

Newsletter
December 7, 2023
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160 2nd Street South
P.O. Box 674
Albany, MN 56307
Phone: 320-845-2011
Email: hfamily@albanytel.com
Web Site: holyfamilyalbany.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Fri., Dec. 8th	Immaculate Conception Mass
Mon., Dec. 11th	HFS School Board mtg. 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13th	Early Release/teacher in-service
Thur., Dec. 14th	HFS Christmas Program 1:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st	No School Christmas break
Tue., Jan. 2nd	School Resumes
Sat. Jan. 20th	Snow Ball

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Advent Prayer:

Advent scripture and prayer for Dec. 8th, 2023 from Mary DeTurris Poust's *Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections*.

Scripture:

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)

Prayer:

Holy Mother Mary, on this beautiful feast of your Immaculate Conception, we ask you to intercede for us, that we might open ourselves up to God's grace as you did throughout your life. Amen.

Blessings,
Mrs. Sowada

HFS SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to Joe and Trista Stangler for all of their help with the bookfair once again. Thanks to all those who helped out in any way, working shifts, setup, and take down. Thanks to all of those who made purchases. We made our goal with \$3660 in sales. This allows us \$1830 in Scholastic Dollars to purchase books for the Holy Family School library. Way to go! Enjoy all of the new books!

Our book fair is still open online. Simply go to <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/holyfamilyschool16>. The

online portion of the book fair runs through December 13th. The online store is created just for our school with over 5,000 items. All online purchases benefit our school.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards for the first trimester will be posted on the portal tomorrow, 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

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

Tomorrow's Immaculate Conception Mass is prepared by Mrs. Orbeck's 5th grade class. Next week's Mass will be on Wednesday Dec. 13th at 9:00 am. prepared by Mrs. Lauer'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 the weekly 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 PROGRAM

Please join us for the Preschool through 5th grade Holy Family Christmas program Thursday, December 14th in Seven Dolors 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.**



SET-UP HELP FOR EVENING RECEPTION NEEDED

We are in need of a few people to help set up tables and chairs for the reception after the evening Christmas program next Thursday the 14th. Set up will happen after the afternoon program (around 2:30). Please email or call the office if you are able to help. Thank you!!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Fri. 12/8	John & Tricia Wesen
Mon. 12/11	Jennifer Willenbring
Tues. 12/12	Grant & Andrea Tomsche
Weds. 12/13	Early Dismissal
Thur. 12/14	Miles & Traci Vogel
Fri. 12/15	Jeff & Catherine Statz

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

HOME & SCHOOL "CHRISTMAS PROJECT"

Don't forget... **Monday Dec 11th** is the last day to return your "Christmas Project" form and contributions towards staff Christmas gifts. This is a quick, easy way to get your shopping done! HFS staff greatly appreciates your thoughtfulness and generosity this holiday season.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILY

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

The Grutsch Family

Ben and Sarah Grutsch have two children. Ainsley is 8 years old and in 2nd grade and Samuel is 4 years old. Ben is a self employed plumber and Sarah is a pharmacy technician at K&S Pharmacy in Avon. They reside between Albany and Avon. They enjoy going camping, ice fishing, playing games, sports, visiting family &



friends but most importantly just spending time together! Last year was their first year at HFS and felt very welcomed and are grateful for the morals and values that are taught at HFS.

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. Order by December 11th to get delivery by Christmas! 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.