

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to fall! Take time to enjoy the fall days and colors and give thanks for a bountiful harvest. As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, I hope you all have time to appreciate the many ways the Lord is present in your lives. May the Lord bless everyone with a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Carol Vogel, Head Teacher

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A few thoughts on Living the Word of God: To learn more about the saints visit <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>. On November 2, we celebrate All Souls' Day, or the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. This a wonderful time to remember family members who have died. Placing their pictures in your prayer space and telling stories about these loved ones helps children to realize that death is not the end, but the beginning of a new life. As St. John Chrysostom said, "They whom we love and lose, are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are." (Taken from *Celebrating Sundays for Catholic Families*)

GIFT CARD FUND-RAISER: This is a great way to do some of your Christmas shopping this year and help our school! Orders taken from Oct 20 thru Oct 29 will be ready by Nov 3 & 4. Sales will continue through November 26. Order forms will be available at school and the back of churches. All orders must be turned in by **Monday, November 26th**. **Cards will be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 2 at the Christmas Concert.** Thank you for your support.

HCCS CRAFT SHOW: **Thank you** once again for your support, and to the committee for all their work: Jamie Bayer, Jen Coufal, Diane Perrin, Tara Svitak. Thanks also to everyone who worked, baked, cooked, and shopped!

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences. Your support of your child's education is what helps make HCCS a great school!



Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 1 – Holy Day**, Mass 8:15 at Sts. Peter & Paul
- Nov 4 -Daylight Savings Time ends**
- Nov 9 – No school** HCCS, HDC; State Volleyball
- Nov 12 – Veteran’s Day Program**, 10:00 am Dodge gym
- November 15 – 2nd quarter mid-term**; reports sent home Tues., Nov. 20th; parents/guardians please review, sign, & return ASAP
- Nov 15 – Mass of Thanksgiving**; bring items for food drive
- Nov 17 – Trivia Night**, 6:00 social; 7:00 trivia
- Nov 21 - dismiss at 1:00**
- Nov 22&23 - No school – Thanksgiving break**
- Nov 28 – Late start**
- Dec 2 – HCCS Christmas Concert**, 4:30 pm, SPP church
- Dec 19 – last day of school at HCCS before Christmas break**
- Jan 3 – School resumes**

What's happening at HCCS?

- ❖ **ALL SAINTS' DAY** Mass on Wednesday, November 1 at 8:15 am at Sts. Peter & Paul Church. This is a solemn Holy Day of Obligation of the Catholic Church celebrates annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.
- ❖ **MASS of THANKSGIVING** will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul Church on **Thursday, November 15th**. Everyone is welcome to attend. We would like to take this time to thank those people who have given of time, talent, and treasure to our school.
- ❖ **Food Drive:** During this time, when we count our many blessings, the students will be asked to share needed items with those less fortunate. This year we will be donating **canned goods and other non-perishable food**. These items can be brought to school any day before the November 15th Mass. Items will be donated to the West Point Food Pantry.
- ❖ **THE SEASON OF ADVENT** begins on Sunday, December 2nd. In joyful anticipation of Christ's birth, our students will be participating in various classroom activities and reflecting on the true meaning of the season.
- ❖ **Boxtops Update:** We have collected over 1000 boxtops this year. Students have earned \$5.00 worth of 50 cent pieces. Keep them coming and thanks!
- ❖ **Stay informed!** To check dates, event details, news updates, and other information, please visit our website www.howellscommunitycatholic.org.



Coding with the Dash robot!! Kids love learning how to code Dash to do different commands.

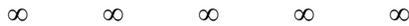


The 1, 2, & 3rd graders delivering their Flat Stanley letters to the post office. They sent Flat Stanley to someone in Nebraska and someone out of state.

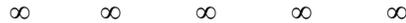


Students are on a web site called <https://www.getepic.com/> --they can listen to and read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction stories.

WEATHER REMINDER: Winter is fast approaching. *Please*--since students go outside for recess whenever possible, make sure they have mittens/gloves and something to wear on their head EVERY DAY as the weather changes so quickly. Students need snow boots whenever snow is present or predicted; however, they need to take them home at the end of each school day to dry the wet mittens, snowpants, and boots. Also the janitor scrubs the hallways on the weekends. Listen to local radio stations for weather related announcements. AM84 or FM 107.9, TV channels 6 & 7. *If you are not on the Public School's Alert System, please contact HDC for information on signing up or you may print a form from the HDC website.*



Reminder: Students who normally walk home will need to be picked up from school if bad weather develops. It is not safe to let students walk home or to a relative's house in a snowstorm or sub-zero degree weather.



ABSENCES: When your child is absent for any reason, a *phone call* or a *signed note* from a parent/guardian is required.

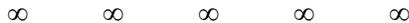
Also, please let us know who and when will be picking up the absent child's homework, or with whom we are to send the homework home.

Whenever a child leaves and/or returns to school they need to be "**signed in/out**" by the adult who is picking them up and/or returning them to school.



In order to track frequent illnesses, the State Health Department has asked us to keep a record of illnesses when students are absent. *If you wish to help us with this tracking, you may inform us of the illness your child has.* It is important to keep students home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.

All teachers and staff at HCCS are prepared to work with parents/guardians and students to make all absences and returns as smooth as possible. Together, we can ensure that your child's education is not disrupted due to illness.



Happy Thanksgiving

Saints – Things you might want to know

How does someone become a saint?

The Catholic Church believes that anyone can become a saint—that is someone who makes it to heaven. Whether you are a priest, a married woman, a single man, a religious sister, etc., the Catholic Church calls all men and women, whatever their state in life, to seek holiness and sainthood.

Why does the Catholic Church choose one person over another to be a saint?

Sometimes we can casually say that the Church is making him or her a saint. But, technically, the Church does not make saints; it recognizes someone who is in heaven. In addition to this, the Church is looking for folks whose lives are worth imitating and to such a degree that they should be held up as an example to the Church. Knowing these criteria can help people understand the process for how the Catholic Church recognizes saints.

What is the process of being recognized as a saint in the Catholic Church?

5 Steps to Sainthood

First, the person's local bishop investigates their life by gathering information from witnesses of their life and any writings they may have written. If the bishop finds them to be worthy of being a saint, then he submits the information that he gathered to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Second, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints can choose to reject the application or accept it and begin their own investigation of the person's life.

Third, if the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approves of the candidate, they can choose to declare that the person lived a heroically virtuous life. This isn't a declaration that the person is in heaven, but that they pursued holiness while here on earth.

Fourth, to be recognized as someone in heaven requires that a miracle has taken place through the intercession of that person. The miracle is usually a healing. The healing has to be instantaneous, permanent, and complete while also being scientifically unexplainable. Miracles have to be first verified as scientifically unexplainable by a group of independent doctors, then the person is approved by a panel of theologians, and then the final approval lies with the pope. If this is the case, a person is declared a blessed.

Fifth, a second miracle is needed in order to declare someone a saint. The confirmation of a second miracle goes through the same scrutiny as the first.

How does someone become a blessed, venerable, or servant of God? What is the difference between a blessed, venerable, servant of God and a saint?

Servant of God – When someone is officially considered for sainthood by Congregation for the Causes of Saints (Step 2 above), then they can be called a Servant of God.

Venerable – When someone is declared that a person lived a life heroically virtuous life (Step 3 above). As mentioned earlier, no declaration is made regarding whether or not they are in heaven.

Blessed – A blessed is recognized as someone in heaven by the proof of one miracle through their intercession.

Besides the number of miracles attributed to them, *the difference between is a blessed and a saint* is that the scope of devotion for a blessed is narrower – usually limited to a specific group of people or a particular region of the world while a saint is held up for devotion for the universal Church.