



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHAT'S IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE?

Letter from
Mr. Jack Richards
Head of Schools

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Learning About St. Francis Xavier

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. The next two weeks will fly by, but covering as much of the curriculum as possible during these weeks is truly important.

Last week we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier. While I am not promoting one local high school over the other, as I have said before, I do find it beneficial to know about the Saints who were so influential that schools in Louisville have been named after them.

St. Francis Xavier was one of the Church's greatest missionaries. He was born in Spain in 1506, the youngest in a large family. At 18, he left home to attend the University of Paris. There he met and then began to share an apartment with Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius of Loyola was close to 20 years older than St. Francis and was quite loud and forceful in his evangelization of spreading God's word. St. Francis Xavier was very resistant at first to his new friend's evangelization, with sarcasm being his preferred method of combating it. The line that finally broke through to St. Francis Xavier from Ignatius of Loyola was the following: "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

St. Francis Xavier underwent a profound transformation while living with Ignatius of Loyola. In 1534, he, Ignatius, and 5 other scholars made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope. This started the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Shortly after St. Francis Xavier became a priest in 1537.

King John of Portugal requested that Pope Paul III send Jesuit missionaries to Portuguese colonies in India and other lands surrounding the Indian Ocean. After one missionary became gravely ill, St. Ignatius appointed St. Francis Xavier for this assignment.

St. Francis Xavier followed the gospel mandate and took little with him for this journey. When they finally reached India (more than a year later) Francis jumped into action. He found that the native Christians in the area had no priests, no Masses, and no one to teach them The Creed, The Our Father, The Hail Mary, or The Commandments. St. Francis Xavier immediately began preaching, baptizing, and teaching the faith to all who would listen. He states in a letter "The older children would not let me eat or sleep until I taught them one prayer or another. Then I began to understand: 'The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.'"

St. Francis Xavier offered Mass with a community of lepers near Goa each week and visited them often. It is said that his sweet and caring personality and the respect he had towards those he worked with did just as much to spread God's word as the Gospels he read.

St. Francis Xavier continued to travel around India and throughout the Philippines, baptizing as many people as he could. It was said that he baptized and blessed so many people that his arms weakened and he could barely move them.

In the late 1540s, St. Francis Xavier set his sights on Japan and China. He realized the need to spread Christianity to these two countries. In August 1549, St. Francis Xavier and three other Jesuits reached Japan. St. Francis Xavier was first greeted warmly by the authorities, but when so many peasants flocked to St. Francis Xavier to convert and to be baptized they forbade him from preaching. St. Francis had a difficult time in Japan, but through his efforts, he paved the way for other missionaries to find success. He made plans to travel to China, even though it was closed to foreigners. St. Francis Xavier died just off the coast of China, awaiting a ship to bring him to the mainland on December 3, 1552.

St. Francis Xavier became one of the greatest missionaries in the church by living with and becoming one of the people he was serving. He ate the simplest of food, slept in the simplest of huts, and wore the simplest of clothes. Yet despite that, his life was marked by the greatest amount of joy imaginable. He is the patron saint of all foreign missions.

Four questions to ponder:

- 1) What defense mechanisms do I use to prevent me from truly following God's plan for me?
- 2) Do I see the students I serve as those to whom the Kingdom of God belongs?
- 3) Is the way I am treating those I serve impacting them as much as the curriculum I am teaching?
- 4) What would it profit me to gain the whole world and lose my own soul?

Respectfully,
Jack Richards
Head of Schools

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Sat. : 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am
11:00 am

Confession:
Every Sat. : 3:30-4:30 pm

[Parish Bulletin](#)

Vision Statement of Holy Trinity Catholic School

To be a school of excellence that encompasses the whole child by modeling Jesus through our Catholic teachings, commitment to academics, service to the community, and devotion as life-long servants of God.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please see the school calendar at the button below for the most up-to-date information regarding upcoming meetings and events.

[CALENDAR](#)

SCHOOL NEWS

Interested Family Tour

Our next Interested Family Tour will be on Tuesday, December 17th. If you know anyone who is interested in learning about Holy Trinity Catholic School and all of the exciting things we have to offer, please have them call the school office to sign up for a tour.

Grades 4 - 5 Quick Recall Applications Open - Due Dec. 12

It's time for our 4th & 5th graders to get signed up for their Quick Recall Season. Practices will most likely be on Mondays starting in January, depending on coaches' availability. Matches will be on Tuesdays beginning January 21. The tournament runs March 4 through March 18 with single-elimination matches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Coaches interested in helping with the team should sign up on their child's application and/or contact Mrs. Davenport. Applications are due Thursday, Dec. 12 to ensure we meet the Archdiocese roster deadline the following week. [Sign up here!](#)

Book Bee Applications Open

After Mrs. Davenport spoke with our 3rd - 8th graders about the Archdiocese Book Bee last week, many are excited to get started on the [reading lists!](#) The lists are available on myHTCS in homeroom pages and parent pages - - and are the same ones previously shared in May and August. The books would make great holiday gifts!

Book Bee sign-ups are also open and due by the MLK, Jr. holiday on January 20 to form teams. All of the ideas and rules regarding Book Bee are explained on the registration form, if you want to preview them to consider this opportunity for your child before signing up. New this year - - when signing up, you can see who else has signed up to know if tryouts are needed (if more than 12 students sign up), while also ensuring your friends or peers who you think should be on the team with you also get signed up before the deadline. You can also see if we have an interested coach, or are still in need of one to have a team. Happy reading!

High School Musical Jr. Auditions

Auditions for the Jr. High Spring Musical, High School Musical, Jr. will be on Wednesday, December 11 and Thursday, December 12 from 3:00 to 5:00. Students sign up for a 5 minute time slot. If your child would like to audition, they will need to prepare a one minute monologue and one minute song selection. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Harrington at mharrington@ht-school.org.

Parent Book Study - The Anxious Generation

Join our counseling department for a study of Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*. This book has been called a must read for parents, and opens our eyes and thoughts to so many topics in helping our children. We will host an in-person and virtual meeting in March to discuss topics this book brings to our attention. Not a reader? No worries, we have compiled a list of podcasts, articles, and a TED talk that cover this book as well. Warning: This book is a hefty read, getting started early can help with that. As well, at the end of each chapter there is a summary of key points that chapter makes. More information to come after the new year.

If you have any questions or want further information please contact one of our counselors, Rebecca Khoury at rkhoury@ht-school.org, Kary Scinta at kscinta@ht-school.org, or Katie Moore at kmoore@ht-school.org.

7th Grader's Artwork Featured in the Record



This month the "Saints for Kids" series in the Record celebrates the beauty and inspiration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Four of our talented students - Sophie K, Harper W., Eden S., and Ellie S - were invited by Senora Alfaro, one of our Spanish teachers, to submit artwork. All four of these students created stunning artwork. Out of the 63 drawings submitted from across the Archdiocese, Ellie S.'s work was chosen to be featured in the online version of the Record. Be sure to congratulate Ellie when you see her in the hallways. [Check out the publication here.](#)

PTA NEWS

Last Chance to Earn an Extra Day of School

We have less than one week to sell the remaining 200+ raffle tickets and earn our extra Spring Break Day! Text/call your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends and ask them to support our schools by purchasing a ticket. It will take everyone's support to sell the remaining tickets and earn our extra day off school.

A special thank you to the families who have done their part and sold multiple tickets. If EVERY family helps, we will meet our goal!

Raffle tickets are \$50 for a chance to win a \$10,000 cash prize! A maximum of 700 tickets will be sold. The winner will be drawn live at the 2025 Eagle Soiree on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

NEW this year...we will have a \$2,500 Early Bird drawing before Christmas! For all tickets purchased by midnight on December 15, 2024, the purchaser has a chance to win a \$2,500 cash prize on December 16, 2024, and all tickets will be returned to the February 8, 2025 drawing. By purchasing a raffle ticket by December 15, 2024, the purchaser will have two chances to WIN!

Winners do not need to be present to win, so this is the perfect opportunity to ask family and friends to purchase tickets and support our school. Use the link below to purchase your tickets and send to supporters: <https://one.bidpal.net/2025raffle/browse/featured>

Supporters will receive an email within 24-48 hours of purchase with their raffle ticket number(s) and confirmation of their student seller name(s). Due to limitations in the BidPal software, we cannot track student seller(s) at the time of raffle ticket purchase. When the Holy Trinity volunteer emails the buyer their raffle ticket number, they will confirm/ask for the student seller name(s) at that time.

Holy Trinity Parish School – Lic # ORG0827

Candy Cart!!

We had 56 students earn a trip to the Candy Cart on December 6th!

Did your student miss the first three Candy Carts? If your family buys/sells TWO raffle tickets, by midnight on Wednesday, your child(ren) can earn a visit to this week's Candy Cart!

Does your student want to make a second trip to the Candy Cart? For every TWO raffle tickets sold, your children will earn a trip to the Candy Cart. Some students have sold 6 tickets, so they have earned 3 trips!

The Candy Cart visits will be on Fridays until December 20th. The 2nd raffle ticket needs to be bought/sold by midnight the Wednesday before Candy Cart Friday to give volunteers time to organize the data.

Questions? Email Molly Willer at mwiller@ht-school.org or Jennifer Kuerzi at Jennifer.Thomas@cbh.com

Nominations

It's that time of the year when we recognize our faculty and staff. We are seeking nominations for 5 awards listed below, please read carefully as we have some changes this year. Nominations are due by January 8th to Molly Willer at Mwiller@ht-school.org. These outstanding people will be honored during Catholic Schools Week.

Teacher of the Year award at St. Matthews Campus:

[St Matthews Teacher of the Year](#)

Staff of the Year at St. Matthew's Campus. Includes instructional assistants, office staff, nurse, and admin: [St Matthews Staff of the Year](#)

Educator or Staff of the Year award at Clifton Campus. Includes all Clifton Campus [Clifton Campus Educator/Staff of the Year](#)

Parish Staff of the Year award. Includes Parish, Maintenance, and IT [Parish Staff Award](#)

Volunteer of the Year Award: [Volunteer of the Year Award](#)

Fun for the Whole Family

Get your tickets today!!! NEW THIS YEAR....Holy Trinity Night in Paristown December 12th from 4-9 pm. Ice skating, train rides, visits with Santa, shopping and more ! Tickets are NOW OPEN and for sale but you must use the Code "EAGLES"

<https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/36262621/2024-f%C3%A4te-de-no%C3%ABl-winter-holiday-festival-louisville-paristown-arts-entertainment-district>

Christmas Collection for Clifton Teachers and Staff

Dear Holy Trinity Clifton Families,

Hopefully everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving break with family and friends! Hard to believe in a few short weeks Christmas will be here! It's a very busy time of year and realize you might be thinking about teacher gifts. As we have done in the past, we are planning an OPTIONAL money collection for your children's teachers and ALL HTC staff.

Contributions will be divided accordingly between all the teachers, assistant teachers, resource teachers and occupational therapists, and support staff who support our children every day.

If you would like to participate in the Christmas collection for the Clifton Campus teachers, please send your gifts to Melissa Parshall no later than Monday, December 16th. I will plan to deliver them on Wednesday December 18th.

Venmo: @Melissa-Parshall

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Parshall (melissa.parshall77@gmail.com or 973-534-8692)

Thank you for your support this year and best wishes for a blessed Christmas!

Christmas Collection

Dear Holy Trinity Families,

As you start thinking about Christmas gifts for your children's teachers, we would like to offer an OPTIONAL collection for teacher gifts again this year. Contributions will be divided accordingly between your teacher(s) and assistant teacher(s) and will be from the whole class. An additional collection will be taken for the resource day special area teachers. If you would like to participate in this collection, please send your gifts to the appropriate contact(s) listed below no later than Tuesday, December 17th. They will accept cash or check via backpack mail or Venmo donation. Thank you for your support and best wishes during this holiday season! If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca at cobb.rebecca@gmail.com or 502-592-9088.

Rebecca Dydynski
Room Parent Chair

Teacher/Grade Room Parent/Venmo account/last 4 digits of phone for verification

PKA – Kaitlin Sullivan - @Kaitlin-Sullivan-1 (1112)
PKH – Susan Saylor - @Susan-Saylor-9 (6833)
PKP – Sara Kulyan - @Sara-Gentry-K (5499)
KB – Abby Thompson - @Abbythompson85 (7411)
KG – Natalie Miller - @Natalie-Miller-99 (6459)
KM – Lauren Colyer - @Lauren-Colyer-3 (9746)
KP – Katie Vacca - @kgvacca (8841)
1K – Susie Jackson - @susie-jackson-5 (4027)
1P - Kelly Sienkowski - @Kelly-Sienkowski (3235)
1S – Christina Weinstein - @Christina-Weinstein-2 (2809)
2B – Jada Wilson - @Jada-Wilson-28 (2232)
2M – Jennifer Schmidt - @Jennifer-Schmidt-00 (6499)
2Z – Bailey Robinson - @Bailey-robinson-3 (6566)
3B – Brittany Metten - @brittany-metten (9055)
3G – Kirsten Russell - @Kirsten-Russell-12 (7286)
3H – Ashley McKiernan - @Ashley-McKiernan-1 (6650)
4th Grade – Jennifer Kuerzi - @Jennifer-ThomasKuerzi (3637)
5th Grade – Amy Sugg - @amy-sugg-3 (6407)
6th Grade – Jennifer McDevitt - @Jennifer-McDevitt-2 (5539)
7th Grade – Charlotte VanHimbergen - @charlotte-vanhimbergen (6063)
8th Grade - Emily Adams - @emilyadams710 (3129)
Special Area Teachers – Rebecca Dydynski - @Rebecca-Dydynski (9088)