



ACADEMY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Dear AHF Families,

Advent is upon us. It is a time of great anticipation of the coming of Our Savior, Jesus. We hear a lot from the prophet Isaiah in our readings during this season. Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament, and his Book is second only to Psalms in the number of quotations from Scripture in the New Testament. He was troubled by the moral breakdown of his time. His message is as relevant today as it was many centuries ago. He played an important role in God's plan. He foretold the coming of the Messiah and brought hope to his people during challenging times. The promise of hope is for all of us. He shows how God works for the good of all of us, His children, and is with us even in the worst of circumstances. He has promised salvation for us through Jesus, who frees us from our sins. In Him, we have hope for eternity.

In a very special way, one could consider the clergy, and religious Sisters and Brothers (in our case, especially the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church), our modern day "Isaiahs". They instill in us (all of us- students and adults) by their very demeanor the importance of listening to God very carefully, especially at Mass, and the proper reverence and respect for the Eucharist. Think about how blessed we are to be able to have our students attend Mass and receive the Eucharist as part of our normal school schedules! The earlier we instill our Christian values in our young people, the more chance we have of Isaiah's message to be met with open ears and open hearts, which will last a lifetime.

Take comfort in the fact that AHF is the counter culture when it comes to what this holy Season of Advent is all about. It is NOT about buying presents and rushing around in consumer madness. Every year, there seems to be more and more commercialism and secularization of this Holy Season. Department stores have their Christmas displays of goods before Halloween, and it is rare to find any spiritual value in what is displayed.

We are blessed to be in the ministry of Catholic education at AHF. We prioritize the Gospel message of Jesus Christ our Savior. Not only do our students recognize this priority and want to learn more about it, but they also live it each and every day. That, my friends, is worth more than any material gift they could receive for Christmas.

My prayer for you this month is that we all heed Isaiah's message of how to live, keep Jesus in the center of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, and that we all become beacons of His Light.

Have a wonderful peace-filled Advent and Christmas Season.

Henry Fiore, Jr.

Principal

IMPORTANT REMINDERS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

- **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)**
- **If a student does stay with a friend over the vacation, permission slips must be signed by both the parent/guardian of the student visiting and the parent/guardian hosting. The school does not arrange for students to go to other students' houses. These arrangements are organized by students and their families.**
- **Due to midterm exams, the soonest students may leave would be Monday, December 18 is at 10:15 am if they have no exam during F period. Otherwise, they will be able to leave at 11:45. If travel arrangements have already been made by families for the 19th and 20th, the school will honor that.**
- **Dorms re-open on January 2nd. Classes resume January 3rd.**
- **We provide transportation directly from TF Green International Airport in Providence (Warwick), RI, and Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks (Hartford), CT. For flights arriving in Logan International Airport in Boston, the students will need to board the Logan Express bus for Framingham, MA. We only provide transportation from Framingham, not Logan airport. If the students are arriving on a day other than the 2nd, please arrange alternate transportation, such as Uber or taxi.**
- **Please be sure to read all email updates for important information. We want to ensure open communication and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact us about any of the above.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Advent Peer Ministry Night First Friday Mass 9:30-chapel	2 Share –a Day w/grades 2-4
3	4	5 Confessions at 10:22 Basketball Practice 3:15-5	6	7 Basketball Practice 3:15-5	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 St. Mary's Church	9 Christmas Concert With St. Joseph School 1:00-2:00pm
10	11	12	13 Mid-term Exams A & D classes K & L classes	14 Mid-term Exams B & G classes School Christmas Party	15 Mid-term Exams C, H, I & J Classes	16
17	18 Mid-term Exams E & F Classes	19 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	20 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	21 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed First Semester Report Cards Sent Out	22 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	23 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed
24 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	27 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	28 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	29 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	30 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed
31 Christmas Vacation Dorms Closed	<p><u>Clubs that meet at lunch weekly:</u></p> <p>Communications: Mondays Human Rights: Tuesdays Campus Ministry: Wednesdays TOP Life Thursdays FIT Club: Fridays</p> <p>Multicultural Club: Every other Wednesday 3-3:30 Student Council : Mondays at 7pm-8pm</p>					
RESIDENTS RETURN TUESDAY JANUARY 2 CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 3						

Save the Date: Saturday, December 9
Christmas Concert 1pm-2:30pm
at the St. Michael Center, School Hill Road, Baltic, CT
featuring
The Pre-K - 8 students of St. Joseph School, Baltic, CT



&

The Academy of the Holy Family Choir, Baltic, CT



Midterm Exam Schedule for 2023

Exam 1: 8:15-9:45 a.m.
 Break: 9:45-10:10 a.m.
 Exam 2: 10:15-11:45 a.m.
 Lunch: 11:45-12:15p.m.
 Exam 3: 12:50- 2:20 p.m.

	Wed. 12/13/23	Thur. 12/14/23	Fri. 12/15/23	Mon. 12/18/23
Exam 1	A	B	C	E
Exam 2	D	G	H	F
Exam 3	K/L	Christmas Party	I/J	

Special Notes: Courses in which the teachers

assign a project as an exam, that project will be due on the day and time of the above schedule.

Students must be on time and remain in their classroom, silently, until the end of the exam period. Students are also expected to attend all study halls in their individual schedules.

Make-up period will be after school on any day by appointment with the class teacher. NO exams may be taken ahead of the scheduled exam period without the permission of the school principal.

In the event of a 90 minute delay:




Homeroom: 9:15- 9:25
 Exam 1: 9:30-11:00
 Lunch: 11:05-11:35
 Exam 2: 11:45- 1:15
 Exam 3: 1:30-3:00

In the event of a 2 hour delay:




Homeroom: 9:45- 9:55
 Exam 1: 10:00- 11:30
 Lunch: 11:30- 11:55
 Exam 2: 12:00-1:30
 Exam 3: 1:45-3:15

In the event of a snow day, all exams are moved ahead and notification will be given to administer exams in the afternoon taking into consideration flight schedules.



**PRAYER FOR STUDYING
"DILIGENCE PRAYER"**

O Lord, Mighty in Power,
 please bless my mind with
 diligence to study for my upcoming
 exams. May I use my time well, as a
 precious gift. Please focus my mind
 on my classes. Please cleanse my
 mind of outside distractions and
 worries. Please center my thoughts.
 Help me set goals and stick to them
 using the discipline and
 perseverance You have taught me.
 Please remind me of all these
 things and more, Lord. In Jesus' all-
 knowing name, Amen.



ConnectUs

A Special Prayer for Advent

Starting on St. Andrew's Feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real meaning of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

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CHRISTMAS NOVENA



St. Andrew
Christmas Novena

November 30 - December 24

Hail and **blessed** be the hour and moment in which the **Son of God** was born of the most pure **Virgin Mary** at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, **Oh my God**, to hear my prayer and grant my desires,

[here mention your request]

through the merits of **Our Savior Jesus Christ** and of **His blessed Mother**.

Amen.

from *Catholic Tradition*.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration of the Academy of the Holy Family, I wish all of our families a most blessed Advent and Joyous Christmas. Thank you for blessing us with our amazingly hard working, kind, and considerate student body. The light of the Newborn Savior shines bright through them. We appreciate the sacrifices you make so that they may attend our school, where Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this month is the center of all we do. He will be with them always. Take comfort in that.

Henry Fiore, Jr.



A Christmas Blessing

Heavenly Father, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus, remembering the words of the angels on the night of His birth, "Peace on earth to all of good will." Today, as never before, Almighty God, we pray for Your loving peace. May peace be the guiding force in the hearts of our world leaders. May peace reign in every corner of the globe and in the hearts of every man, woman and child upon this earth. This Christmas and always, may we embrace Your wonderful gifts with courage and conviction. In so doing, we will also be embracing Your greatest gift to us, Your Son, the Prince of Peace!

Amen.