

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Dear Holy Family Community,

We are off to a great start to the 2024-2025 school year and this magazine will share several highlights and things to know. As with any quarterly publication, the process of preparing articles and discerning highlights is a challenge as there are so many items to choose from. We hope that you find something of interest, awareness, and connection in this edition. As always, if you have questions, want clarity, or have your curiosity aroused, please reach out and let us know what is on your mind and in your heart.

This is an exciting year for our school as we celebrate the 25-year journey that got us to this point in the life of the school. We also are continuing to update our strategic planning for the next quarter century. The Holy Family Board of Advisors, Principal Vu, and I have been working on the target areas of focus over the summer and will be sharing these areas, progress made, and next steps moving forward in upcoming magazines and via the school website. Please look for those items and support our efforts as we work to build not only the future of this school, but also the Kingdom of God by serving His children here.

Of course, we need your prayers along with your generosity as we build resources for this year and for years to come. The Annual Fund and Holy Family Gala are two upcoming opportunities that provide much-needed assistance. We have a new opportunity called "Raise Right" which allows families, friends, and supporters locally and across the country, to shop for what they normally shop for while generating funds for the school. Visit RaiseRight.com to sign up and use this code for Holy Family - 1UWYURUY461D.

This year, I personally invite any of you, your loved ones, and friends of Holy Family, who want to establish a legacy gift, to reach out to me directly. I would love to hear your story, share ours, and work together to create a way to ensure, guarantee, and establish a gift that will impact so many, for so many years. The establishment of a Holy Family Endowment this year will, over time, generate a sustainable funding source to support tuition assistance for decades.

Respect the past, celebrate the present, and build the future. A mantra with meaning, sincerity, and action. May this year of remembrance, celebration, and forward-leaning be filled with engagement, empowerment, and evangelization. God's plan, in God's time, calls us to trust in Him as we serve His children.

Thank you, God bless you and let us have a great school year!

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



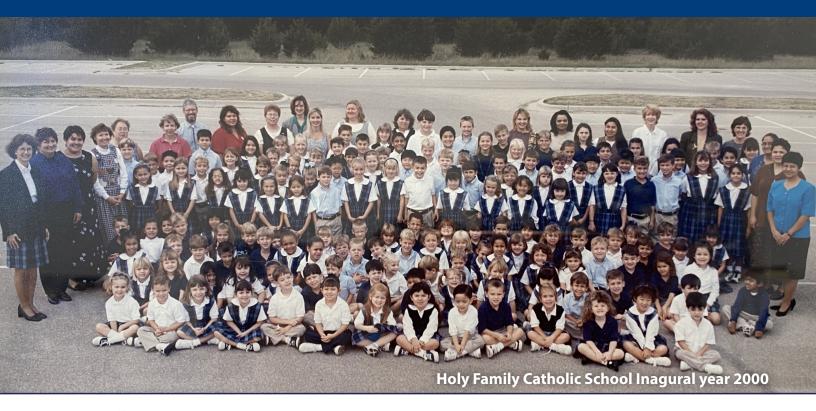
## DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PLAYGROUND WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED?

The recent completion of the playground space signifies the last major item of the facilities and grounds plan started many years ago. This is a much needed and welcomed turning point after so many years of construction and anticipation!



#### DID YOU KNOW WE RECENTLY UPDATED OUR SECURITY SYSTEM?

We have upgraded and added to the digital security camera system for the Holy Family campus. This was accomplished using private school funds allocated by the State of Texas for school safety needs.



## 25th Anniversary Celebration

## Honoring the past, present, future of Holy Family

or 25 years, Holy Family Catholic School has been partnering with parents in the education of their children. Over the course of the year, we will respect the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

As we respect the past, our community has

been looking at the growth of our school. This fall, we have been interviewing different faculty, staff, and families who have been part of the early years at Holy Family. These interviews and stories speak of a desire to educate the entire child and provide a strong, Catholic school for the families from the surrounding parishes. This desire continues to permeate our community.

As we celebrate the present, we look at the many faculty,

staff, and families who make our community a wonderful school. Whether it is watching our

students kneel before Jesus in Adoration, climb the playground, or work in groups to solve a math problem, our school is a place that continues to form a child's heart, mind, body, and soul.

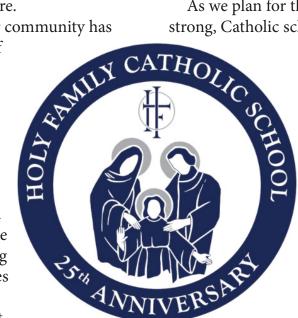
As we plan for the future, we desire to build a strong, Catholic school that will serve students

for the next 25 years of Holy Family and beyond.

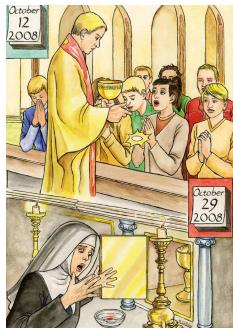
Holy Family Catholic School is filled with the Holy Spirit. I am so thankful that God has called me to serve our school with the faculty and staff here. Our school has been on a mission to form saints, and I cannot wait to see how the Holy Spirit will continue to work through all the people on our campus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray of us! Saint Joseph,

Guardian of the Holy Family, pray for us! Written by Principal Erin Vu



## Food for the Towney









This year, our theme at Holy Family Catholic School is "Food for the Journey: Eucharistic Miracles." Over the course of the year, we are learning about ten Eucharistic miracles that

have occurred throughout the world from the early church through today.

As students reflect on these change Eucharistic St. Momiracles, they are able to discover ways that Jesus has made Himself known.

During the year, we continue to develop our relationship with Jesus through the celebration of Mass, our monthly time before Jesus in Adoration, and our reflections on the Eucharistic miracles. In August, we reflected on the miracle in Siena, Italy in 1730 when 351 consecrate Hosts were discovered in the alms box of a church after having been stolen by thieves. Even today, the Hosts remain intact. In September, we reflected

on the miracle in Tixtla, Mexico in 2006 when a consecrated Host bled. In October, we will reflect on a miracle in Sokółka Poland where a host appeared to become

myocardial (heart) tissue.

"In an ever-changing

world, the Eucharist is

a constant reminder of

the great reality of God's

changeless love."

St. Mother Teresa

In all of these miracles, we are reminded that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. As a school, we are so blessed to receive Jesus in the Eucharist each Thursday at our school Mass, and we are thankful for the opportunity to adore Jesus in Adoration monthly.

#### **DEPICTING THE EUCHARIST THROUGH ART**

In alignment with the "2024 Food for Journey" campaign this year, Holy Family Art teachers Tiffani Paynter and Angela Quinn held a design contest searching for the best depiction of what it means to have the Eucharist for our journey. More than 60 entrees were submitted and teachers and staff voted on anonymous designs. This year, 5th grade student Katherine McMurray won with her depiction of Jesus wrapping his arms around two small children as they prepare for the road ahead. This means Katherine is 2-0 for her designs at Holy Family! Once again this year, t-shirts showcasing this design will be available for sale.



# Taste of the World

The Holy Family Parent Association held its second annual Taste of the World Festival on Thursday night, September 19, in the pavilion drawing hundreds to the community event.

Holy Family Catholic School serves a diverse student population, bringing the desire to learn more about parts of the world that are represented in our school community.

To this end, Holy Family Parent
Association President Johanna Laya led her
team of volunteer parents to organize an
event featuring Vietnamese, Indian, Italian,
Swedish, Venezuelan, Polish, Mexican, and
several other delicacies. Families joined
together bringing both home-cooked and
store-bought authentic dishes representing
the various cultures of our school family.

"The goal of the event is to foster connections within our community by recognizing and honoring each family's history," said Holy Family Parent Association President Johanna Laya.

Many of the members of the Holy Family Parent Association were on campus early in the morning setting up for the evening's events, which seemed to be a labor of love.

"The beauty of our school is in the diversity of its families united as a community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit," added Laya.









## Holy Family Receives 1,000 Books with More to Come!

Holy Family Catholic School parent Anna Perusse is not only a mother to her fourth-grade student at the school, but as it turns out she is also a guardian angel of the Holy Family Library.

Through her volunteer work with Libraries of Love, Anna sees thousands of books coming across her desk which are mostly sent to schools in Africa where libraries are being built. Despite sending close to 20,000 books annually to build libraries in schools in Africa, the organization still can't use all the donations they receive from publishers or public schools. This is where Anna grew angel wings for Holy Family's library.

Just this school year, Libraries of Love, has donated nearly 1,000 books to the Holy Family library. There are plans to bring in close to 2,000 additional books later this year.

Librarian Dr. Verity Kahn vets each donation carefully to ensure they match the school's mission.





### **Rosary Walk Completed!**

Savio junior, Liz Ring, spent the last two years planning and preparing the Rosary Walk she wanted to design and construct for the Holy Family Cross which perches over the campus. Altogether with 150 volunteer hours, and tiles that were handmade by Liz and others, she spent nearly \$1300 to construct the Rosary Walk as an Eagle Scout project for Scouts America. "I wanted to help teach younger people how to pray the rosary," said Liz Ring.

Holy Family Catholic School appreciates Liz and the Ring Family!



### "WHEN I SAT DOWN TO THINK ABOUT WHERE I COULD DO MY EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT, Holy

Family jumped out at me immediately. Throughout my middle school career, Holy Family gave so much to me that I wanted to give back to it in any way that I could. Not only did my project beatify the campus, but more importantly it helped fix some drainage issues. My hope is that Holy Family will benefit from my project for years to come."

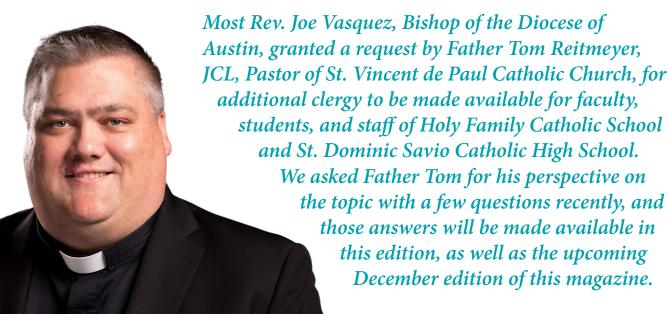
Richie Hennessey





## Five Minutes with Fr. Tom

### Creative solutions for clergy on campus



#### How does the process work for a school to request clergy from the Bishop?

Father Tom: Our Diocese has 19 Catholic Schools. Of those, fourteen are parish schools who are under the care of their pastor (and parochial vicar at some parishes). Two of the schools are independent schools, one of which contracts with two retired priests for chaplaincy services. Holy Family, St. Dominic Savio, and San Juan Diego are diocesan schools. The pastoral care of these schools is the responsibility of our Bishop, Most Rev. Joe Vásquez. While St. Dominic Savio has had a full-time chaplain in its early years, there have not been enough priests available to provide for all our needs in the diocese and assign a full-time chaplain to the schools.

I can assure you that the request for chaplains in our schools has not fallen on deaf ears. Our bishop cares deeply about our schools, and I know it has been difficult for him to be in a position where he could not dedicate a full-time priest to our schools. At the beginning of the summer, Bishop Vásquez not only agreed to assign a third priest to St. Vincent de Paul to assist me in my duties here at the parish and allow us to provide chaplaincy services to the schools, but he also helped form an agreement between priests at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church in South Austin to provide chaplain services for San Juan Diego Catholic High School as well.

The best thing we can do to ensure a strong presence of clergy and consecrated religious both now and in the future, is to pray for more vocations for our diocese and from our diocese. I am convinced that God is calling some of our students to a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. We need to work together to build a culture so that our students respond generously to this call and our parents support them in pursuing their vocation.

#### How did you assist us in this process?

Father Tom: Other than asking Bishop Vásquez and providing a creative solution, not much. I would rather all the credit and gratitude go to Bishop Vásquez for showing his commitment to our schools. It may not be where we want to be in the future, but it is a great first step in the right direction. I hope our parents will share their gratitude with Bishop Vásquez. He cares deeply about our schools, students, families, faculty, and staff.





Opposite: Fr. Lijo gives a high five to PreK students. Top: Fr. Roopesh visits Mrs. Pish's music class and joins in making music with clicking sticks.

Above: Fr. Lijo visits PreK and speaks to a student about the letter D.



Over 30 schools attended the Holy Family Angel Invitational on Saturday, September 28, on the grounds of the Holy Family campus.

Beginning before dawn, parent volunteers set up the course and prepared water for the runners. The Holy Family Angels 4 Life club worked the concessions stand all day selling water, bagels, and other treats for the hundreds of visitors to the well-organized Angel event.

#### **Holy Family Team Scores**

5/6 Girls - 4<sup>th</sup> Place 5/6 Boys - 1<sup>st</sup> Place 7/8 Girls - 1<sup>st</sup> place 7/8 Boys - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### **Holy Family Individual Medals**

The top 15 in each Category received medals.

#### 5/6 Girls

3<sup>rd</sup> - Lucy Cogwin - 13:51.36

#### 5/6 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> - Nathaniel Willett - 12:14.98

7<sup>th</sup> - Luke Crilly - 13:35.79

8<sup>th</sup> - Mateo Wehbe-Gonsalvez -13:38.74

9th - Juan Miranda - 13:39.17

#### 7/8 Girls

2<sup>nd</sup> - Ana Sofia Cogwin - 14:02.43

4th - Anabelle Bierschenk - 14:48.67

9th - Jenna Wiley - 15:06.89

10th - Arabella Jones - 15:07.27

15th - Claire Larsen - 15:28.16

#### 7/8 Boys

7<sup>th</sup> - AJ Winkeler - 12:37.45 11<sup>th</sup> - Alex Zarzar - 13:10.44





Congratulations to Nathaniel Willett who not only won first place in 5/6 boys, but also set a school record by over 30 seconds!



#### FALL HIGHLIGHTS

#### **CHEER**

In June, the Angel's cheerleading squad attended a two-day, intensive cheer camp in Austin. They learned new game day material and learned new stunt skills to incorporate into halftime routines. The teams are prepared to lead our Holy Family community to a successful athletic season!

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

We are expecting big things from our 7/8 6A girls! The majority of this team went undefeated as 6<sup>th</sup> graders and they are all working hard together to put their best effort forward on the court.

#### **TACKLE FOOTBALL**

The tackle football team has started the season strong! Thanks to our amazing coaches - Abraham Ligon, Jason Lee, Ryan Eardley and Bret Baker - these young men have had the opportunity to fall in love with Texas football!

#### FLAG FOOTBALL

Holy Family Angels 5/6th Flag Football is keeping the football tradition alive at Holy Family. They are standouts in their divisions and have come out strong to start the CAPPS season.











## Passing the Torch

## **Family Sends Second Generation to Holy Family**

ore than 25 years ago, long before
Neenah Avenue continued to Pearson
Ranch along with the neighborhoods
that followed, Holy Family Catholic School was
breaking ground for students whose families in
northwest Austin wanted to offer their children a
Catholic education.

Rebecca and Stephen Musil were among those families. They were so excited to be part of the growing plan to build Holy Family on Neenah Avenue, that they brought their son Ben, born in 1995, to the groundbreaking ceremony with Bishop Aymond.

Ben Musil had his first pre-k class in portables placed at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Parish as Holy Family's Faith, Hope, and Charity buildings were being built on Neenah Avenue.

"I have great memories of Holy Family and the teachers," said Ben Musil, who also was a part of the very first kindergarten class on campus when the school officially opened on Neenah Avenue in 2000. "I remember Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. Dailey, and Mrs. Youngpeter because her husband, Mr. Youngpeter, taught me."

Today, Ben and his wife Alyssa have three children, Gianna, 1, JP, 3, and Thomas, 5, who just started kindergarten this year at Holy Family, 25 years after his father did.

"It's an awesome opportunity to continue what my dad started," said Musil. "My dad, who has since passed away, was part of the school board at one time, and it was important for him to raise children in Catholic education, and I am grateful as a dad now to do the same for my kids."

He says Holy Family offers a solid community of faith, especially with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church right next door.

"It's been a long time since I have felt a community as vibrant as Holy Family!"









# HOLY FAMILY COMPLETES INAGURAL WEEK OF GIVING

In our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, our community has been looking at the growth of our school. This fall, we have been interviewing different faculty, staff, and families who have been part of the early years at Holy Family. These interviews and stories speak of a desire to educate the entire child and provide a strong, Catholic school for the families from the surrounding parishes. This desire continues to permeate our community.

In the present day, we look at the many faculty, staff, and families who make our community a wonderful school. Whether it is watching our students kneel before Jesus in Adoration, climb the playground, or work in groups to solve a math problem, our school is a place that continues to form a child's heart, mind, body, and soul.

Looking to the future, we desire to build a strong, Catholic school that will serve students for the next 25 years of Holy Family and beyond.

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Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray of us! Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family, pray for us!





#### **YOUR SUPPORT TO DATE:**

We are overjoyed to share our results as of September 30, 2024:

**Total Gifts and Pledges Received:** 

273

**Total Raised:** 

\$336,128

#### MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY!

If you would like to support Holy Family with a gift to the Angel Fund, please scan this QR code or visit www.holyfamilycs.org/giving/annual-appeal.cfm.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **OCTOBER 11**

End of First Quarter, Family Social

#### **OCTOBER 14**

No School - Student-Led Conferences

#### **OCTOBER 15-16**

**Health Screening** 

#### **OCTOBER 18**

**Early Dismissal** 

#### **OCTOBER 25**

Eucharistic Rally, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip

#### **OCTOBER 26**

**Angel Boutique** 

#### **OCTOBER 30**

Eat 'N Treat, Savio's Trunk or Treat

#### **NOVEMBER 8**

**Coffee & Community** 

#### **NOVEMBER 12**

**Angel Boutique** 

#### **NOVEMBER 13**

Picture re-takes; Humanities Night

#### **NOV 18-22**

**Book Fair** 

#### **NOVEMBER 22**

**Grandparent's Day** 

#### **NOV 25-29**

Thanksgiving Holiday No School

#### **DECEMBER 2-3**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip

#### **DECEMBER 10**

**Angel Boutique** 

#### **DECEMBER 12**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Service

#### **DECEMBER 13**

Reading Under the Stars (PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

#### **DECEMBER 14**

**Jingle and Mingle** 

#### **DEC 23-JAN 6**

**Christmas Break** 

Scan to see more events on the school calendar:









Becky Cook, Owner

Holy Family Mom

bcinspirations.etsy.com bcinspirations@cooktx.com

Custom orders accepted



## RaiseRight



Simply the right way to fundraise

Holy Family Catholic School now earns rewards for your online shopping!

ready, set, shop!

raiseright.com/1UWYURUY461D

Visit Raiseright.com and enter the Holy Family Code
1UWYURUY461D. Shop c and retailers will reward our It's THAT easy!





HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL INVITES ALL FAMILIES TO JOIN IN!

Meet in the Pavilion!

Watch your email for RSVP link

## WEEK OF GIVING CELEBRATION!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 2024 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.





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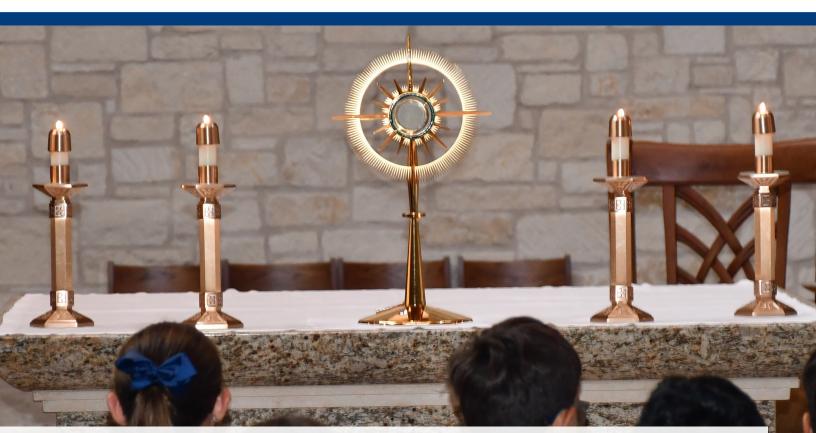
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#### ON EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

"When I go to Adoration, I can feel the powerfulness of it all. The feeling of everyone coming to the altar is just amazing. And I love all the songs and guided worship. I love the experience and am so glad we added this to what we do at Holy Family." - Hannah, Holy Family student