 - 8th Grade Fundraiser -

"Decade Day" K-2=70's; 3-6=60's; 7-8=80's - \$1.00 or more

Monday, May 17 - Last day for 4-year-old preschool class

Tuesday, May 18 - Last day for 3-year-old preschool class

Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, May 20, Friday, May 21 - Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, May 24 - Tentative Picnic in Purple Park

Tuesday, May 25 - Tentative last day - 11:30am dismissal

Tuesday, May 25 - Tentative Graduation date for Grade 8