



## 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 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

Thanks for the support and fun during Catholic Schools Week. Once again, thank you to all of the faculty and staff who made this work. Thank you!!

Peace,  
Mrs. Kobilsek

### **Rosati's Athletic Fundraiser TODAY, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

We will be participating in the Rosati's Athletic Fundraisers on a monthly basis. Rosati's will donate 20% of all food items for the day (before taxes). The class with the highest sales will earn a class pizza party. The preschool classes earned their class snack last week.

Our next fundraiser is today, Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Rosati's is open from 11:00am to 10:00pm. Carry out, get it delivered, or dine in. Please mention Holy Cross School when you order. Thanks for helping us out. The registration form is in the File Library on [www.optionc.com](http://www.optionc.com).

Thanks for supporting Holy Cross School!

### **HCS Fundraiser – Murder Mystery Dinner and Auction**

Please pray that our Mystery Dinner and auction school fundraiser is a success on February 8, 2020. This is part of the budget that helps pay our teachers and pay the bills. Our third source income is necessary. We appreciate everyone's help in any way. We will also be able to take bids on the auction items for you if you are unable to attend. **Let Emily Cassidy, Lorraine Walter or Anita Kobilsek know if you are interested.**

We appreciate the work of the students and staff in the creations for the auction items. They are always a big hit and appreciated by our school community.

### **REPEAT - Parent Night Out – Free for HCS K-8**

We hope your Kindergarten through Grade 8 students can join us for our Parent Night Out. The Holy Cross School Teachers and Staff will be the hosts. It will be Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm. The registration form is in the File Library on [www.optionc.com](http://www.optionc.com). **It is due back on February 5, 2020.** We will have hot dogs and chips. Then we will have different activities going on. We know there is the MHS Trojan Welcome beginning at 4:45pm. If 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students want to participate at HCS, fill out the form, so we know how to plan.

It is FREE to our participants. If we have more than 75 participants, Mrs. Kobilsek will get a "pie in the face." Again, it's free to the Holy Cross School families.

### **REPEAT - Thursday, February 6, 2020 – K-8 dismiss at 11:30am**

On Thursday, February 6, 2020, Kindergarten through Grade 8 will dismiss at 11:30am. **There are no 11:30am buses. Preschool will be in session in the morning and the afternoon.**

The Kindergarten through Grade 8 teachers have a teacher in-service.

### **REPEAT - February 7 – Spirit Wear Day**

February 7 is the first Friday of the month. Students and staff may wear a spirit wear shirt with school pants or a school skirt.

### **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, February 10.** Thank you for helping our kids in our Diocese and community. If the class goals are met, the non-uniform day will be Friday, February 14, 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 and returning the sign-up sheet.** 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.

### **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.

### **Grade 8 Raffle**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class would like to thank everyone for their donated items, cash, gift cards, etc. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class is very grateful!

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

The 2020 Book Fair was a great success. We want to thank everyone who stopped in to purchase books! The kids did a great job collecting coins to donate to the All for Books program. They raised a total of \$361.64!!! This money was then used to buy books for the school library and teachers. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class collected the most money (\$65.77) and their classroom received a free book.

### **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 - 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.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is February 25th. Our school Mass is at 8:00am. You are welcome to join us.

### **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

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

We will have Spring Picture day on Tuesday, February 25th in the morning. You do not send money at this time. After the pictures come in, you can select the photos that you would like to purchase.

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. Group sibling pictures can be taken upon request. Please let Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kobilsek know in the school office by first thing in the morning of February 25th.

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.

Once the pictures come back, parents are able to purchase only the pictures that they want from

the actual package. All pictures not purchased must be returned. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

### **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.

There will be an 11:30am dismissal. There WILL NOT be 11:30 buses. There will be buses in the morning.

### **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.

### **No School Friday, March 6, 2020**

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

### **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.

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

Please join us March 14, 2020 for the 4th Annual Shamrock 5K. Race start time is 10:00a.m. Lots of race details included.

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
- \*Graves-Hume Public Library
- \*Forms may also be printed from Facebook at Holy Cross Church & School-Mendota

Or register online with a credit card: [www.runrace.net](http://www.runrace.net). Minimal fee applies for online registration.

Green Day is March 13th!

If you want to purchase additional HCS Shamrock 5K T-Shirts or gear, you must order online through 4M Graphix: <https://shamrock5k20.itemorder.com/>

(If you registered for the race, you get a T-Shirt, but if you have a fan coming to watch or if you just want to support HCS, you must order online.

If you sign up in January, you are automatically entered into a drawing to receive a full refund of your race fee! We will pick one LUCKY winner February 1st.

See you on March 14th! Think Green! Wear Green!

You still have time to be a sponsor. The sponsor sheet is attached to this parent alert email.

#### **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 of 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:**

Tuesday, February 4 – Rosati's fundraiser 11:00am-10:00pm

Wednesday, February 5 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cap and Gown order due to Mrs. Kobilsek

Wednesday, February 5 – HCS Parent Night Out form due in the school office

Thursday, February 6 – Preschool in session AM and PM – K-8 11:30 dismissal with no 11:30 buses

Saturday, February 8, 2020 – School Fundraiser – Murder Mystery Dinner and Auction held at the Mendota Civic Center – Doors open at 5:00pm.

Thursday, February 13 – Parent Night Out for students in Grades K-8

Thursday, February 13 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade MHS Trojan Welcome for students attending MHS in 2020

Monday, February 17 – HCS has no school for Presidents' Day

Wednesday, February 19 – 1:30pm First Confession for Catholic Grade 2 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.

Tuesday, February 25 – Spring Picture Day

Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday

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 for qualifying students in DeKalb at NIU  
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