

2018 CYO Navy Division CHAMPIONS: HOLY FAMILY GRADE SCHOOL FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

On Saturday, November 17, the school's Varsity Flag Football team triumphed over Holy Trinity San Pedro with a final score of 42-20 in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Navy Division Championship at St. Francis High School. Winning the HFGS Varsity Flag Football championship is absolutely a great accomplishment!

Holy Family has entered into several playoffs as far back as 2015. Unfortunately, they were eliminated in the first and second rounds. The tide changed, however, when Holy Family Grade School made the decision to hire Coach Karl Johnson. Johnson had spent over 20 years coaching by the time he joined the Holy Family



faculty as a physical education teacher earlier this year. In the last ten years, he coached a high school football team in San Diego, aiding the team in winning two California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) championships and a trip to the state finals. "Coming to Holy Family Grade School, I wanted



my players to be committed, be good students of the game, show great sportsmanship, display teamwork, and just have fun," Johnson stated, "The team has matured a lot over the last 8 weeks, and they have bought into the 100/100 mindset*."

*Giving 100% of your efforts 100% of the time, as Johnson puts it.

Under the wing of Coach Johnson, the Holy Family varsity team finished with a 6-2 regular season record, tying St. Monica Academy for the second seed.

"We didn't know whether we would make it," said starting cornerback and wide receiver Danilo Endoso, "It was either us or St. Monica, and since



St. Monica beat us, it seemed like our chances of making [the playoffs] were low." Contrary to the team's beliefs, they earned a ticket to the CYO Navy Division Playoffs.

It seemed as though they were in a league of their own, defeating St. Luke in the first round and Our Lady of the Assumption the following



weekend in the quarterfinal, both resulting in blowout victories for Holy Family. Their toughest challenge came in the semifinal, where the high-spirited Bulldogs faced St. Rita in a game that was ultimately decided by a spectacular 40-yard scramble touchdown by Michael Martin. This remarkable play put Holy Family up by two touchdowns with time to spare.

Those who witnessed the championship game experienced a thrilling, high-scoring trial against Holy Trinity San Pedro, the parish where Pastor Father Jim Bevacqua had served prior to relocating to Holy Family Catholic Church – Glendale in 2008. The game was a showcase of stellar offensive performances from both sides. Neither team threw an interception for the whole game. Although Holy Trinity was able to score three touchdowns, it was Holy Family who made



their way to the end-zone with every possession, scoring a total of six touchdowns and three two-point conversions. With determination, dedication, and perseverance, it was Holy Family who came out on top, taking the Navy Division championship trophy home.

"All the hard work and endless hours of practice have paid off," Johnson said following the victory, "I am extremely proud that I can now say we are the 2018 Navy Division Champions."

Holy Family quarterback Michael Martin dominated the stat sheet, running for three



touchdowns and completing two touchdown passes: one to wide receiver Jon Paul Bautista on a leaking arrow route from the offensive line, and another to slot receiver Carl John Cortes with a crafty flea-flicker play concocted by Coach Johnson in the week leading to the championship game. Martin's advanced level of play is largely due to his nine years of experience playing football. Outside of school, he plays for the Burbank Vikings in the

Pacific Youth Football League (PYFL) alongside offensive lineman Luis Ramirez.

"Our playoff run was amazing," Martin said, "I'll admit, going into the playoffs, I had my doubts, but we made the right adjustments and pulled through. This team has an outstanding bond. It's like a brotherhood out here. When one person makes a mistake, we always encourage that player to keep moving forward."

Jon Paul Bautista also contributed on offense with one touchdown reception and one run touchdown. Throughout the season, Bautista has displayed his skill on both ends of the field, leading the team in receptions as the primary receiver, as well as being a vital component of the defense, pulling flags and swatting passes out of the air



on a consistent basis. Overall, every player on the field contributed to the success of the team. Every player is a champion!

With an exceedingly supportive crowd surrounding the Bulldogs during this highly intensive game, the players truly felt the love. The "Come on crowd, help us out, go big blue," yelled from our Varsity Cheerleaders and the love felt from our loyal fans, including the Athletic Director & Vice Principal for Primary School, Teresa Nelson, our PTO Board led by President Tony Makhoul, School Principal Dr. Fidela Suelto, Vice Principal for Elementary and Dean of Discipline Ms. Katy Huntley, and HFGS families, it is true when one says, "Holy Family is not just a school. We truly are one big family!" Now Holy Family Grade School has one more family member to add and that is their triumphant trophy stating, "CHAMPIONS!"

(We are grateful for our Flag Football Team, Coach Karl Johnson, Carl John Cortes, Mrs. Teresa Nelson, Mrs. Ashley Liberda, Ms. Katy Huntley, Fr. Jim Bevacqua, Dr. Fidela Suelto, Mr. Daniel Cervantes, Mrs. Leonora Bautista, Mr. Ronald Valles, PTO Board, HFGS Sports families for the interviews, articles, editing, concept design, photos, and moral support. 2018 HFGS Flag Football Team: Isaiah Carillo, Kenneth Fulgencio,

Luis Ramirez, Caleb Flores, Danny Pompa, Brandon Chung, Anthony Nazareno, Jay Martinez, Rance Bautista, and Rylan Fonacier, Edson Barillas, Dawson Chung, Carl John Cortes, Jon Paul Bautista, Adrian Castro, Matthew Endoso, Michael Martin, Alex Perez, and Enrique Valles.)



HOLYFAMILY
GRADE SCHOOL

400 S. Louise St., Glendale, CA 91205
818-243-9239
www.hfgsglendale.org