

# THE SENTINEL

JUNE 2024

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a priest is seen from the back, wearing a red and gold patterned vestment with a large gold 'IHS' medallion. He is blessing a group of eighth-grade graduates. A young woman in a red dress is in the center, with her hands clasped. To her left, a young man in a black suit and glasses stands with his hands clasped. Other graduates and churchgoers are visible in the background, seated in pews. The church has large windows and a high ceiling.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
and blessings for our  
eighth grade graduates

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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Dear Holy Family Community,*

We were blessed and thankful for the past school year. We now turn our eyes, energy, and attention toward the future. Here are key focus areas and objectives we will be working on in 2024-2025:

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP:** Enhance administrative leadership structures, governance effectiveness, and explore opportunities for collaboration and growth.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY:** Ensure financial stability and sustainability through proactive budget forecasting, timely reporting, collaboration with the Advancement Office, and exploration of endowment fund options.

**ADVANCEMENT AND FUND DEVELOPMENT:** Strengthen advancement efforts to support the school's mission and financial sustainability through the establishment of an Advancement Committee, annual review of the Advancement Plan, collaboration with the Business Office, and promotion of long-term giving options.

**CATHOLIC MISSION, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE:** Foster a strong sense of mission, identity, and community through the ongoing efforts of the Mission and Identity Committee, the development of a comprehensive written plan, implementation of school-wide initiatives to increase student engagement and respect, and the cultivation of collaborative relationships with key stakeholders.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:** Enhance academic excellence through the development and implementation of comprehensive curriculum plans, pacing guides, student support models, professional development programs, and technology plans.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS:** Enhance student engagement, enrichment, and well-being through the review and optimization of athletic programs, student clubs and activities, and innovative educational initiatives.

**FACILITIES, GROUNDS & BEAUTIFICATION:** Enhance facilities and grounds through the implementation of the Facilities and Grounds Master Plan.

**COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING:** Enhance communication and marketing efforts through the optimization of staffing, establishment of a Communication and Marketing Committee, development of the Communication and Marketing Plan, and continued publication of "The Sentinel" and Annual Report.

Take care and God bless!



**TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT**





# DID YOU KNOW?

## DID YOU KNOW HOLY FAMILY STUDENTS TAKE THE NWEA MAP TEST THREE TIMES PER YEAR?

Students take the test in grades 1-8 in math and reading. Beginning in grade 2, students also take the science and language subtests. This test is taken by all the students in the Diocese of Austin.

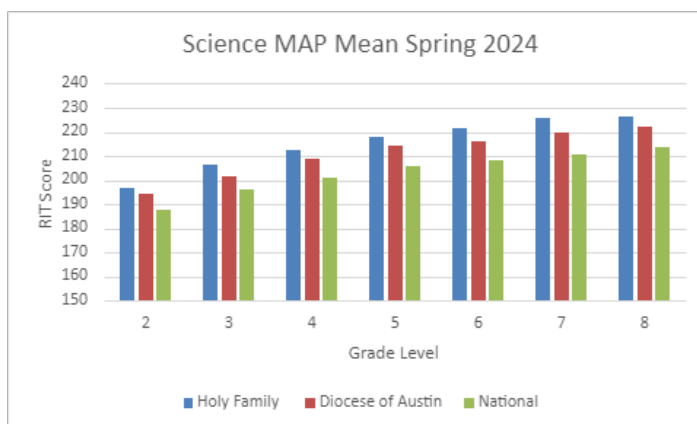
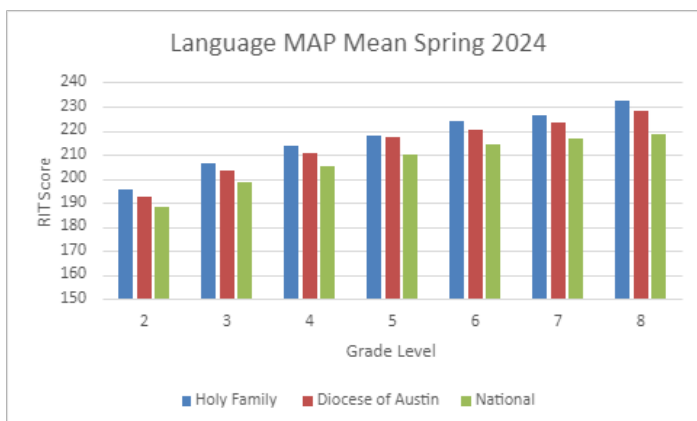
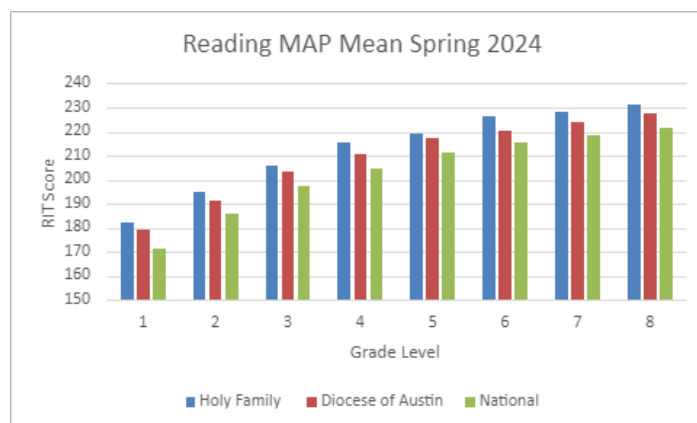
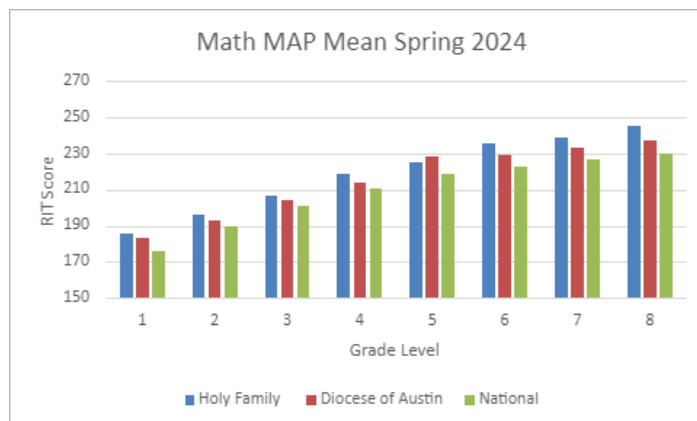
During the 2023/2024 school year, the Holy Family grade level averages were above the national and diocese averages.

The NWEA MAP test also allows for students, families, and teachers to monitor the growth and achievement of the students. Growth and achievement are independent from one another. For example, a cohort can demonstrate high achievement and average growth while another cohort can demonstrate average achievement and low growth.

When comparing the year-over-year median scores, the students demonstrated average growth in the content areas of math, reading, and language. This means the students continued to grow at the anticipated rate over the year compared with the norm. On the science test, the students demonstrated high average growth compared with the norm.

Regarding the median achievement, the students performed in the high average and high quintiles. The achievement score demonstrates how a student performed. For example, a student who has an achievement score of 65% means that the student performed better than 65% of peers who took the test.

For the MAP scores this spring, the median achievement was in the high average quintile for Math (72%), Reading (74%), and Language (76%). For Science, the median achievement was in the high quintile with a score of 85%.







# GREAT AMERICAN SOLAR ECLIPSE

Joining the rest of the United States with anticipation for the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse, Holy Family Catholic School students, faculty, and staff were prepared with special eyewear for the expected time of arrival of the eclipse and eventually totality, and darkness.

Clouds covered the Austin area for much of the morning, however, right on cue, as if God made it happen, occasionally, the sun would pop through just long enough for students to put on their glasses and look up. Students were able to experience over a minute and a half of totality during the eclipse.

“Wow! This is so cool!” said one of the students, who was consistently shocked by what he was seeing. Parents joined students and faculty across various locations on campus to watch the sky darken while the moon moved in between Earth and the Sun, making for one of the most memorable moments of the school year!





# Eucharistic Procession

The popular annual tradition known as the “Holy Family Eucharistic Procession” was held on April 11, organized by the Faith in Action class, and started at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church. The procession was led by Deacon Chris Sperling joined by cantor Ms. Clarissa Soto and was inspiring for all.

More than 600 students attended Mass before lining up for the procession which offered four prayerful stops at the Schoenstatt Shrine, the pavilion, the Holy Family cross, and the front of the school. Students knelt and prayed while pausing for a moment to let the significance of the moment sink in for them.

The Eucharistic Procession has been a tradition since the early years of the school.



## ALL ABOARD!

Class trip overnight on the USS Lexington

For the first time, Holy Family 8th Grade students spent the night aboard the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi (pictured left) for their graduation class trip!

During World War II, the carrier participated in nearly every major operation in the Pacific Theater and spent 21 months in combat.



### CAFE MURDER

When a patron in a restaurant is allergic to water and needs to use the restroom, a murder takes place and the audience must guess who did it. The interactive play, Café Murder, was performed on May 14, for family and friends. An abbreviated version (*pictured on right*) was held on May 15 during the band (*pictured to the right*), choir, and orchestra showcase for students.

### HOLY FAMILY TAKES THIRD AT PSIA!

Congratulations to the 27 Holy Family students who competed in the State AA PSIA competition on April 13th at Texas State University. Holy Family's Elementary Division placed 3rd overall. Front row: Abigael Veale, Rose Kritt, Haddie Roberts, Clyde MacDonald, Jeryl Tan, Nathan Thomas. Back Row: Mrs. Morley, AJ Winkeler, Domcio Goertz, Joseph Madathil, Coach Silveyra, Gabrielle Molina, Theo Roberts, Laina Pereira, John Torres, Mr. Doug Ray (Executive Director, State PSIA) (*below*)





**KARALINE SCHNAKENBERG IS HONORED** for reading 100 books from 4th grade to 8th grade. Karaline is pictured on the right with Mrs. Youngpeter (left) and Librarian Dr. Kahn.

**LECTIO BOOK PROGRAM CELEBRATES** students for their love of reading. Holy Family Librarian Dr. Verity Kahn organizes the Lectio Book Program for 4th through 8th grade students. At the end of the year, recognition is given to all program participants. This year, students enjoyed a pizza party after the recognition Mass (pictured below).



**THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS** strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all. The students from left to right are: Xavier Santiago, Violet Tompot, Eusebio D'Mello, Elise Melero, Gabrielle Molina, Eleanor Zhuang, Ivy Harrell, Alina Atwood and Camille Solomon.





# CONGRATULATIONS C



*We celebrate our 23-24 graduates and will be praying for them as they transition to high school. God Bless!*



## Good Samaritan Award Charlotte Dennon

Each year, the faculty and staff at Holy Family prayerfully discern an 8th-grade student whose actions model Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

This year our Good Samaritan award recipient is Charlotte Dennon. Charlotte has been described as someone who strives to help others in all situations, and who can be seen reaching out to speak with a student who is having a tough day.

Charlotte has modeled good sportsmanship both in the classroom and on the athletic field and has mentored young athletes. She has been involved in loving service both as part of the mission at the school, but also with her family.





# CLASS OF 2024!



## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: Will Lepak

When Will joined Holy Family, he became involved right away in the Chess Club. Eventually, when he was old enough, he joined basketball, track, and cross country, and he learned how to play the trombone.

A self-described “animal nerd” Will says one day he might like to be a zoologist. He says his favorite teacher was Sister Teresa Benedicta because she was always so nice and kind.

“Will’s ready smile, integrity, and selflessness make him a treasure to know. He is a responsible, confident teenager with a love for his faith,” said Sister Teresa Benedicta. “I hope God calls him to the priesthood (or a similar role of leadership in the church) because we need fathers like him.”

With plans to attend St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School, he says playing the trombone will be a definite choice for him, and most likely continue with cross country or track.



## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: Marissa Smith

It was second grade when Marissa Smith joined Holy Family.

“It’s been a wonderful experience,” said Marissa. “All the teachers are nice and help you a lot.”

She plans to attend St. Dominic Savio Catholic

High School and be involved with Fine Arts.

Many teachers rave about Marissa’s schoolwork, but even in gym class, she made an impact. “I have seen her grow into a wonderful young lady. Her character and self-esteem has grown tremendously. She is a kindhearted and very unselfish individual,” said Coach Castillo.

Eighth-grade Religion teacher Sister Teresa Benedicta summed up our graduate this way.

“When I think of Marissa, the Biblical image that comes to mind is “still waters.” She is a quiet, reserved young woman with tremendous depth to her. To get to know that depth, you must stop and really look: but once you do, you will be in awe of her beauty.”







In honor of Our Blessed Mother, the Liturgy Committee and Holy Family Parent Association organized a May Crowning and Procession, with hundreds in attendance.

Beginning in the early evening on May 2, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, families gathered for a beautiful procession with second-grade students who made their First Holy Communion entering the Church carrying the images of Mary from around the world. These Marian images matched the Holy Family theme of the academic year, “Walk with Mary.”

Following a short prayer service with Deacon Sperling, the crowning of Mary, and a talk by Sister Amata Christi, the May Procession walked over to the Holy Family pavilion where families gathered for potluck treats and fellowship.

Our deepest appreciation extends to the Dominican Sisters, Johanna Laya for printing the Marian images, and to all the families who brought treats for the children.





# SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

## TRACK

Congratulations to our track teams:

### 5/6 GIRLS

1st Place - CAPPs invitational, Ranger Relays,  
CAPPs Championship

### 5/6 BOYS

1st Place - CAPPs invitational  
2nd Place - CAPPs Championship

### 7/8 GIRLS

2nd Place - CAPPs invitational

### Congratulations to our record-breaking runners:

- 5/6 Girls - 4x400 relay - (A. Jones, V. Tapia, A. Bierschenk, C. Larsen) (Holy Family Record) (*pictured below*)
- 7/8 Girls - Cassidi Tovar - Discus (Holy Family Record)
- 7/8 Girls - Megan Simon - 400M (Holy Family Record)
- 7/8 Boys - Alan Laya - 1600M (CAPPs & Holy Family Records)



## SOCCER

Our 7/8 Angels Soccer team dominated the CAPPs conference play, ending undefeated for the season. Tough breaks in the semi-finals of the CAPPs left them short of their goal, but this team was a force to be reckoned with.

Our 5/6 teams gave the CAPPs competition a run for their money this year. It was great to see the competition at each level. Both teams finished 3rd in the conference and then made it to the CAPPs Championship game, bringing home 2nd place trophies for Holy Family. Great soccer, great competitors!

## TENNIS & GOLF

The tennis and golf programs help introduce our young athletes to these lifetime sports. Eight week sessions introduce the players to the game and help them navigate what a competition would look like. Over 30 kids participated in these programs; thank you to Cimarron Hills Tennis and Terra Vista Golf for taking the time to help our athletes. It is great to see the spark when they realize that this might be the sport for them.





# RUN WITH THE ANGELS

## A Tradition of Glowing Success at Holy Family

At Holy Family, the annual “Run with the Angels” event has become a cherished tradition. This year, despite unexpected weather challenges, our resilient students adapted and transformed the program from an outdoor obstacle course Fun Run to an electrifying indoor Glow Run. On April 26th, the St. Dominic Savio gym was lit up with neon hues as our students completed their month-long fundraising efforts.

Instead of navigating slalom stakes and army crawling under nets, they sprinted through a glowing maze of fluorescent lights and tunnels. The gym buzzed with excitement and music played by “Pepperoni Preston”, our Booster DJ.

Before the event, our students rallied, collecting pledges from family, friends, and neighbors. Their dedication paid off—Holy Family not only met but exceeded our fundraising goals. The dollars raised will support essential school programs from classroom supplies to extracurricular activities.

Rewards weren’t limited to the overall fundraising success. Each student earned prizes based on their personal fundraising levels. From Dude Perfect accessories to special treats, the incentives kept everyone motivated.

Classrooms also competed for glory. Crazy sock and hair days, indoor camping parties, and epic water balloon wars fueled the excitement. Laughter echoed through the campus as students embraced the spirit of friendly competition.

When we hit the \$85,000 mark, it was time for the ultimate reward: sliming our beloved administrators, President Cullen and Principal Vu. The pavilion erupted in cheers as the green goo cascaded down, leaving our educators good-naturedly covered from head to toe.

“Run with the Angels” isn’t just about fundraising; it’s about community, resilience, and joy. Until next year, keep running, keep glowing, and keep spreading those angel wings!





# Dear Holy Family Community,

We are thrilled to introduce you to RaiseRight, a simple yet powerful way to support Holy Family without any extra effort this summer and beyond. RaiseRight enables you, your family, and friends to support Holy Family effortlessly while going about your everyday shopping and spending.



With RaiseRight, strategic planning within your monthly budget allows you to seamlessly incorporate gift cards into your routine. From groceries and gas to dining out, home improvements, summer travel, and even graduation gifts, the possibilities are endless. By utilizing gift cards purchased through RaiseRight, you not only support our school but also streamline your budgeting process.

Here's how it works:

1. Choose from a vast selection of eGift cards from over 750 renowned brands, all available at full value. Physical gift card sales will begin at a later date.
2. Earn up to an impressive 20% on every gift card purchase. (Percentage returns range from 1.5% to 20% depending on the merchant.) Rest assured; the listed percentage is directed to the school at no extra cost to you.
3. Utilize these gift cards at full value for your regular purchases, ensuring that every transaction contributes to our cause.

Getting started is quick and easy! Simply create a complimentary fundraising account on the RaiseRight mobile app or visit [RaiseRight.com](https://RaiseRight.com). The enrollment code is **1UWYURUY461D**. From there, seamlessly transform your shopping into valuable rebates for Holy Family.

As we approach the summer season, I personally encourage you to join me in considering leveraging RaiseRight for your upcoming AirB&B and hotel stays and vacation airfares.

Thank you in advance for contemplating the use of RaiseRight this summer and into the next school year. Together, let's make a lasting impact on our beloved Holy Family community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Kerley".

GINA KERLEY | DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



RaiseRight™





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 1-30**

Kid's College

**JUNE 28**

Flynn O'Hara on  
Campus

**JULY 1-17**

Offices Closed

**JULY 18**

Fall Sport Registration  
Deadline

**AUGUST 8**

Back to School  
Kick-Off

**AUGUST 12**

First Day of 2024-25  
School Year

**AUGUST 12**

Coffee & Kleenex  
7:30-9:00 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 2**

Labor Day Holiday  
No School

**SEPTEMBER 20**

Faculty In-Service  
No School

**OCTOBER 14**

Student-Led  
Conferences

**OCTOBER 18**

Faculty In-Service  
Early Dismissal

**NOV 25-29**

Thanksgiving Holiday  
No School

**DEC 21-JAN 5**

Christmas Holiday  
No School

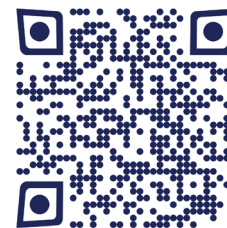
**JANUARY 6**

Faculty In-Service  
No School

**JANUARY 7**

Students return from  
break

Scan to see more  
events on the  
school calendar:



Saint Charms

First Communion Rosaries

Baptism Rosaries

Confirmation Rosaries

Key Chains

Etsy Star Seller • Over 11,000 Sales • 5 out of 5 stars

BC Inspirations

**Becky Cook, Owner**  
Holy Family Mom  
bcinspirations.etsy.com  
bcinspirations@cooktx.com  
Custom orders accepted





*We will miss you*

**BEST OF LUCK**



**HOLY FAMILY  
CLASS OF 2024**



2023-2024

*Thank You*

**Holy Family Parent Association**







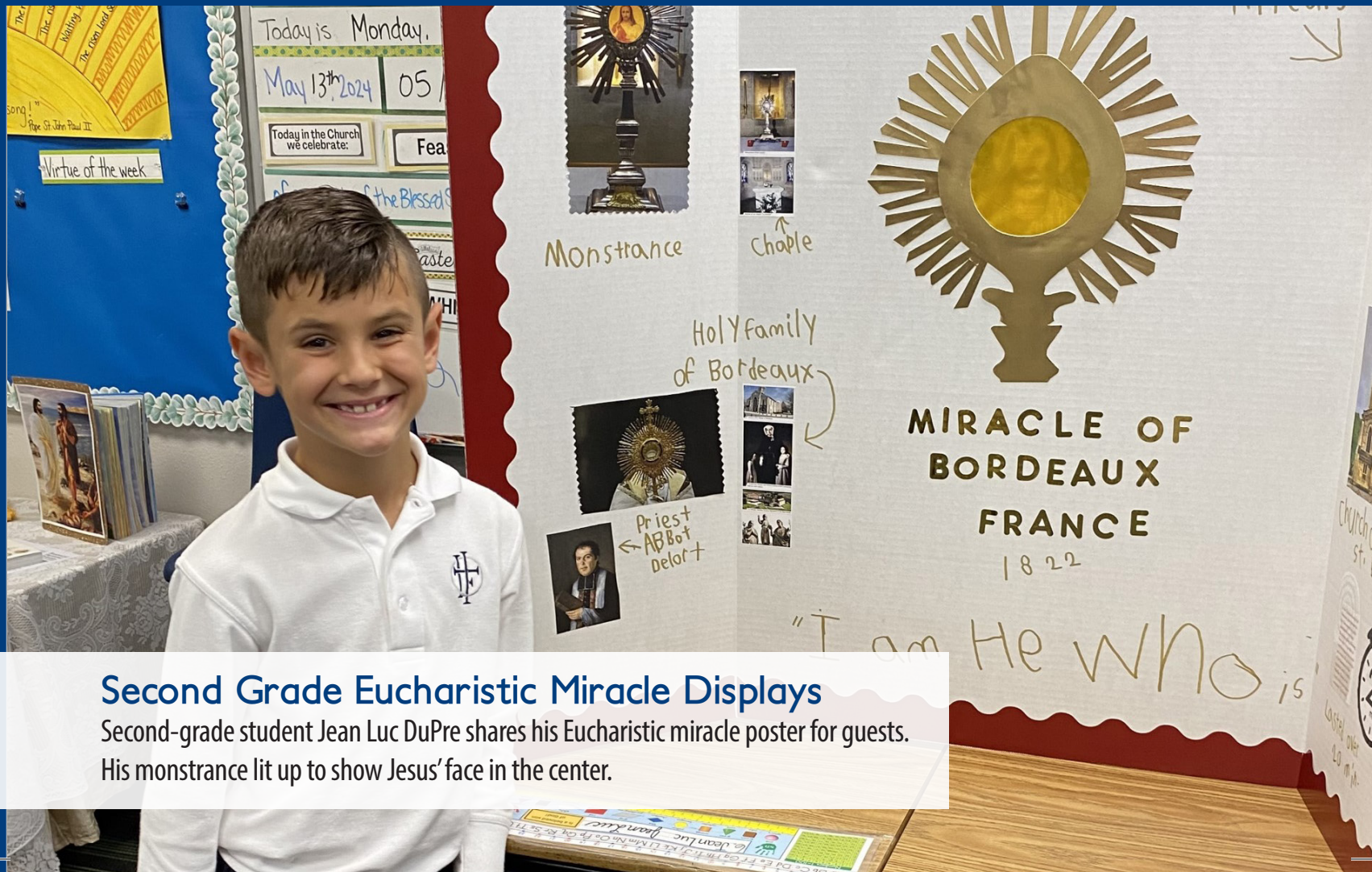


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**[www.holyfamilycs.org](http://www.holyfamilycs.org)**



## Second Grade Eucharistic Miracle Displays

Second-grade student Jean Luc DuPre shares his Eucharistic miracle poster for guests. His monstrance lit up to show Jesus' face in the center.