

**Newsletter**  
December 14, 2023  
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160 2nd Street South  
P.O. Box 674  
Albany, MN 56307  
Phone: 320-845-2011  
Email: [hfamilys@albanytel.com](mailto:hfamilys@albanytel.com)  
Web Site: [holyfamilyalbany.org](http://holyfamilyalbany.org)

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Wed., Dec. 20th** Mr. Sopcyk's 3rd Gr. Mass  
**Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st** No School Christmas break  
**Tue., Jan. 2nd** School Resumes  
**Wed., Jan. 3rd** No School Mass  
**Wed., Jan. 17th** Mrs. Bautch's 2nd Gr. Mass  
**Sat. Jan. 20th** Snow Ball  
**Jan. 28th - Feb. 3rd** Catholic Schools Week

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

##### **Today's Gospel Reading:**

*From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. (Matthew 11:12)*

##### **Reflection:**

Our world will never be bliss. We can say with Matthew, that from the days of John the Baptist until now, that God's kingdom suffers violence. That is why we celebrate **Advent** over and over. We reassert that the violence we suffer in this world is not the norm, but only a temporary condition. That mystery of our faith is proclaimed each time we celebrate the Eucharist: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. We are grounded in this present world, but look to the world to come.

##### **Prayer:**

Lord, may I refrain from all violent words and deeds, and help make my part of this world a more peaceful place. (taken from the EWTN daily reflection post)

Blessings,  
Mrs. Sowada

#### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Please join us for the Preschool through 5th grade Holy Family Christmas program **today**, Thursday, December 14th in Seven Dolores Church. There will be two performances with the afternoon program starting at 1:30 and the evening program at 6:30 p.m. We are excited for

this year's theme, "A Christmas Carol: Scrooge in Bethlehem." In this creative adaptation, Scrooge is the Bethlehem Innkeeper who refuses shelter to Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas night. **We invite everyone to a reception in the gym after the 6:30 p.m. program.**

#### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards for the first trimester were posted on the portal last Friday, December 8th. Please view your child's report card and then click on the "signed" button at the bottom of the page. You can contact the office to request a paper copy.

#### **ADVENT FUNDRAISER FOR TANZANIAN ORPHANAGE (Return Donations Tomorrow)**

As we approach the Christmas season we begin to think of snow, Christmas Trees, giving gifts, and the joy of celebrating Christ's birth. During this Advent season, Holy Family School will be sharing our joy and gifts, through a fundraiser, for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes Orphanage in Chipole, Tanzania. Sister Gallusianna, who is a Para at Holy Family School, a member of this Benedictine community, and who once attended this Benedictine orphanage, explained that the orphanage is in need of a clean water source and transportation to the hospital for those who are sick. We will be raising funds to help these Benedictine Sisters complete their new well water system and assist in the purchase of a vehicle. If you would like to contribute, students may bring donations to class to be turned in by December 15th. Checks can be made out to Holy Family School. The Sisters' Benedictine community website may be viewed at: <https://chipolebenedictines.org/orphans>.

#### **SCHOOL MASSES**

Next week's Mass will be on Wednesday Dec. 20th at 9:00 am. prepared by Mr. Sopcyk's 4th grade class.

#### **LUNCH/RECESS DUTY**

Parents are asked to check in the office on their assigned days by 11:20 in order to help out in the lunchroom for the last few minutes with the first lunch group. Recess duty will be from 11:30 - 12:30. Please make sure to sign out when you are done. Thank you for helping us out! If you have made arrangements with a sub or another family to cover for you, please notify the office of any changes. Be sure to have your safe environment training up to date!

### **ADVENT ACTIVITIES**

A list of "Advent Activities" was sent home in last week's folders with special dress up days, information about the Christmas program and a student sing-a-long on the last day before the break.

### **CHRISTMAS DRESS SCHEDULE:**

Friday, December 15th -  
Ugly Sweater Day



Monday, December 18th - Christmas  
Headgear Day

Tuesday, December 19th  
Green Day



- Grinch

Wednesday, December 20th - Red & White (candy  
cane) Day

Thursday, December 21st -  
Christmas Socks Day



Friday, December 22nd - Pajama  
Day and Student Sing A-long in the  
Morning (with a Christmas treat to follow)

### **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

Fri. 12/15	Jeff & Catherine Statz
Mon. 12/18	Derek & Mara Stroeing
Tues. 12/9	Emma Overmann/ Nick Primus
Weds. 12/20	Ron & Ami Ohmann
Thurs. 12/21	Joe & Kristy Peternell
Fri. 12/22	Adam & Angela Rushmeyer

Only one parent is needed to help at recess

### **RECESS SUBS**

If you are unable to help with recess on your scheduled date it is your responsibility to find a sub. If you get a sub please compensate them \$12.00 for the day. Checks should be made payable directly to the sub and can be left in the office.

### **Subs**

Rachel Blenker 320-836-2831  
Jillian Scharmer 320-309-0347  
Stacy King 320-290-2283  
Karen Neidermeier-Gill (T/TH ONLY) 320-428-8021

### **SNOW BALL**

**Mark your calendars for the 8th annual Snow Ball Fundraising event on Sat., January 20th, 2024!** There will be a dinner, silent auction and live auction. Raffle and dinner tickets are still available in the school office if you need more.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Book club for the 4th and 5th grader students will meet from 2:45-3:45 on the following dates:

February 6th  
April 9th

### **ART CLUB**

Holy Family School will once again offer an art club after school to our 3rd- 5th grade students. Information and registration forms were sent home last week in the take home folders. Art Club will meet from 2:45-3:45 on the following dates:

January 9th  
March 5th  
May 7th

### **HFS Apparel Orders**

HFS apparel orders will be delivered next Monday Dec. 18th. If you placed a clothing order it will be sent home next week. **If you do not wish for it to be sent home with your child, please notify the office by Monday afternoon. And pick it up in the office**

### **SHOP WITH SCRIP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Buying GIFT CARDS through our Scrip Program is a great way to complete your Christmas shopping! Use the HFS scrip program to order gift cards for shopping or use

them as gifts. Check with the school office for what is available. Ordering and E-gift cards are also available on the RaiseRight app, just enter our school code **4F9LCA836L12**. By using scrip, you can earn extra \$\$ for tuition *and* help support HFS! Any questions please contact the school office.

### **GUATEMALAN COFFEE**

Just a reminder that we have Fair Trade, Fresh Guatemalan Coffee for sale! Several varieties to choose from either in beans or ground. You can pick this up in the school office or at SD church office. Coffee is a great Christmas gift for that “hard to buy for” person on your list.

### **TEAL'S RECEIPT REMINDER:**

Just a friendly request to please continue to save & turn in your Teal's Market receipts! The school earns cash back throughout the year by saving the sales receipts. What a huge help & benefit to the school! Thank you to Dana Frank for organizing our receipts and Thank you for bringing your receipts!

### **INK CARTRIDGES**

Did you know you can bring your used ink cartridges and old cell phones to HFS office to earn cash for the school! Simply drop off your name brand used ink cartridges and we will send them in to recycle and earn cash back for the school. Thank you to Jessica Lust for coordinating this project. For more information about this or other programs we use to raise money and help support the school please contact the school office.

**Please be sure to send a family photo if you haven't already done so.** Email to [hfamily@albanytel.com](mailto:hfamily@albanytel.com)

### **The Lisson Family**

Todd and Katie Lisson have four children. Anthony is in 1st grade and Tias is in Mrs. Karen's preschool class, Henry is 3 yrs old and Ada is 1. They enjoy biking, gardening, walking/hiking, and exploring new parks. They are happy to be at HFS because of the “small family” aspect as well as having religion a part of the school day.



### **Stork Corner**

Linnea Lee Tomsche was born 12/10/23 to Grant & Andrea Tomsche. She weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and 19 inches. Linnea was welcomed home by her sister Ila (4th grade), Olin (1st grade) and Gabriel (18 months). Congratulations to the Tomsche family!



### **SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILY**