



CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy
December 2023*

Making God's goodness known, educating for life.

Aloha families and friends of HFCA,

We have had a wonderful December full of activities, including our beloved Christmas Program, decorating the Church's Christmas trees, Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, our annual Pancakes with Santa breakfast, and Christmas activities woven among testing and academics wrapping up the second quarter of the year.

May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and gratitude as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We'd like to wish you and your 'ohana a very, merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

God bless,

Celeste Akiu
Principal



HFCA Strategic Plan

HFCA established a Strategic Plan in 2020 with four primary "pathways" to organize our priorities: Family, Maintenance and Modernization, Learning and Nurturing Environment, and Enriching Experiences. Over the past three years, we have added numerous programs and special projects in these four areas and will highlight our progress in our monthly newsletters.

December focus: Helping Hands parent volunteer program

An important part of our Family pathway is our Helping Hands parent volunteer program which allows any of our staff members to submit a request for help with a project. This program welcomes parents and family members onto campus and provides them with an opportunity to talk story with other volunteers and learn more about what some classes are doing through their Helping Hands requests. While volunteers predominantly serve on campus, we also have Helping Hands at Home options for parents who aren't able to volunteer during school hours. Our Helping Hands program launched a year ago, and we have welcomed more than 50 unique volunteers since that day. For more information on this program, please reach out to our Development Director, Julia Hudson, at jhudson@hfcahawaii.org.



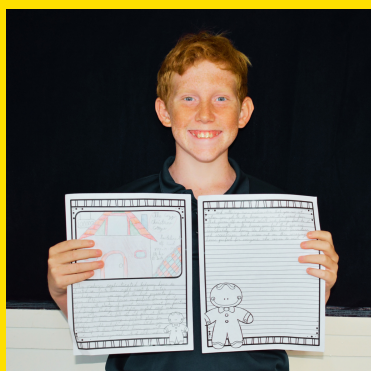
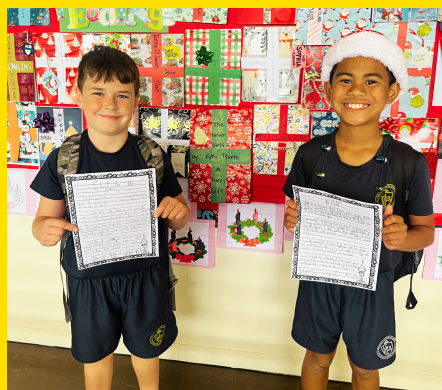
Third Annual Pancakes with Santa!

Mahalo to all the families who joined us at our third annual Pancakes with Santa breakfast to benefit Catholic Charities Hawaii. We were blessed to spend the morning with you and your 'ohana taking photos with Santa, enjoying live Christmas music, a keiki Christmas craft, silent auction and a bake sale. We also offered free dress passes as stocking stuffers to benefit Catholic Charities Hawai'i and the incredible work they do to help those in need in our community. We proudly raised more than \$2,500. Mahalo to Mr. MacMaster for leading this event and to all our parent, student, and staff volunteers; we could not have done this without you, and thank you so much for your support!



Spotlight: Language Arts

Our students worked on some really neat language arts projects recently, including our 2nd-graders, who wrote an opinion piece following the six traits of writing about which holiday is better: Thanksgiving or Christmas. In addition, our 4th and 5th grade students wrote opinion pieces with Christmas-inspired prompts and our middle school students designed their ideal gingerbread home and wrote clever realty-inspired home listings to persuade potential buyers. Well done, students! We hope your families enjoy reading these language arts assignments as much as we did!



HFCA Christmas Program

We were overjoyed to spend two evenings with our Holy Family 'ohana celebrating our students through their Christmas Programs. We would like to thank Mr. Foster, Mrs. Texeira, and each one of our staff members for helping our students prepare for this wonderful event. Mahalo to our families who joined us to make this a very memorable year!



HFCA Christmas Program Cont.



Christmas Schedule at Holy Family Church

Children's Christmas Caroling Program, 5 pm on Sunday, December 24
Christmas Vigil Mass at 6 pm on Sunday, December 24
Christmas Night Mass at 10 pm on Sunday, December 24
Christmas Dawn Mass at 8:30 am on Monday, December 25
Christmas Day Mass at 11 am on Monday, December 25



Let Us Pray

The Christmas Proclamation is proclaimed in every Church on the night of December 24th. It's a great piece to meditate upon as we end one year and begin another. I wish your family a blessed Christmas and pray you all have a wonderful New Year.

- Father Rheo Ofalsa



*The Twenty-fifth Day of December,
when ages beyond number had run their course
from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
and formed man in his own likeness;
when century upon century had passed
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses
in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two
since the foundation of the City of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,
and was made man:
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.*