

**Newsletter**  
November 30, 2023  
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#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Nov. 30th - Dec 5th** Scholastic Book Fair  
**Fri., Dec. 1st** End of 1st Trimester  
**Sun., Dec. 3rd** Advent begins  
**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

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

##### **Advent Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

Blessings,  
Mrs. Sowada

#### **HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL WELCOMES RACHEL BLENKER AS A PRESCHOOL PARA**

Holy Family School recently hired Rachel Blenker, a parent, as a part-time para Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to help with Ms. Lori's PreKindergarten class. Sister Gallusiana had been in the classroom these

afternoons, however, Sister is now working more with Seven Dolors parish and Toni Hudock. We are very thankful that Rachel is able to help us out!

#### **HFS SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

The Scholastic Book Fair has begun!. Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong learners. AND - as always - every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

The Fair will continue today through Dec. 5th in the Seven Dolors Church Gathering space and will be open the following hours:

Thurs. 11/30	7:00 am-7:00 pm
Fri 12/1	7:00 am- 6:00 pm
Sat. 12/2	7:00 am- 7:00 pm
Sun. 12/3	7:00 am- 2:00 pm
Mon. 12/4	7:00 am- 4:00 pm
Tues. 12/5	7:00 am- 8:30 am



Say goodbye to cash and hello to eWallet - your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases, Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make the Fair, shop at our school's Book Fair online. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school. Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more about and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/ewallet.html>

Our hope is to raise \$3000 so that we can purchase up to \$800 worth of books for the Holy Family School library.

Thank you!!

**FOR NEW PRESCHOOL STUDENTS NEXT FALL –  
PARENT AND CHILD PRESCHOOL LESSON -  
ADVENT: PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF JESUS!**

Parents, we are opening up our preschool activity evening to our current families who may have a child that will be attending preschool for the first time next Fall. Holy Family School is inviting 3 and 4 year olds along with a parent to meet our preschool teachers and engage in an advent activity, “Preparing for the Coming of Jesus” and to see what our preschool program is all about. The event will be Wednesday, December 6th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the preschool classrooms. Registration is free, but limited to 20 children along with a parent, so please call 845-2011 or email [msowada@holyfamilyalbany.com](mailto:msowada@holyfamilyalbany.com) as soon as possible.

**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**

Next week’s Mass will be on Friday Dec 8th to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. There will be no school Mass on Wednesday Dec 6th. Mrs. Lauer’s 4th grade class will be preparing the Dec. 8th Mass.

**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!

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:**

Fri. 12/1	Ben & Alicia Mergen
Mon. 12/4	Zach & Amanda Zierden
Tues. 12/5	Gary & Jennifer Willenbring
Weds. 12/6	Angela Rushmeyer
Thurs. 12/7	Melissa Abraham & David Wolbeck
Fri. 12/8	John & Tricia Wesen

**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”**

Want to give a Christmas gift to your child’s teacher or other HFS staff but don’t know what? Home & School will again be coordinating the “Christmas Project” as a way to give a gift to staff. Make your shopping easier and complete the “Christmas Project” form that will be sent home in the folders this week. Return it to the school office by Monday December 11th! The Holy Family School staff appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity with your gift giving!

**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 will be sent home in the folders this week. Additional tickets are available in the school office.

**YEARBOOK ORDERS**

Yearbooks are on sale for \$17.00 until 2/24/2024. After that the cost is \$20 until sold out. No guarantee of getting a yearbook after 2/24/2024. Order online at [Yearbooks 2023-24](#) Yearbooks include students from HFS, Albany Elementary and Avon Elementary. They will be delivered in May. Please keep your receipt in case of any mix-ups.

**BOOK CLUB**

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

December 5  
February 6  
April 9

### **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 9  
March 5  
May 7

### **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.



### **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 Goebel Family**

Oliver is in 4th grade. He plays fall soccer and loves anything Titanic. Theodore is in Kindergarten. He likes learning how to write and loves playing with his friends. Benjamin is 2yrs old and loves playing with balls and adores his brothers! Aaron works for Blattner and Ashley is a teacher at Albany High School. They enjoy playing outside, spending time with extended family, play dates with friends and movie/popcorn nights at home! The whole family had a blast at the Fall Festival



and are looking forward to SnowBall!

### **PRAYER SHAWLS/ LAP BLANKETS**

Do you know someone is ill, in the hospital, or just needs a little comfort. Prayer shawls/ blanket throws are available in the school office or the parish office. They are crocheted and generously donated to give to someone in need. They are blessed by Father for prayer and healing.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Happy Feast of St. Nicholas Day  
Wednesday Dec. 6th*

