

THE CRUSADER TIMES

News from The Atonement Academy ----- Vol. 2019-2020. No. 11, October 3, 2019

"Be alert in your every action as one should be who is accompanied by angels in all your ways, for that mission has been enjoined upon them. In whatever lodging, in whatever nook or corner you may find yourself, cherish a reverence for your guardian angel...With such bodyguards, what are we to fear?...We need only to follow them, remain close to them, and we will dwell in the protection of the Most High God."

--St. Bernard of Clairveaux



Every week at The Atonement Academy includes recollection of each "Saint of the Day," and this week has been especially rich for our scholars. Beginning with Sunday's Feast of The Archangels Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel, then the memorials of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Holy Guardian Angels, and St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th...what a blessed week! And what a privilege to have our children in an environment that recognizes and rejoices in our Catholic teachings and observances.

Weekly Letter from Mr. Watson: *Our Preoccupations Must Include a Purity of Heart*



The Atonement Academy
CATHOLIC + CLASSICAL

October 3, 2019

Dear Atonement Families,

What makes a Catholic school great? How could you find out which one is the best? If you have checked your email inbox in the last 24 hours, you probably have an idea of what is prompting me to ask these questions. Niche, a popular school ranking website, recently named The Atonement Academy's Upper School as its 2020 "#1 Best Catholic High School in the San Antonio Area."

Naturally, we are honored by this recognition. News of it first broke to the Atonement community via Facebook this past Tuesday, which, coincidentally, was the Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. More commonly, you might have heard Thérèse referred to as Saint Thérèse of Lisieux or by her nickname "The Little Flower."

Why a “coincidence”? Saint Thérèse’s life brings to mind our Lord’s statement about the upside down architecture of His Kingdom’s hierarchy: “He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12). What stands out about Saint Thérèse is her quiet, private, yet constant fellowship with Jesus as she navigated the small things of life with great love. (Read more in her spiritual autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*.)

Certainly, The Atonement Academy at 25 years has much to celebrate and much which compares favorably to other area schools—a record of academic prowess, a beautiful swath of Hill Country acreage, teachers possessing disciplinary depth, a clear educational mission. But to the extent we would be faithful tenants of an outpost of the Kingdom that Christ preached, our true preoccupations must be purity of heart, considering one another as more important than ourselves, rejoicing in trials, and other qualities less frequently applauded, on the internet or elsewhere.

Therefore, even as the fall months bring an upswing in activity (see below!), let us not forget to pray for one another and for our school.

Your servant,

Matthew David Watson
Head of School


SCIENCE EXPERIMENT FUN

Mrs. Garza reports that the third graders had a great study of scientific method last Friday. The students combined their knowledge, creativity, and imaginations to conduct experiments following the scientific method. Scholars used the first grade reading lab to have a change of place as they worked in groups asking questions, hypothesizing, conducting experiments, and arriving at conclusions. And the experiments were a sweet treat for the week’s end, as the main material item of the experiments was candy — M&M’s, Oreo cookies, Tootsie Roll Pops, and assorted chocolate bars. The students had a wonderful time working together, and there was plenty of laughter and discussion going on at the same time over how many Oreos could be stacked without falling, which candy bars sink or float, predictions of how many M&Ms are in a bag, and more. The longest experiment was how many licks to the middle of the Tootsie Roll Pop! (The average was 450 licks.) The experiments did not end with one conclusion, so students soared with creativity—which lead them to other hypotheses to test. One experiment per group turned into two or three. Great job, third grade scholars!



observations

Draw a picture of your Tootsie Pop after you have reached the center.



Name in the first blank. Then get data from your group members and list it below.

Name of Students	Number of Licks
Julia	600
Ireland	500
Jory	450
Elise	450





NEWS RELEASE

October 2, 2019

The Atonement Academy Earns Top Spot for 2020 Best Catholic Schools in San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas— Each year, a list of the best schools in the country is compiled by Niche, a national ranking website. The Atonement Academy is proud to announce that we've ranked #1 on the 2020 list for [Best Catholic High Schools in the San Antonio area.](#)

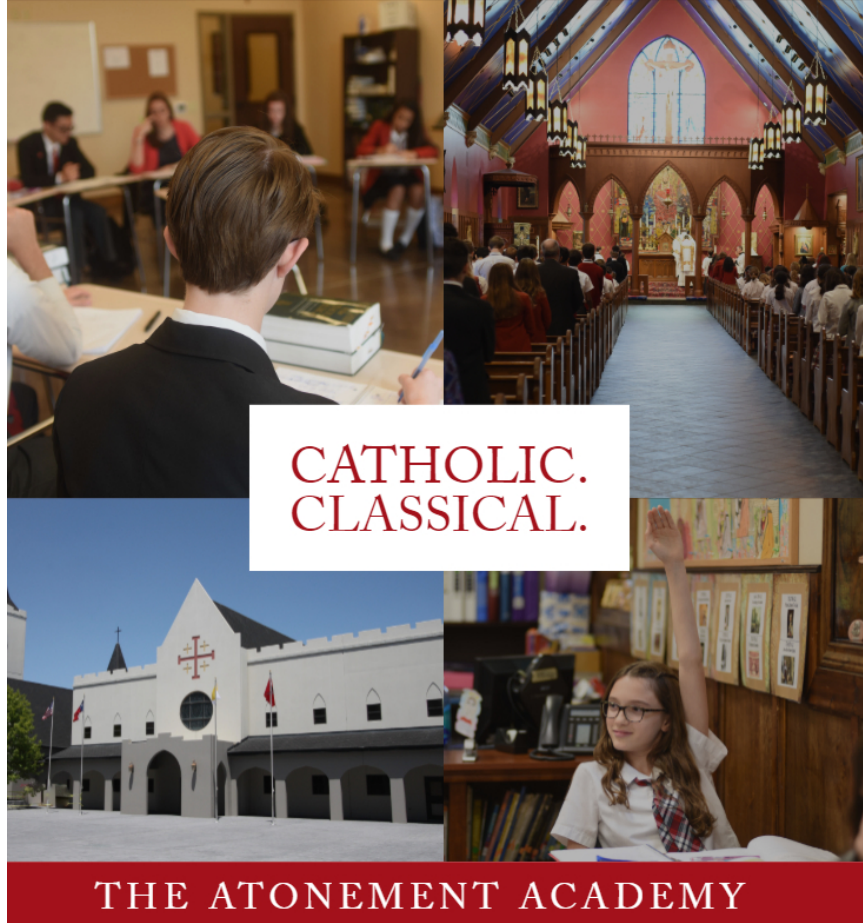
"This ranking highlights the Academy's part in the renewal of Catholic education that is unfolding across the United States, a renewal in which I think the Ordinariate's emerging constellation of schools are destined to play a significant role," says Mr. Matthew D. Watson, Atonement's Head of School. "Clearly, we are seeing a growing recognition that Catholic education cannot be simply a privately funded rehearsal of what is happening in our nation's public schools. Rather, authentic Catholic education forms students through immersion in Catholic culture."

According to Niche, the list is compiled using rigorous analysis of the most up-to-date data available from dozens of public data sources to include the U.S. Department of Education, Private School Universe Survey, Common Core Data from the National Center for Education Statistics, and student and parent surveys.

The Atonement Academy also placed in the Top 20 for [Best Catholic High Schools in Texas.](#)

We are extremely proud of our students, parents, faculty, and staff for your constant support and loyalty in helping us attain this prestigious designation. Go Crusaders!

For a complete look at other categories where our school earned recognition, go to:
<https://www.niche.com/k12/the-atonement-academy-san-antonio-tx/rankings/>



CATHOLIC.
CLASSICAL.

THE ATONEMENT ACADEMY

Ranked #1 for
Best Catholic High Schools
in San Antonio

Ranked in the Top 20
for Best Catholic Schools in Texas
according to www.niche.com



Ortega and Sanchez Earn National Hispanic Recognized Scholar Status

This week, Head of School Mr. Watson and MS/US Dean Dr. Lamascus were pleased to congratulate Sofia Ortega and Emiliano Sanchez for earning The College Board's certificate for National Hispanic Recognized Scholars.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes approximately 5,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors each year from among the more than 400,000 juniors who take the PSAT. As with the National Merit Scholarship Program, NHRP uses the junior year PSAT/NMSQT as the qualifying test. Students with qualifying PSAT scores are notified of NHRP eligibility in February of junior year. These students then must qualify for recognition by providing certification of a minimum 3.5 GPA. Certificate recipients are notified in September of their senior year. Contact Scholarship America at NHRP@scholarshipamerica.org for details.

Every Wednesday at 3:00 pm in The Sacred Heart Chapel:

Join us in praying a rosary for our school! If you can't join us, set your smart phone for 3:00 pm to remind you to join us and pray together!

Upcoming Events

October 4: Coffee with Mr. Watson, Common Room, 8:00 am

October 5: Set up morning for The Great Pumpkin Patch at 8 am! Volunteers needed!

October 6 – November 2: American Heritage Girls Pumpkin Patch (Athletic Field)

October 8: First Quarter AR Deadline

October 8: College Night (topic: FAFSA) in the Common Room, 6:30 pm

October 11: End of 1st Quarter

October 14-18: Crusader Spirit Week

October 16: National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

October 18: Half-day Dismissal, King's Fair Preparations

October 18: Family Movie Night Under the Stars, 7 pm on St. Nicholas Field (Note date change -- details to come!)

October 19: King's Fair (Is your costume ready?)

October 25: Parenting the Love & Logic Way, 7:00 -8:30 pm (Adults Only)

CRUSADER WEEK JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

It's time for some fun for grades 7 through 12 during Crusader Week, the week before King's Fair. During the week, upper scholars will work on their traditional class posters. Seniors will focus on the virtue of Courage, juniors will emphasize Fidelity, sophomores will have the virtue of Charity as their theme, and freshmen will focus on Humility. Also this week, seventh and eighth grade scholars will create individual shields to display in the hallways, selecting patron saints they will depict with symbols and mottos aligned with that selected saints. (Carrying out our own school motto, *Fides et Ratio*, as well.)

Monday, October 14: Crazy Tie Day (gentlemen) and Crazy Scarf Day (ladies). Seventh through twelfth grades will also have a special "Hide & Seek" game at the St. Nicholas Field and playground during the second half of the lunch periods.

Tuesday, October 15: Crazy Hair Day. Seventh through twelfth grades will have "Tug of War" games at the St. Nicholas Field during the second half of the lunch periods.

Wednesday, October 16: Medieval Hat Day (don't wear these to Mass). A hat check will be provided during the PSAT, and no lunch activities since this is PSAT day.

Thursday, October 17: Crazy Sock Day. Catapult demonstrations at the St. Nicholas Field during the second half of the lunch periods.

Friday, October 18: King's Fair Shirt Day and early release for King's Fair preparation. (Be sure to pre-order your t-shirt. Note that the shirt must be worn tucked in, with uniform bottoms and blazers (for US). We will have our first water balloon battle in the afternoon with catapults for those who help set up for the King's Fair.

We have many seniors who have already been accepted to their "short-list" universities. They include:

-Maria Garza, Texas Tech University

-Sofia Ortega, Nicholas Nyberg, and Emiliano Sanchez: Texas A&M University

-Gabriella Santillan: University of Dallas

-Moir Brosnan: University of Pittsburgh

With our recent on-site admission's visit from St. Mary's University, Moira Brosnan, Mary Sommer, and Daniel Lowe were all admitted and received merit scholarships. Top offer was to Moira who was offered the Presidential Scholarship worth \$21,000 a year.

Our seniors hard work is paying off! Congratulations!

COMING UP:

October 8: College Night, 6:30 in Common Room for all upper scholar parents. (College admissions officers will discuss the financial aid process, including the FAFSA.)

CRUSADER SPORTS UPDATE FROM MR. VIDAL

US XC:

The team ran in the Waco XC meet on the same course they will be competing at for TAPPS 2A State Championship. This was added to the schedule as a practice run for State. Madelyn Landry ran well and placed third overall, receiving a medal. They have one more meet this weekend at Trinity Lutheran University in preparation for the State Championship on October 21st.

MS XC:

The team ran well this past week at the Comfort XC meet. None of the athletes placed, however many improved on their times. Gianna Hivnor improved her time by one full minute to a 17:49, and Pablo Tovar was three minutes faster than the previous week with a 17:14.

MS Football:

They played Castle Hills this week, losing but playing dedicated and strong. Steven Wendtland scored his first touchdown of the season, on a 27 yard TD catch and run thrown to him by Hunter VanDelden. Mason Wendtland also added two touchdowns and his brother Gabriel had his first interception of the season. Jayke Garza had a total of nine solo tackles. These are committed Crusaders!



Student Athletes of the Week:

Upper School:

- Katherine Monroe: 11th grade: 4.0 GPA, Volleyball
- Sian Wendtland: 10th grade: 3.6 GPA, Volleyball

Middle School:

MS VB:

The team played Geneva this week. Although they lost, they improved their game, and they will play St. George Episcopal in a home game today.

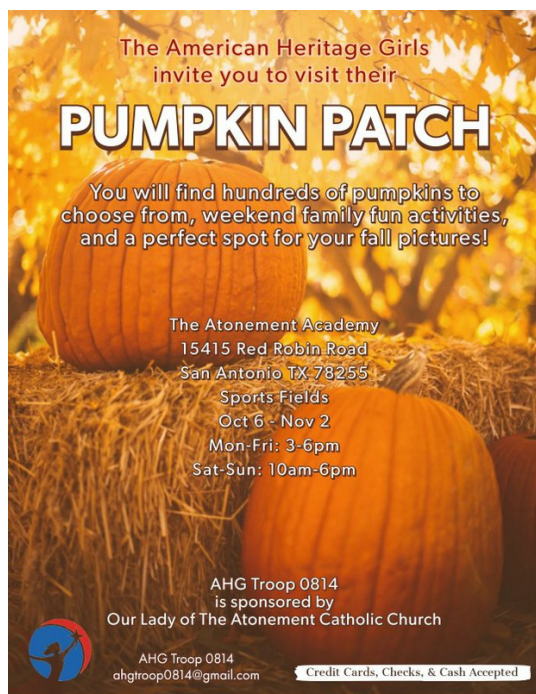
US VB:

The team played their second District game of the season losing to a good team in Shiner St. Paul, 0-3. They played their third District game vs. Victoria Faith Academy and lost 0-3 as well. They look to play Bracken today at home at 7:30 pm.

- Hunter Van Delden: 8th grade: 4.0 GPA, Football
- Gianna Hivnor: 6th grade: 3.8 GPA, Cross Country

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Refunds will be issued to all who signed up for the golf tournament. The timing was not good for too many of our potential golfers, so we will be postponing the tournament until a later date.



HELP US CREATE THE GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH!

Are you ready to enjoy the upcoming fall season with bright new pumpkins? **Pumpkins arrive on October 5th at 8:00 am and we need YOUR help to unload them.** This is a parish community event and we welcome any parishioners, neighbors, friends, homeschooling groups, etc. Are you able to assist by providing wagons, wheel barrows or small trailers to haul pumpkins into place? Please sign up in the parish narthex on the printed signup sheet. Volunteers may have first pick of these prized pumpkins on arrival day!

If you can help sell pumpkins during the week after school daily (3:00 – 6:00) or weekends (10am – 6pm), please sign up in a time slot [here](#).

(<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2939124/false#/invitation>)

Or use the sign-up sheet in the church narthex.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Veronica Tovar at ahgtroop0814@gmail.com.

ITALY PILGRIMAGE 2020: SAVE THE DATE!



March 5 - 14, 2020

Upper Scholars: Get those baby sitting and lawn care jobs lined up and save your money .
This pilgrimage will be a memorable, prayerful experience to cities and shrines you've read about for years! More details coming soon! *(Photos above from 2017-2018 trip.)*



CPR and AED PTC Presentation

The PTC's first sponsored event on September 30 was a successful opportunity for our Atonement community to learn basic AED and CPR techniques from medical experts. Crusader parents ER physician Dr. Paul Ku, registered nurse, Mrs. Ana Lane, and Paramedic Mr. Jack Halpin.

Thank you to PTC lead on this parent development activity, Mrs. Gina Barron!



LIBRARY NEWS FROM MRS. WENDTLAND

As a reminder the 1st quarter AR deadline is on **October 8 at 4:30 p.m.** The make-up period dates are October 9 – 11. Keep in mind that this is for special situations when, through no fault of their own, the student is not able to be present and/or complete enough quizzes required to meet the reading goal due to other obligations (i.e. funeral, family travel, emergency, etc.). The teacher will

need to manually calculate the grade in this case since it is outside of the normal assessment period. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact the library.



FELLOWSHIP & FUN ON THE PLAYGROUND & PIAZZA



Our scholars are happy to have time together after lunch or between classes!



DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

If you use social media, you can be of great help to our efforts to make more people aware of The Atonement Academy! Please help us promote our beautiful school that continues to accomplish so many GREAT things. Subscribe to our social media channels and share OUR posts with YOUR friends. Click on the links below and start following us today!

Facebook: [TheAtonementAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/TheAtonementAcademy)



Twitter: [@AtonementSA](#)
Instagram: [theatonementacademy](#)



Faustina: Love and Mercy in Movie Theaters One Night Only.

Playing at the Palladium, Silverado, and Regal Huebner Oaks

7:00 PM Monday, October 28, 2019

Call the theater for advance purchase tickets.

In 1931, Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina Kowalska as the King of Mercy. He was clothed in white, emanating two large rays from His side, one white and one red. He asked Sister Faustina to paint this image of Himself along with the phrase, "Jesus, I trust in You" and to spread the message of mercy around the world. He promised that anyone who venerated this image would not perish. The gripping new docudrama, LOVE AND MERCY, presents unknown facts and recently disclosed documents that shed new light on the vision of Faustina. Aided by scientific analysis, the film reveals how the Divine Mercy image and the Shroud of Turin

robe were compared to one another to stunning conclusions. Dramatically recreated scenes between Saint Faustina and her confessor Father Michał Sopoćko traces the story of the origins of the image and how the devotion to Divine Mercy was born and spread throughout the world despite a ban of the devotion by the Catholic Church. Shot in the U.S., Poland, and Lithuania, the film is a compelling hybrid of dramatization and documentary-style storytelling that will leave viewers in awe of this spectacular account of divine friendship. www.fathomevents.com

Academic Outfitters Business Hours

Our uniform supplier, Academic Outfitters, wants you to know that they are adjusting their hours now that the rush has subsided. They will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 until 6, and Saturdays from 10 until 3. They are located at 8055 West Avenue and their phone number is 210-616-2014.

Parish to Celebrate the Canonization of Saint John Henry Newman

Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

"John Henry Newman was the 19th century's most important English-speaking Roman Catholic theologian, and he spent the first half of his life as an Anglican and the second half as a Roman Catholic. He was a priest, popular preacher, writer and eminent theologian both as an Anglican and as a Catholic."

In thanksgiving for the canonization of Saint



John Henry Newman (feast day October 9, canonization October 13), Musica Sacra San Antonio, under the direction of Dr. Owen Duggan, offers choral evensong at 4:00 in the afternoon on Sunday, October 13th at Our lady of The Atonement Catholic Church

This celebratory liturgy will include music featuring the texts and poetry of Blessed John Henry Newman. A reception will follow in the library.

Note: The photo depicts the parish's shrine to this important saint, located in the baptistry. The quote above is from Pastor Emeritus Father Phillips's blog entry, and you may find it and the rest of the story about John Henry Newman [here](#).

SAVE *the* DATE

Friday, October 25, 2019
7 – 8:30 pm



“Come and develop strong parenting techniques and strategies to raise happy and well-behaved children with positive, loving tools.”

- Delivered by a certified Love and Logic Trainer
- Wine, cheeses, and fruit will be served



There is still time to buy your tickets!



FR. PAUL OF GRAYMOOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 16730

3 R D A N N U A L

Spaghetti Dinner

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS APPRECIATION DINNER
& BENEFIT DRAWING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019

OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT ST. ANTHONY HALL

6:00- SOCIAL • 6:30- DINNER • 9:30PM- CLOSING



MENU: SPAGHETTI AND CHOICE OF MEAT SAUCE OR PESTO, WITH GARLIC BREAD,
A SIDE SALAD, ICE TEA AND DESSERT
**RESERVED SEATING \$100 PER TABLE OF 8 INCLUDES DINNER FOR 8 AND BOTTLE OF WINE
SOFT DRINK FOR MINORS AND ONE DRAWING ENTRY.**

**GENERAL SEATING \$10/ADULT
\$5/ CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER**

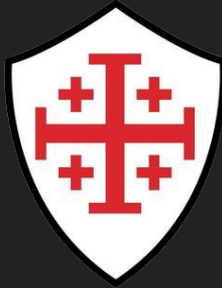
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