



ACADEMY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Dear AHF Families,

We begin November celebrating All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. These are two important feasts of our faith, when we honor all of the saints who serve as an example of faith in action, and we also honor the faithful departed in our lives. We end the month with Thanksgiving and the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Thanksgiving has great significance in the US. This is the one secular holiday we have where the focus is on thanking God for all he has given us. Often times, we are quick to pray to God for what we need, and don't always remember to thank Him for all He has given us.

Pope Francis, in a homily given in 2018, explained the importance of giving thanks. He said, *"If we can realize that everything is God's gift, how happy will our hearts be! Everything is His gift. He is our strength!"* He went on to tell the crowd, *"Saying 'thank you' is such an easy thing and yet so hard."* His homily continued, *"How often do we say 'thank you' to one another in our families? These are essential words for our life in common...If families can say these three things, they will be fine: 'sorry', 'excuse me', 'thank you.' How often do we say 'thank you' in our families? How often do we say 'thank you' to those who help us, those close to us, those at our side throughout life? All too often we take everything for granted."* He went on to say that Mary's words at the Annunciation, (*"My soul magnifies the Lord"*), are *"a song of praise and thanksgiving to God, not only for what He did for Her, but for what He had done throughout the history of salvation."*

To magnify means to make greater or bigger. What he was referring to is that Our Lady teaches us to open our eyes to God. He is not distant or far away. He is very close to each and every one of us and is alive and well in our lives. What an important thing for us to be thankful for!

Please take the time to read our very busy calendar. Our Drama Club has been working hard since the beginning of school on the upcoming play *The Phantom of the Opera*. Show times are Friday, November 3 at 10am and 7pm and Saturday November 4 at 3pm. We are excited about basketball starting this month. We also have a New York City trip, we celebrate Veterans Day, and we have Community Service Days and Thanksgiving Break. Please note: the originally planned early dismissal day on November 8 has been cancelled. It will be a regular school day.

I conclude by telling you that, as always, this wonderful, warm, supportive school community, which is family to me, will be among the many blessings the Fiore family will be giving thanks for during our Thanksgiving Day meal.

May God's blessings be abundant upon you and your families,

Henry Fiore, Jr.

Principal

◀October

November 2023

December ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Multicultural Club 3:00 Drama Club 3:15-5:30	2 Drama Club Full Dress Rehearsal	3 Phantom of the Opera 10:00 am 7:00 pm	4 SAT tests 7:45 Phantom of the Opera 3:00 pm
5	6	7 10 Juniors and Seniors visit UConn 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	8 4:30 pm Environmental Club Current Issues	9 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	10 Veterans Day No School  Veterans Day - November 11 New York City Trip	11 Fill the bus with donations For the needy
12	13	14 Iona College Visits at 11 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	15	16 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	17 Second Quarter Interim	18 Senior Service/ Splash Boston Trip
19 Senior Service/ Splash Boston Trip	20 Senior Service/ Boston Trip	21 Second Quarter Progress Reports sent out 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice AHF Service Day	22 Thanksgiving Break Dorms Open	23  Thanksgiving Break Dorms Open	24 Thanksgiving Break Dorms Open	25 Thanksgiving Break Dorms Open
26 Thanksgiving Break Dorms Open	27	28 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	29	30 3:15-4:30 Basketball Practice	Clubs that meet at 12 weekly: Communications: Mondays Human Rights: Tuesdays Campus Ministry: Wed weeks 2,3,4 TOP Life Thursdays FIT Club: Fridays	

Thanksgiving and Christmas Break Travel Protocol

Thanksgiving break takes place from Wed. Nov. 22-Sun. Nov 26. The dorms will be open. Please notify Sr. Rafael (smraf@ahfbaltic.org) no later than Saturday, November 11 if your daughter will be staying in the dorm or travelling home or at a friend's house. If travelling, students must return by 9 pm Sunday, Nov. 26.

Christmas break will be upon us sooner than later. It is best to make preparations from now, as our dorms are closed annually during the Christmas break. Students who are not travelling home are encouraged to visit sponsors in the US or plan on accompanying a friend from school to spend the vacation with her family. It is imperative that all travel arrangements be emailed to Sr. Rafael (smraf@ahfbaltic.org). Open communication is essential to ensure the correct travel arrangements.

Please note the following:

- Midterm exams will not be administered earlier than the scheduled dates. Please do not ask to have them earlier, as per the handbook.
- Due to midterm exams, the soonest students may leave would be Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 10:15 if they have no exam during F period. Otherwise, they will be able to leave at 11:45am
- The dorms re-open on January 2nd. Classes start on January 3.
- We provide transportation only to Framingham, not Logan International Airport in Boston. If you book for Logan, the students will need to board the Logan Express bus for Framingham. We pick up directly only on January 2nd at TF GREEN International Airport in Providence (Warwick) RI and Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks (Hartford) CT. If the students are arriving on a day other than the 2nd, please arrange alternate transportation, such as an Uber or taxi.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all, and we will be happy to answer them for you.

Order Your YEARBOOK



A Message from Sr. Rafael:

We are currently taking pre-purchase orders for this year's AHF Yearbook. To place your purchase, click on the link below:

<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01013900>

ORDER BEFORE NOVEMBER 4 AND RECEIVE THE DISCOUNT PRICE OF \$30 PER YEARBOOK!

All Saints' Day Prayer

November 1st



Heavenly Father, Your saints have taught us many things by their words and deeds. Your ideals and truths have been revealed by their unwavering faith in You.

Allow us, who pursue their saintly ways, to be filled with the essence that blessed their lives on earth. We are grateful for the example of Your saints.

Dear heavenly saints, we join our prayers of thanks to yours this day. With you, we praise God's greatness, rejoice in God's mercy and celebrate His immense love for all of us.

Amen

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All Souls' Day Prayer

November 2nd



Merciful Father, on this day, as we commemorate all of the faithful departed, we thank You for the memories of them and for the times we shared together. Please give them comfort and rest with You eternally.

As we reaffirm our faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in His resurrection, we pray for their joyful reunion with You, their loving Creator.

In closing, we also ask for Your mercy upon the souls suffering in purgatory. We know there is no boundaries to Your compassion. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through Your mercy, rest in peace.

Amen

A Prayer for Veterans Day



Father, we could never thank our military men and women enough for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Yet today we lift up our voices to express gratefulness and honor to these military troops both from the past and present. Show us ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect these heroes and their families, in the powerful name of Jesus.

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

In thanksgiving for blessings unknown

God our protector, God our hope,

We turn to you in times of hardship,
But in our struggles and fears,
We often forget to thank you
For the grace you have given us to
overcome hardship.

For countless unknown blessings, we
give you thanks.

For waking with us as we have
prepared for storms
and for sharing our joy when
disaster is averted ...
... we give you thanks.

For wars that never happened,
where tempers flared
but reason and mercy prevailed ...
... we give you thanks.

For the crops that have flourished,
and the child who now knows
nothing of hunger ...
... we give you thanks.

For all the nights we spent in fear,
but by your grace saw mornings
filled with hope ...
... we give you thanks.

For all the joys of this year,
The moments when light shone
through the darkness
When angels stood triumphant
When we saw past our sin and strife
And glimpsed beyond the veil
At what the kingdom of God truly
could be ...
... we give you thanks.

Amén

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