



ACADEMY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

Dear AHF Families,

As the calendar turns to December, a profound anticipation is present on our campus that is far more meaningful than the typical rush of the holidays. Here at the Academy of the Holy Family, we embrace this season not merely as getting ready for Christmas break but as embracing the sacred time of Advent.

Advent is a season of waiting, preparation, and hope. It calls us to reflect on the two comings of Christ: the infant Savior born in Bethlehem, and His final return in glory. This dual focus beautifully mirrors the core of our educational Mission: to prepare your daughters and granddaughters, these bright young ladies, not just for college or a career, but for their eternity.

The virtue of hope that Advent cultivates is sustained by the dedication we witness every day, especially through the selfless lives of the Sisters of Charity, of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. The operation of an all-girls Catholic day and boarding school in today's world requires profound commitment. The sacrifice made by the Sisters—in their time, their resources, and their steadfast service—is a direct, tangible expression of their vows and their deep belief in the transformative power of this mission. They do not merely operate a school; they live out the Gospel promise to educate, nurture, and form young women of faith and courage. Their example of living simply and dedicating their entire lives to this work is perhaps the most powerful lesson our students receive.

For many of our students, whether they hail from down the street or from across the ocean, their time at the Academy is a critical period for forming a firm moral and spiritual foundation. This is why the teaching of the faith is not just a course; it is the underlying principle of everything we do.

In a world that often struggles to define virtue, we teach truth. We use the Advent season—the lighting of the wreath, our liturgies, and works of charity—to illustrate the value of self-denial, the joy of giving, and the certainty of God's providence. We are preparing not just graduates, but faithful leaders who are equipped with the wisdom of the Scriptures to navigate the complexities of life. This foundation of faith is the lasting gift we partner with you to give your daughters and granddaughters.

Please be sure to read all of the important information regarding mid-term exams and travel arrangements for the upcoming Christmas break.

My prayer for you this month is that the spirit of Advent fills your homes and hearts as you prepare for the Nativity. Thank you for entrusting your daughters to the care of the Sisters, the faculty, and the staff. May your Christmas be blessed with the peace of the Newborn Savior.

Henry Fiore, Jr.

Principal

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Basketball 3:15-5:30	3	4 Basketball 3:15-5:30	5 First Friday Mass 9:30am 6:30pm Advent Event	6 Boston Trip
7	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 at St. Mary's Church	9 Basketball 3:15-5:30	10	11 Basketball 3:15-5:30	12	13 Christmas Concert With St. Joseph School 1pm at the St. Michael Center
14	15 Midterm Exams Please see schedule on the next page	16 Midterm Exams Please see schedule on the next page Christmas Party 12:30-2:20	17 Midterm Exams Please see schedule on the next page	18 Midterm Exams Please see schedule on the next page Second quarter ends	19 Christmas Break→	20 Christmas Break→
21 Christmas Break→	22 Christmas Break→	23 Christmas Break→	24 Christmas Break→	25 	26 Christmas Break→	27 Christmas Break→
28 Christmas Break→	29 Christmas Break→	30 Christmas Break→	31 Christmas Break→	Residents return January 4 Classes resume January 5		

Midterm Exam Schedule for 2025

	Mon.12/15/25	Tues.12/16/25	Wed.12/17/25	Thur.12/18/25
Exam 1	A	B	C	F
Exam 2	D	G	E	I
Exam 3		Christmas Party	J/L	

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.

Special Notes: Courses in which the teacher assigns 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 on Friday.

Mid-term Exams are 20% of the 1st semester grade and are listed separately on report cards. The 2nd quarter ends on Thursday, December 18.

Christmas Break Travel Protocol

Christmas break will be upon us soon. **It is imperative that all travel arrangements be emailed to Sr. Rafael (smraf@ahfbaltic.org)** no later than December 15. 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. Open communication is essential to ensure the correct travel arrangements. Thank you to those of you who have already sent travel information.

Please note the following:

- Due to midterm exams, the soonest students may leave would be Thursday, 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 **no earlier than** January 4th. Classes start on January 5th.
- We provide transportation both ways to Logan International Airport in Boston, 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 January 4, please arrange alternate transportation, such as an Uber or taxi.

Travel arrangement times for pickup no earlier than 9am and no later than 9pm.

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

Don't miss your chance for lasting memories...



We have begun 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 Dec. 18 and receive the discounted price of \$35

All orders placed from Dec. 19- April 3 will be \$45

April 3 is the absolute cutoff date for ordering. Orders start October 1 to receive the discount



Soon, the winter season will be upon us, there is always a chance for a school delay, cancellation, or early dismissal. For our domestic students and for any family trying to contact the school, please note that all families will receive an email from me clearly indicating the status. It will also be posted on the local Connecticut television stations. We always strive to be proactive in alerting families, students, and faculty members well in advance as much as possible, depending upon the forecast.

In the event we have no school due to inclement weather, the school days will be asynchronous days, so the students will be assigned Google Classroom work, with the understanding that we are at the mercy of the weather, power outages, and no wifi, so this is done with as much flexibility as possible for our students.

An Advent and Christmas Prayer for our AHF Families

Heavenly Father, Source of all light and hope, we lift up to You the families of the students of the Academy of the Holy Family—those who reside here locally, those spread across the nation, and those living in communities internationally.

We pray that You would unite these families, near and far, in the spirit of community, faith, and mutual support, knowing they share the bond of our cherished Academy.

We ask for Your special protection and grace upon every home, filling them with peace, comfort, and unwavering love. As our families embark upon the holy Season of Advent, we humbly ask for abundant blessings upon them:

May their waiting be filled with the hope that Advent promises—the steadfast assurance of Your presence and the anticipation of Your Son's coming. May their hearts be prepared to receive the divine gifts of faith, joy, and peace during this sacred time.

As Christmas dawns, we pray for a most blessed Christmas filled entirely with the light from the newborn Savior, Jesus Christ. May the joy of the Incarnation illuminate their celebrations and renew their spirits.

May they feel the tender love of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—guiding and surrounding their own families throughout the coming year.

We ask all this in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord, who is the light of the world.

Amen.

