



## 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 18, 2020



Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our Preschool Teacher, Miss Michaela DeLong. She was the surprise recipient of the First State Bank teacher recognition award for the month of January 2020. Many thanks to Jan Phalen, Evan Wixom, Tim McConville, and all of those who nominated her for this special recognition. Thanks for making her day! Congratulations, Miss DeLong!

Peace,  
Mrs. Kobilsek

### **Wednesday, February 19**

Congratulations to the students who will make their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, February 19 at Holy Cross Church. It is such a blessing to receive His abundant graces through this Sacrament.

### **Wednesday, February 19 - Full Day of School for HCS - No 2:55 Buses**

On Wednesday, February 19, Holy Cross School has a full day of school. There will be no 2:55pm buses. District 280 and District 289 dismiss at 11:30am.

### **REPEAT - 8th Grade Fundraiser - Color Day Friday, February 21, 2020**

The 8th Grade fundraiser "Color Day" will be Friday, February 21, 2020. The 8th Grade class is asking for \$1.00 or more to participate on February 21. No rips or tears. No leggings, sweat pants or exercise clothes. Jeans may be worn. The following grades are asked to wear the following colors:

Class Color Day- Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

8- black

7-white

6-blue

5-orange

4-green

3-red

2-pink

1-yellow

K-purple

Pre-k - rainbow

Teachers will match their class's colors.

### **Regional History Fair**

Congratulations to those HCS students who will be traveling on Saturday, February 22, to the Regional History Fair at NIU. Congratulations to Lily Bokus, Garrett Connelly, Ava Eddy, Bailey Engels, Ella Martin and Kenley Wilson. Keep up the hard work.

**Spring Pictures – Tuesday, February 25th**

We will have Spring Picture day on Tuesday, February 25th in the morning. Lifetouch has restructured the spring picture day. You DO need to place your order ahead of time. We sent the order forms home with the kids on Thursday, February 13, 2020. You can either order with the paper order form, or you can place your order online at [www.mylifetouch.com](http://www.mylifetouch.com). Our code is EVTSS4TXM. Lifetouch has teamed up with Shutterfly. There seems to be many more options online than on the paper order form.

If your family is requesting a group sibling photo, please be aware that there is only ONE background for that picture and it is a default setting. You are not able to choose the group sibling background. Because of cropping etc. Lifetouch cannot guarantee the quality of the family pose. Please let Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kobilsek know in the school office by first thing in the morning of February 25th. Also, the group sibling photo has to be ordered and paid for on the paper order form. **THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR. FYI.**

Since this picture day is on a Tuesday, the 4-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 Room 105.

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 leggings-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. 815-539-7003.

### **Spalding Scholarship**

This is just a reminder of the Spalding Scholarship for K-8 students. The information was attached to last week's information. You are able to find the application in the File Library of [www.Optionc.com](http://www.Optionc.com). You can also find it on the Diocesan website at [www.cdop.org](http://www.cdop.org). Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

### **Parent Night Out**

Thank you to our Holy Cross School Teachers and Staff for their time and fun at the Parent Night Out. We appreciate you!

### **Shamrock 5K RUN/WALK**

Please join us March 14, 2020 for the 4th Annual Shamrock 5K.

Race start time is 10:00a.m.

Last year we had over 200 runners sign up for the 5K. We would love to see more runners this year. Registration forms are available at several locations: Holy Cross School Office, Holy Cross Church Vestibule, Mendota City Clerk's Office, Sports-N-Stuff, Mendota YMCA, Illinois Valley YMCA, and Graves-Hume Public Library. Forms may also be printed from Facebook at Holy Cross Church & School-Mendota. You may also register online with a credit card at [www:runrace.net](http://www.runrace.net). There is a minimal fee for online registration. Make this a fun family event and don't forget to wear your best **GREEN** athletic wear. **Shirts are only guaranteed for participants who register by March 1, 2020.**

The sponsor forms have been sent out to local businesses and community members. We thank those who have already donated. If you would like a form to see all sponsor levels, please email us at [shamrockhcs5K@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockhcs5K@gmail.com). Remember fundraising helps to give the kids in our school the opportunity to thrive. A \$50 dollar donation will get your family name or students name on the back of the official race t-shirt. No donation is too small. **Please submit all donations to Holy Cross School by February 28th, 2020.**

The Lucky winner for the early bird registration was Ellye Reppin.

Fan wear is available through 4M Graphix: <https://shamrock5k20.itemorder.com/>

See you on March 14th! Think Green! Wear Green! Thank you in advance for your valuable time, donations, or participation in the 4th Annual Shamrock 5K!

### **Shamrock 5K 50/50**

If you want to participate in the Shamrock 5K 50/50, tickets will be available on the day of the race. They will also be available in the school office. They are 1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

### **REPEAT - Acts of Love Food Collection**

We are collecting boxes of cereal, macaroni and cheese, rice, and PopTarts for the Acts of Love Campaign for Catholic Charities and Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Each grade is asked to collect 5 items each month. Students can bring the items into their classrooms and give them to their teacher. **The next collection is Monday, March 16.** Thank you for helping our kids in our Diocese and community. If classes meet the goal, the next Food Pantry non-uniform day is Friday, March 20, 2020. No rips or tears. No leggings as pants. No exercise clothes, sweat pants, etc.

### **REPEAT - Lenten Friday Night Fish Fry at the Elks**

Holy Cross School and the Knights of Columbus 2090 will be teaming up once again for our Friday night Fish Fries at the Mendota Elks Club. 4:00-8:30pm or until everything is cleaned up. Our school provides help and then the Knights of Columbus make a donation to our school.

**Please help us by signing up to help.** We appreciate your help.

There is a sign-up sheet in [www.optionc.com](http://www.optionc.com) in the file library. Our school number is 5943.

Dinner is served from 4:30 to 7:00pm. You can dine in or carry out. Meals can be arranged to be delivered as necessary. Dinners are February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. There is no Fish Dinner on Good Friday.

### **REPEAT - Empower Illinois**

<https://empowerillinois.org> is the website to get more information regarding the tax credit scholarship program. The application opened up January 15, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. This website contains the explanation for applying for the scholarship as a student.

The website also contains information to be a donor. If you specify, Holy Cross School, Mendota, you will receive a 75% tax credit on next year's taxes.

### **REPEAT - St. Jude Run**

This message is from one of our staff members, Mrs. Emily Cassidy. Please take a moment to read this message and consider making a donation to St. Jude for her "Peru to Peoria" run.

"I am part of this year's relay team for the St. Jude Peoria Run. My team and I will be running July 18 from Peru to Peoria!! Please help me reach my fundraising goal for the kids of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, who are battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Thanks to generous donors:

\* Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food -- because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

\* Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20% to more than 80% since it opened more than 50 years ago.

St. Jude won't stop until no child dies from cancer, and neither will I. Will you support me by making a donation?

Here is a link you can make donations to:

[https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/PeoriaRuns/PeoriaRuns?px=6465643&pg=personal&fr\\_id=120649](https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/PeoriaRuns/PeoriaRuns?px=6465643&pg=personal&fr_id=120649)

Thank you so much!!!

- Emily Cassidy

### **REPEAT - Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is February 26th. Our school Mass is at 8:00am. You are welcome to join us.

### **REPEAT - Stations of the Cross**

During Lent, the students will have Station of the Cross in the church. You are welcome to join us for any or all of them.

Thursday, February 27 - 2:10pm K-4

Thursday, March 5 - 10:00am 5-8

Thursday, March 12 - 2:10pm K-8

Thursday, March 19 - 2:10pm K-4

Thursday, March 26 - 2:10pm 5-8

Thursday, April 2 - 2:10pm K-8

### **REPEAT - Penitential Meal**

For the past twelve years, as part of our Lenten practice, we have had a Penitential Meal. The Penitential Meal is planned for Friday, February 28, 2020.

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 or barley, 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.

### **Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for K-8 Thursday, March 5 in the Afternoon No 11:30 Buses for our 11:30 Dismissal on Thursday, March 5, 2020**

Kindergarten through Grade 8 have optional parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon of Thursday, March 5. You can sign up through [www.OptionC.com](http://www.OptionC.com). You will have to log in as the parent and not the student. 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. There WILL NOT be 11:30 buses. There will be buses in the morning.

### **REPEAT - Preschool is in session for a Full Day on Thursday, March 5, 2020**

On Thursday, March 5th, 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 6, 2020**

There is no school for preschool to grade 8 on Friday, March 6, 2020.

### **REPEAT - Wear Your Ben Bokus Wear on March 10**

March 10<sup>th</sup> we will remember Ben Bokus by wearing a Ben shirt or an orange shirt with school pants or school skirt.

### **REPEAT - Friday, March 13 – Green Day**

Friday, March 13 is dress in green day to get ready for the Shamrock 5K. If you do not have green, you can wear your Holy Cross School spirit wear. We will be taking a group picture at 10:00am. The 4-year-old morning class will run in a dash in the gym at 10:15am in the gym. The 4-year-old afternoon class will run in a dash in the gym at 2:00pm.

### **REPEAT - Magazine Sale and Cookie Dough Sale**

We have moved the Magazine Sale and Cookie Dough Sale to begin on Monday, March 16, 2020. It will run through March 27. Great American Fundraisers has been bought out. There are some things that will remain the same and some things that are different.

Some differences that I know of are: we will have collectables, there are no college vouchers, magazine orders are only online for paper copies and electronic copies, cookie dough sales will be on a paper order form, there is no Chicago Bulls game incentive.

We know that change is difficult for some. Please be patient as we navigate through our Magazine/Cookie Dough Sale.

### **REPEAT - Kindergarten to Grade 8 Field Trip to Morton Arboretum**

We are planning a Kindergarten to Grade 8 field trip to the Morton Arboretum. We are planning on taking Mendota High School buses. Students will have to pay an entry fee. We will be going on Monday, April 20, 2020. We are limited on the number of chaperones we can take. When the permission slips come out and parents respond, we will draw names for the chaperones that will go.

We are looking for donors to cover the cost of the buses, which is around \$800.00. If you feel inspired to help us out with a bus donation, please contact Mrs. Kobilsek so we know how to make further plans.

This will be a pretty special day with guided tours after lunch, on specific topics for different grade levels. We will go rain or shine.

### **REPEAT - Collect Your Pop-Tabs**

Send your pop-tabs to the Holy Cross School office. We will have a classroom competition. The classroom with the most weight of pop-tops by the end of March will win. The Huffaker family plans to attend the Pop-Tab-Palooza, at St. Jude Research Hospital in Memphis Tennessee on April 24, 2020. Let's help the families who receive the great gift of being able to stay at Ronald McDonald House of Memphis.

### **Box Tops for Education**

Our school will continue to collect Box Tops for Education this school year. By clipping Box Tops and turning them in, you are helping Holy Cross School earn cash. If you have been saving them all summer, now is the time to turn them in.

A good rule to have is to check the boxes and bags before they go in the garbage. If you see a Box Top, clip it and send it to Holy Cross School. The expiration dates matter, so don't let them sit too long.

### **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.

### **Shoparoo**

Help us with an EASY way to raise funds for Holy Cross School. It is called Shoparoo. Download the app called Shoparoo. Select Holy Cross Elementary School Mendota. Take pictures or your receipts through the app. Our school receives a check when we have a minimum of 25,000 points.

### **Scrip**

Enclosed is the Scrip order form. 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 Loomis 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:**

Wednesday, February 19 – 1:30pm First Confession for Catholic Grade 2 and a few other HCS students  
Wednesday, February 19 – 2:55 dismissal with no 2:55 buses  
Friday, February 21 - Class Color Day – Pay \$1.00 or more to participate – No rips or tears. No leggings as pants. No exercise clothes, sweat pants, etc.  
Saturday, February 22 - Regional History Fair at NIU for Lily Bokus, Garrett Connelly, Ava Eddy, Bailey Engels, Ella Martin and Kenley Wilson  
Tuesday, February 25 – Spring Picture Day  
Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday – 8:00am School Mass  
Thursday, February 27 – 2:10pm Stations of the Cross for Grades K-4  
Friday, February 28 – Penitential Meal during our Holy Cross School lunch  
Thursday, March 5 – 10:00am Grades 5-8 Stations of the Cross  
Thursday, March 5 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade pictures due to Mrs. Kobilsek  
Thursday March 5 – Preschool in session in AM and PM – K-8 dismissal at 11:30 – No 11:30 buses – Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences from 12:30-3:30pm  
Friday, March 6 – No School for Prek-8  
Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Savings Time – Spring ahead  
Tuesday, March 10 – Quarter #3 ends  
Thursday, March 12 – 2:10pm Grades K-8 Stations of the Cross  
Friday, March 13 – Wear Green – It’s “Green Day”  
Saturday, March 14, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Shamrock Run/Walk  
Monday, March 16 – Magazine and Cookie Dough Sale Kick-off  
Wednesday, March 18 – 2:55 dismissal with no 2:55 buses  
Thursday, March 19 – 2:10 Grades K-4 Stations of the Cross  
Saturday, March 21 – Regional Science Fair in DeKalb at NIU for Maddy Dalton, Linnea Escatel, Bella Hagenbuch, Mason Koch and Ryleigh Sondgeroth  
Thursday, March 26 – 2:10 Grades 5-8 Stations of the Cross  
Friday, March 27 - Sports Jersey Day - Pay \$1.00 or more to participate – No rips or tears. No leggings as pants. No exercise clothes, sweat pants, etc.  
Tuesday, March 31 – First Communion banners are due to Mrs. Knapp and Mrs. Weber  
Thursday, April 2 – 2:10 Grades K-8 Stations of the Cross  
April 4-12, 2020 – Easter Break – Students return on Monday, April 13, 2020  
Wednesday, April 15 – 5:15-6:00pm First Communion practice for Grade 2 in the church  
Friday, April 17 - Future Career Day - Pay \$1.00 or more to participate - No rips or tears. No leggings as pants. No exercise clothes, sweat pants, etc.  
Sunday, April 19 – 2:00pm First Communion in English  
Monday, April 20 – K-8 field trip 7:45am-2:30pm

Sunday, April 26 – 2:00pm First Communion in Spanish

Friday, May 1 – 9:00am Kindergarten Graduation in the school gym - they have no class that afternoon but need to return to school on May 4, 2020

Sunday, May 3 – 5:00pm 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Banquet for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and their Parents

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents help with the evening

Wednesday, May 13 – Last day for 4-year-old preschool

Thursday, May 14 – Last day for 3-year-old preschool

Friday, May 15 – Preschool conferences all day by appointment

Monday, May 18 – Preschool conferences all day by appointment

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – 6:00pm Graduation and Mass