

# Holy Cross Connections

## Upcoming Event:

**A Night in Bethlehem**  
**December 10 & 11**  
**4—8 PM**

Holy Cross Connections

December 2011

## Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

That is what the word “advent” means, “Coming.” So in the church, the four weeks prior to Christmas are a special season of preparation for Christ’s coming among us. When I was a little boy, **I thought this simply meant that Advent was a countdown to Christmas...** to the celebration of our dear Savior’s birth... to some wonderful worship experiences... great food and, of course...Christmas presents.

I still see Advent as a countdown to Christmas and all of the great things that come along with this holy season. I fully believe that it is the most wonderful time of the year! But I no longer see Advent as “simply a countdown to Christmas.”

The Holy Spirit has shown me that **Advent is really about repentance and hope.** It is realizing that there are still spiritual pockets of resistance hanging tough within my psyche that I have not opened up to Jesus. **There are dark places in my heart and soul where selfishness, stubbornness, self-righteousness, resentfulness, fearfulness and laziness still rule.** I have tried to ignore them and pretend that they are not there in hopes that they will go away. But they haven’t – not in 56 years.

**They will never go away, so long as I am ignoring them, hiding them and pretending they don’t exist.** The truth is they are all a part of me. They are my own sinful nature. That’s why I am hopelessly tied to them...and they to me.

**There is only one Person Who can penetrate these pockets of resistance within me, Who can break their strong hold on me, Who can drive these despots from me. His name is Jesus!**

I am not just talking about the baby Jesus, Whose birth we will soon be blessed to celebrate. No, **I am talking about the Jesus Who is all grown up.** I am talking about my all powerful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who has gone to a cross in my place and risen from the dead to deliver me from my bondage to myself...my sinful, despicable self! This is the Jesus I rejoice in having come to me – in His Word, in His Feast of Forgiveness, the Lord’s Supper! He is my refuge, my hope, the Rock of my salvation.

You and I have a Savior Who can sympathize with every last one of our weakness. For He is one of us. **He has been tempted in every way, like all of us. But He did not sin! He defeated sin, for us, on the cross!** He defeated death, for us, on Easter morning! **He is very much alive and well. And He is here for us, if we will get serious about inviting Him in to clean us up.** Come, Lord Jesus, Come! That is my prayer and I am sticking to it. I hope you are, too!

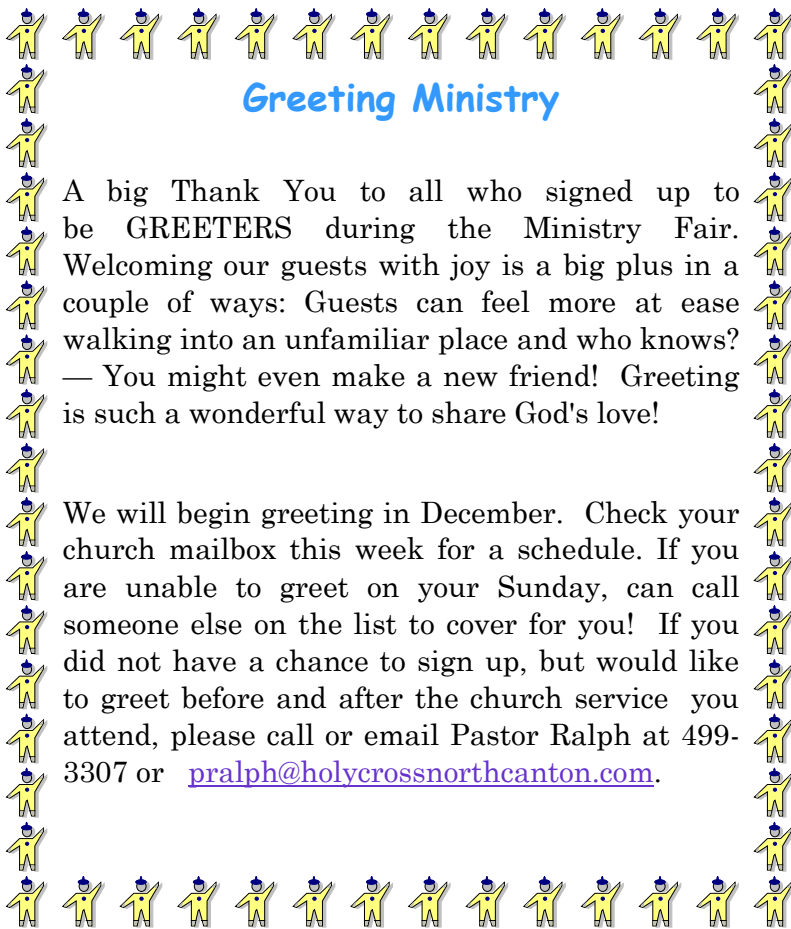
**Have a great Advent and a blessed Christmas in Christ Jesus!**

Pastor Kip

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## Outreach Connections



### Greeting Ministry

A big Thank You to all who signed up to be GREETERS during the Ministry Fair. Welcoming our guests with joy is a big plus in a couple of ways: Guests can feel more at ease walking into an unfamiliar place and who knows? — You might even make a new friend! Greeting is such a wonderful way to share God's love!

We will begin greeting in December. Check your church mailbox this week for a schedule. If you are unable to greet on your Sunday, can call someone else on the list to cover for you! If you did not have a chance to sign up, but would like to greet before and after the church service you attend, please call or email Pastor Ralph at 499-3307 or [pralph@holycrossnorthcanton.com](mailto:pralph@holycrossnorthcanton.com).

### Men's Bible Study and Night In Bethlehem Breakfast December 10 at 8 AM

What wonderful timing it is! This year we are able to have Men's breakfast in the Adult Conference Room and we want to include the wonderful folks who have signed up to set up and participate in A Night in Bethlehem!

SO.... with that in mind, if you are setting up for ANIB on Saturday morning December 10 you are welcome to join us for breakfast. It will be at 8 AM and we would love to see you! Guys, there will be breakfast for you as well.

Sign up sheet for Men's Bible Study and ANIB workers are in the hall. Please use so we know how much food to make!

ALL Are Welcome To  
Experience The Sights, Sounds And Tastes

## A Night In Bethlehem

December 10 and 11

DOORS OPEN from 4 to 8 pm  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
7707 Market Ave. North, North Canton 330.499.3307

In less than two weeks we celebrate another community outreach event — **A Night in Bethlehem**. Plans are continuously being made to make this year's event even greater than the last. Sign up now for acting positions, serving positions, decorating and set up, behind the scenes help and more! Check out the bulletin board in south hallway to see where you can help!

Also available are the 2011 ANIB invite your neighbor/friend postcards in hallway close to the exit doors. Of course you need not wait until we have a big event before you invite a friend to Holy Cross. Take the opportunity to invite someone when you go to one of the many worship services or Bible Studies offered or when you are serving somewhere. It's more fun to share these times with a friend!

## Children's Ministry

Sunday School has spent November learning of Moses' life. We are so grateful for all of our teachers who are helping us learn and live for Jesus. Our first and second grade class has begun assigning prayer partners weekly within their class, to help the children learn to pray for each other and to strengthen their friendships. A reminder that there is no Sunday School on Christmas Day but we encourage you to come worship Jesus as a family.

The Wednesday Children's Advent choir has worked hard. We are excited to share our songs at each of the Advent services. During Advent, Lorin Zuppe and Sarah O'Briskie will be leading a course for all

parents of children and youth to help you learn some new interactive devotions from Family Time. During this course, the children will be making Advent ornaments but we really need non-parents to step in for three weeks and lead the children in crafts. The crafts are easy and will be set up. Your only obligation is to help the kids assemble them and help with clean up before service. There is a sign up sheet on the children's ministry board if you would be willing to help. Please consider blessing our families by assisting with the children from 6:30- 6:50 during Advent.

[Children's Advent Schedule](#)  
 6:30 PM Ornament Making (FH)  
 (while parents in Sanctuary)  
 6:50 PM Children/Parents  
 Small Groups for devotions (FH)

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Saturday, December 3 at 7 PM at the Youth House**

Invitations are in church mailboxes and friends are more than welcome! Parent drivers will be needed as we will be in motion for part of the evening! Please RSVP ASAP to Lorin Zuppe.



Youth Coffee House will be on holiday hiatus until January.

More crazy, caffeinated fun in 2012!

Offerings continue to be taken weekly in all Sunday school classes to help support our missionaries and keep hospitality snacks at the Youth House on Sunday mornings for these hungry kids, along with other youth events.

Don't forget to be using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your regular Internet search engine, with Holy Cross North Canton as the beneficiary charity organization. Every search helps our Youth Group get to San Antonio as well as recycling your aluminum cans (drop off in church boiler room), and PaperRetriever bin recycling! Keep 'em coming and FILL THOSE BINS! Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

Have a blessed Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior! Jesus is the reason we have this season!

### Children's Ministry Staff Christmas Thank You Lunch

All Children's Sunday School teachers and Wednesday night crew are invited to a lunch on Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Sarah O'Briskie at 494-8505 or [obriskie@gmail.com](mailto:obriskie@gmail.com).

All teachers are asked to attend an earlier church service that day so that we can be together as a group.

### Year of the Volunteer

Which teachers are you thankful for?

—"Carla DePietro because she takes the lessons and makes them adaptable to teenage life."

—"Mrs. Fuciu because she is always starting new things for the benefit of others. And she also always puts others before herself."

—"Steve James! Well, he is my only teacher ..."

—"Mrs. Hough because she is nice and gives candy bars if we know the books of the Old and New Testament."

### December Question

What would your teacher do if you hit them with a snow ball?

## Wednesday Holy Cross U

Advent Interim Catalogs are now in your church mailbox with extras on the counter in the hallway to share with family and friends! December classes will run Wednesday the 7th and 14th with the 21st being Family Night at home! All classes will resume January 4, 2012. Use [www.famtime.com](http://www.famtime.com) for fun family devotion resources during Advent and throughout the year!

### ADVENT SCHEDULE

Nov. 30, December 7, 14

5:30 PM Advent Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class,

Kids Club, Adult Bible Class

7:15 PM Advent Worship



December 21

Devotions at home and family activities.

## Holy Cross Crafters

Our next gathering is on January 17 at 7 PM.

## Ladies Book Discussion

December 12 at 6:30 PM @ Sharon Ludwig's 5655 Linder Circle NE

Annual Potluck / Planning Session

Bring a book idea for next year and a dish to share.



December 13 from 6:30 — 8:30 PM

You are invited to a dinner by candlelight. Please come for a peaceful evening where you will have an opportunity to slow down and relax while remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

As always, childcare is free! We'd love to see you!

## Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon

December 13 from 12 — 3 PM

Danbury of North Canton

181 Applegate Street NE



We will enjoy a 4-course lunch and Christmas caroling with Pastor Ralph. Please bring a \$5 gift labeled "man" or "woman" for the gift exchange. If you had not made a reservation and would like to join us, please call Karen Slaggy at 837-4934.

## Better Together Small Groups

As we get the small group ministry up and running, we would like to help you help others become part of a small group. We are looking for **HOST's** (**H**eart for people, **O**pen your home, **S**erve a snack, **T**urn on a DVD) and group facilitators to pair up, invite friends and begin a new adventure together. Training will be provided! **OR** Are you wanting to get people connected to each other through small groups? Then, you may want to consider serving on the Small Group Action Team! Contact Pastor Ralph 417-2303.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE



5:00 PM Songs of Christmas followed by

5:30 PM Contemporary Worship

7:00 PM Songs of Christmas followed by

7:30 PM Blended Worship

11 PM Traditional Worship w/Communion

Sunday, Christmas Day

10 AM Blended Worship with Communion

## School Mission and Ministry News

Our halls and classrooms resound with the voices of the children God has sent us. The Staff works very hard and relies on the Holy Spirit to carry out this important ministry to the children. Thank you for your help, prayers and support. Messages of encouragement and support from “secret friends” means more than you can know.



Our school continues to sponsor Pan Pan Yang a 12 year old girl from the Peoples Republic of China and Seringe Mbacke Diouf, a 15 year old boy from Senegal through World Vision. Please collect Box Tops for Education and Acme Cash Register Receipts as this is how we pay the sponsorship fees. There is a box outside the school office (first door inside the Fellowship Hall), a jar next to the church office door or they can also be left in my church mailbox. Please pray that they may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The two & three-year-old class has spent most of November learning about being thankful for all the things God has given them: the food they eat, their families and people that love and take care of them. Hearing the children sing and seeing them participate in daily class routines have been wonderful. They enjoyed using paint, glue and crayons in their Thanksgiving activities. They learned about the little boy who shared his lunch with Jesus and how Jesus shared that lunch with many, many people. They counted 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread but couldn't count all the people that Jesus fed with that food! They also learned about David and how he took food to his brothers.

Thanksgiving is a special time when we can help serve and share with our families. “Serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13) (Mrs. Anne Hankins & Mrs. Debbie Swinehart)

The three-year-old children have been working hard on their color and shape books, and learning how to hold pencils and scissors correctly. They have been enjoying the Fall season in their projects. They noticed the leaves changing colors, and cut open a pumpkin to find out what is inside. We saved the seeds for Spring planting. They learned how God cares for them and listens to their prayers. Their Bible stories included Jacob and Rachel and God's gift of a baby, Joseph's coat of many colors. They wove a basket to hold a very special baby — Moses! This led them to talk about how God gave them families to love and care for. They talked about how to be good helpers by cleaning up their toys, sharing, taking turns, using kind words and being gentle with everyone. (Mrs. Christi Ludwig & Mrs. Patty Wallace)



The four & five-year-olds began November by learning about the letter F. They learned about some of the many ways of praising God. Letter G week found the children playing in Green-Glittery-Goop (what fun!). Next came the letter “H” with silly Hats, making a Horse, a House and a Helicopter. They were thankful for the wonderful blessings God has given them as they held their annual Thanksgiving Feast. They have been doing a good job learning their phone numbers! (Mrs. Teri Hockman, Mrs. Tiffany Clay, & Mrs. Leslie Martin)

The Pre-kindergarten class explored jungle and zoo animals in early November. They learned about Thanksgiving and how the Native Americans and Pilgrims would have dressed, and what foods they would have eaten at the first Thanksgiving. The Lord's Prayer was explained and they talked about how awesome it is that we can talk to Jesus anytime and anywhere! (Mrs. Christina Jacobsen & Mrs. Leslie Martin)

The Kindergarten children are thrilled with their growing ability to read new words. They have learned about compound words, sentences, and end marks. Science has been exciting as they learned about simple machines and experienced the effect of using pulleys, wheels and a lever. They learned about forces of motion along with exploring magnets, lodestones, and magnetic forces. They learned the history of the Pilgrims, their long journey, the first Thanksgiving and all the sacrifices they made for religious freedom. The children had a Thanksgiving feast. (Mrs. Heather Wright)



The entire School is humming with preparations for the **Christmas programs: Friday, Dec. 2, at 9:30 AM and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6 PM.** Anyone who would like to see the children offer their praises to God for the gift of His Son Jesus is invited to attend Friday. The Sunday program is by ticket only due to space constraints. The Holy Cross Festival Choir is providing preservice music for the Sunday program.

In Christ,

Marjorie James, Administrator

## Young At Heart 2012 Activities

### JANUARY 10

Pizza & Old TV shows. Bring your favorite snack.

### FEBRUARY 14

Valentine Potluck lunch; V'tine Card exchange

### MARCH 13

Brown bag lunch and game day

### APRIL 10

Lunch at the Bistro & tour of MAPS Air Museum

### MAY 8— Picnic

### JUNE 12

Lunch at Dutch Valley Restaurant then shopping at Sol's Palace Exchange Ohio's Largest Arts and Crafts Mall then to Behalt's Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin.

### JULY 10

Lunch To Be Announced;  
Blue Water Majesty Museum

### AUGUST 14

Lunch TBAAnnounced; St Helena III Canal Boat ride, one hour ride down the Ohio & Erie Canal.

### SEPTEMBER 11

Lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron

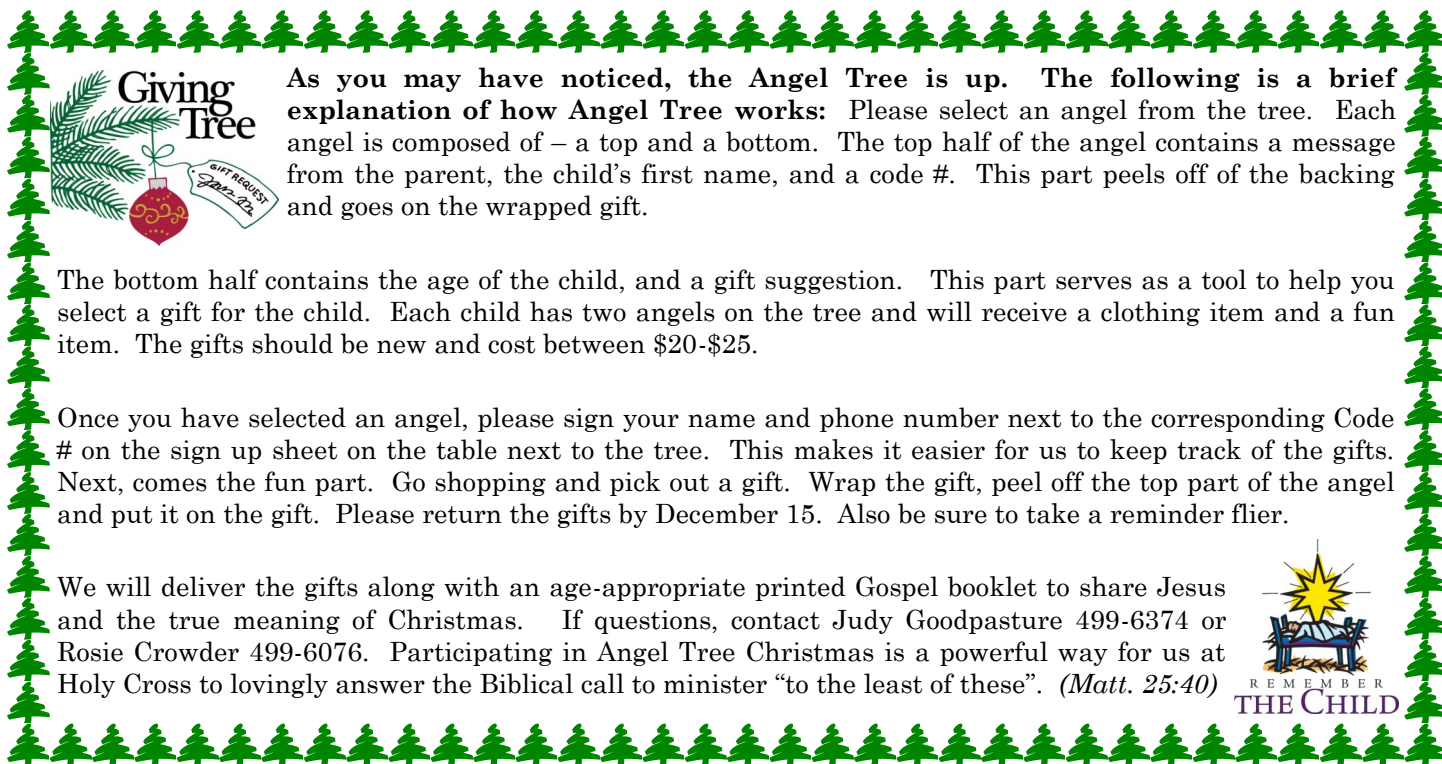
### OCTOBER 9

Lunch Farmstead Restaurant then to Schrock's Amish Farm and Village

### NOVEMBER 13— Thanksgiving luncheon

### DECEMBER 11

Christmas Party and luncheon




**Giving Tree**

As you may have noticed, the Angel Tree is up. The following is a brief explanation of how Angel Tree works: Please select an angel from the tree. Each angel is composed of – a top and a bottom. The top half of the angel contains a message from the parent, the child's first name, and a code #. This part peels off of the backing and goes on the wrapped gift.

The bottom half contains the age of the child, and a gift suggestion. This part serves as a tool to help you select a gift for the child. Each child has two angels on the tree and will receive a clothing item and a fun item. The gifts should be new and cost between \$20-\$25.

Once you have selected an angel, please sign your name and phone number next to the corresponding Code # on the sign up sheet on the table next to the tree. This makes it easier for us to keep track of the gifts. Next, comes the fun part. Go shopping and pick out a gift. Wrap the gift, peel off the top part of the angel and put it on the gift. Please return the gifts by December 15. Also be sure to take a reminder flier.

We will deliver the gifts along with an age-appropriate printed Gospel booklet to share Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. If questions, contact Judy Goodpasture 499-6374 or Rosie Crowder 499-6076. Participating in Angel Tree Christmas is a powerful way for us at Holy Cross to lovingly answer the Biblical call to minister "to the least of these". (Matt. 25:40)



REMEMBER  
THE CHILD

Upcoming Event:

A Night in Bethlehem  
December 10 & 11  
4–8 PM



Building new spaces for "old and new" faces  
New North Sanctuary



Now is the time to think about purchasing poinsettias to adorn our Sanctuary and narthex during the Christmas season. If you would like to donate poinsettia(s), please bring it (them) to church between December 19 and 24 and place it under the Welcome Center.

6" pots or larger are requested. The Altar Guild will take care of arranging them.

## Urban Ark Thanksgiving

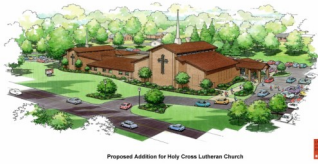


We distributed 107 turkeys and 8 chickens to families in need in the intercity November 17. This display of Christian love and generosity was made possible by the year-long giving of the Men's Bible study, the lawn-mowing crew and other individuals.

In addition to the turkeys, each family received a bag of groceries and a bag of potatoes. Thanks, also to the many men who helped pick-up and deliver the turkeys and potatoes to UrbanArk. We saw how important this is to some families. When the turkeys were delivered at 4 in the afternoon, there were already about 25 people standing in the cold to receive them. The doors were not scheduled to open until 6:30 PM.



A lady, expressed her tearful thanks as her family didn't think they would have a Thanksgiving dinner. Because of your gifts, they will now enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. It is truly a blessing to be able to share.



Holy Cross Lutheran  
 7707 North Market Avenue  
 North Canton, OH 44721

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**Holy Cross Lutheran Church** is a Christ-centered, friendly, mission-minded, Bible-based community of believers who strive to carry out ministry with integrity and excellence.

*Sunday Mornings At Holy Cross*

7:30 AM Liturgy of Praise  
 Traditional Worship

8:45 AM Majestic Praise  
 Blended Worship

8:45 AM Adult Bible Class

10:00 AM Sunday School, Youth Bible Class,  
 and Adult Bible Hour

11:00 AM Expressions of Praise  
 Contemporary Worship

Richard "Kip" Smith, Senior Pastor

Ralph Hough  
 Associate Pastor for Outreach and Discipleship

Ted Voss, Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Ellyn Dillon  
 Worship Ministries Coordinator

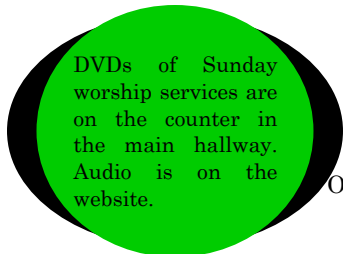
Mr. Steve James  
 Audio/Visual Tech Coordinator

Mrs. Lorin Zuppe  
 Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Ministry

Mrs. Sarah O'Briskie  
 Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Mrs. Judy O'Briskie, Office Manager  
 Katie Stiver, Soul Accounting Secretary  
 Karen Slaggy, Visitation Coordinator  
 Mr. Richard Reed, Property Manager

Mrs. Marjorie James  
 Holy Cross School Administrator



**January Newsletter  
 Deadline  
 Sunday, December 18**

Office Phone 330-499-3307 Office FAX 330-499-2319  
 Preschool 330-494-6478  
 www.HolyCrossNorthCanton.com  
 e-mail info@holycrossnorthcanton.com