

From the Principal's Desk

March 15, 2018



Quick Links

[School Site](#)

[School Calendar](#)



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds / Igniting Hearts
2017 / 2018
"Respect and Responsibility in Action"

Diocese of Arlington Elementary Schools Moving to Trimesters

The Office of Catholic Schools has made the decision to move the elementary schools away from the current quarter system to a trimester system beginning in the Fall of 2018.

The intent of moving to the new system is primarily to allow increased instructional and assessment time before a marking period ends. With the change, student report cards will be sent out three times during the academic year (as opposed to the current four times).

Please see the letter in the Family Folder section below from Dr. Jennifer Bigelow, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

The change will not impact the start or end dates of the 2018/2019 school year. The first day of classes for students will be August 27, 2018 and the end date (dependent on inclement weather) will be around June 12, 2019.

The academic calendar for the 2018/2019 school year will be made available towards the May/June time period, as usual.

This week's newsletter has an amazing number of flyers associated with it. Please be sure to scroll all the way through to the end in order to not miss sign-ups for various Spring sports, clubs and activities.

We are looking forward to spending time with our guests tomorrow for the annual Fathers Day Mass. Please remember that students arrive with their guests in time for the 9:00 am Mass and go directly to the church.

Spring pictures will be taken next Tuesday, March 20th. Students are invited to wear their Sunday best (no jeans, shorts, or athletic wear should be worn). All students will have their pictures taken and picture packets sent home. If you do not wish to purchase any or all of the pictures, you must return the packet to school.

Holy Thursday, March 29th is an 11:30 am dismissal day and there is NO Extended Day. There is no school on Good Friday, March 30th and our Easter break is April 2- April 6th. When we return to school on April 9th students may begin wearing their Spring uniform.

A last reminder to those families applying for Tuition Assistance for the 2018/2019 academic year. The deadline for submitting an application to FACTS is March 16th; families MUST submit an application and the supporting tax documents in order to possibly be eligible for assistance. Information and a link to FACTS is available via the school website.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Do You Have Power? by Laura Thieman

A friend kindly texted me to see if we had power during our recent windstorm and I responded with a witty, "No power except God's at the Thieman's!" And then I started reflecting. I was struck with how quickly I noticed no lights, no heat and no warm shower, but how slowly I notice God's light and God's warmth! My husband (who I called "Mike-Gyver" during this time period) was energized by the adventure and the challenge of losing power and navigating the darkness, the cold and the winds. He tirelessly sought out neighbors in need of assistance and provided it with great kindness. I realized that within two weeks, we went from the wake of the Florida school shooting to a severe wind event in our local area. Both events left many feeling completely powerless, though in different ways. As parents, we instinctively worry about the safety of our children and our families.

I'd like to offer a quote from the universally-loved Mr. Rogers: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" I am someone who struggles with anxiety and worry from time to time. Prior to meeting my husband, I would hear an ambulance and begin worrying instantly. Then I met my husband. I remember the first time we were together and heard

the sound of an ambulance. He calmly said, "Let's pray a Hail Mary together", and began praying. I learned he had developed habits of integrating the comfort and power of our Catholic faith into his response. This was deeply challenging to me and has become an incredible gift. Similarly, he has a devotion to the guardian angels, which he has nurtured for many decades and has shared with our family. (I, on the other hand--hadn't considered guardian angels since I was in 2nd grade!) There are not only people who are helping, but we can enlist our heavenly advocates in protecting the safety of our children in mind, body and spirit.

The events of 9/11 taught us a very powerful lesson when it comes to children and inappropriate media exposure. In the days after this tragedy, young children were observed to be reenacting the events of 9/11 over and over in their play. Researchers began to realize that from the perspective of the young developing brain, each time a young child saw the event through a media exposure, they experienced it as happening over and over again.

The National Catholic Educational Association offers a helpful recovery guide in their resource, "Talking with Your Kids About a School Shooting". The article highlights warning signs of too much stress and offers practical approaches to supporting children and ourselves. These include the importance of rebuilding routines and relying on our Catholic faith for support. As Catholics, we can together answer the question, "Do you have power?" with a resounding "Yes!"

Resources:

From the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA): Talking with Your Kids About a School Shooting <http://www1.cbn.com/talking-your-kids-about-school-shooting>

From the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP): Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

From the American School Counselor Association (ASCA): Helping Kids After a Shooting <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors/professional-development/learn-more/shooting-resources>

Week 2 almost over!

We are just beginning to pick up steam with donations so the

giving period has been extended to Thursday, March 29th

Thank you to those who've already donated!



Holy Spirit School's Annual Read-a-Thon



Dear Parents and Friends of Holy Spirit School,

This year's annual *Read-a-Thon* will begin on Friday, March 2nd. We kick-off our fundraiser with a school-wide celebration of Dr. Seuss. This annual celebration really gets our students inspired to read! Let's use that enthusiasm to help raise money for Holy Spirit. As you know we are always trying to find ways to engage our children in new and interesting ways, such as our recent addition of a robotics program and other STEM projects; these exciting projects require extra funds. That's where you, your friends and families come in.

We are asking each family to raise \$100

Your tax-deductible contribution can be

- a flat amount (not directly tied to minutes of reading), or
- from sponsors based on actual minutes read (each minute = \$1)

You can help us build STEM projects and encourage reading

- via check written to Holy Spirit School (in memo put: B4B, student name & teacher)
- via electronic payment through the Holy Spirit School's website
 - <https://www.holyspiritflames.org/> > Support Holy Spirit > Online Giving

Prizes

- The class that raises the most money will earn a dress-down day and extra water balloon time on Field Day
- The student that raises the most money will receive a dress-down day for their class

Additional instructions on how to donate and how to work with sponsor's will be available upon request. Forms can be found through Mrs. Ashby's communications, or from the Chair of the Committee, Teresa Schnitzius: tschnitzius@cox.net

**[Please click here for reading logs and printable
donation instructions](#)**



Please join the Holy Spirit School
Community for a

Mass in Celebration of Fathers
Holy Spirit School

March 16, 2018
9:00am

Our school day will begin at 9:00am in the church. Dads and children are welcome to meet us there. If Dads are unable to attend, children are welcome to invite uncles, big brothers, or adopt one of their friend's Dads with a prior note from their parents. If not coming at 9:00am we will be glad to receive the children at the regular 8:00 school time. Receptions will follow mass in your children's classrooms.



Holy Spirit Board Game Club is Back!

**Attention 1st & 2nd grade students,
Come play fun board games with friends and
Mrs. Marino, Mrs. Gibbons & Mrs. Whetstone!**

When: April 12, April 19, April 26 & May 3

Time: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Room 14

The club will meet Thursdays from April 12th to May 3rd. Students may bring a favorite board game or use the available club board games. Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat after school. Please note: Room 14 is a Nut Free zone.

Participation is limited to 20 students.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marino at 703-978-7117 X 1134 or via email at jmarino@holyspiritflames.org



**It is time to order your yearbook!
Deadline for ordering is March 23rd**

≡ Spring Portraits ≡ Your Way



SEE BEFORE YOU BUY!

Mark Your Calendar for Spring Picture Day

Holy Spirit School
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
\ martes, 20 de marzo, 2018

Order forms were sent home on March 2nd

On Spring picture day students are welcome to wear their Sunday best. No jeans, shorts, or athletic wear should be worn.

All students will have their picture taken and everyone receives a picture packet. If you do not wish to purchase the packet (or parts of it), return it to the school.

**Spring Sign-Up for Players Sports Academy
Soccer Program**

Begins Wednesday, March 21st

THE PLAYERS SPORTS ACADEMY

The Players Sports Academy strives to build confidence, cultivate friendships, and create enjoyment through sports. We aim to set ourselves apart by instilling the importance of social and character development within all our participants.



THE PSA.

AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER ACADEMY

Where: Holy Spirit School - Outdoor Field Space

Date: Wednesday's March 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16

Time: 1 Hour Sessions 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Grade: Kindergarten - 4th Grade

Cost: \$120 per student (Siblings Discount Available)

Register: Online at www.ThePSASports.com



ThePSASports.com

PlayersSoccerAcademy@gmail.com

703-598-5039

Have you signed up with Amazon Smile yet?

If not, this would be a great time...



Now your support
goes 3 times as far

From Mar 12 – 31, Amazon will triple the
donation rate to 1.5% on your first eligible
purchase at smile.amazon.com.

amazon
smile

**Search for Holy Spirit Catholic Church when
designating your charity choice.**

Holy Spirit School's Talent Showcase

Dinner & Dance

Saturday, April 28th 5:30-9:30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 5:00)

RESERVATION FORM

TALENT * DANCING * DINING * SURPRISES

COME SEE SPIRIT GEAR, AWESOME ACTS, ART, AND MAYBE SURPRISES

Registration includes catered dinner and DJ, with dancing after the show.
Pre-registration is required.

ADULT MEAL

(A)Penne Amatriciana with Meatballs -or- (B) Cheese Ravioli with Locoto Cream Sauce
Caesar Salad Assorted Rolls & Butter – Cake – Beverages – Coffee

STUDENT MEAL (& under 4)

Chicken Nuggets - Caesar Salad - Assorted Rolls & Butter – Cake - Beverages

Name: _____

adult meals (\$14.00 ea) (A) _____ (B) _____

student meals (\$8.00 ea) _____ Under 4 (free) _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

return form and payment (check made out to Holy spirit PTO) by April 20TH

Make checks payable to *Holy Spirit School*. Submit form and check via backpack mail:

Attn: Joe Terpenning
Spring Talent Show Committee
c/o Sarah Terpenning grade 7 Dailey

Questions: Email Joe Terpenning at jterpenning@infinetech.org





Holy Spirit School's Annual Talent ShowCase & Dance

Saturday, April 28th



ART SHOW SIGNUP

The Lobby Art show is looking for works of sculpture, photography, writing, painting, drawing or other displayable media. If you have a talent for creating, the lobby show is looking for you!!

Requirements for Submission:

Flat work no larger than 22 X 24 including mat/frame, needs to have hanging hardware attached. Sculptures no bigger than 24 x 20 with a weight limit of 10 pounds, must stand on it own.

Please limit submissions to one work per person.

Please include a title, description, and your name and grade on a card with the work submitted.

Deadline for submission: April 16th. Please submit all works to Mrs. Liss by April 18.

NAME _____ grade/teacher _____

Type of work: _____



Field Day



Let the games begin!

Friday, May 18th, 2018 8 am – 1 pm

Your help is needed to make Field Day a success!

Have **FUN** while earning volunteer hours

Sign up here: <http://signup.com/go/djQzRQ>

What's Different This Year? Even more volunteer opportunities to bring food and supplies! Remember, every \$20 for food equates to 1 volunteer hour

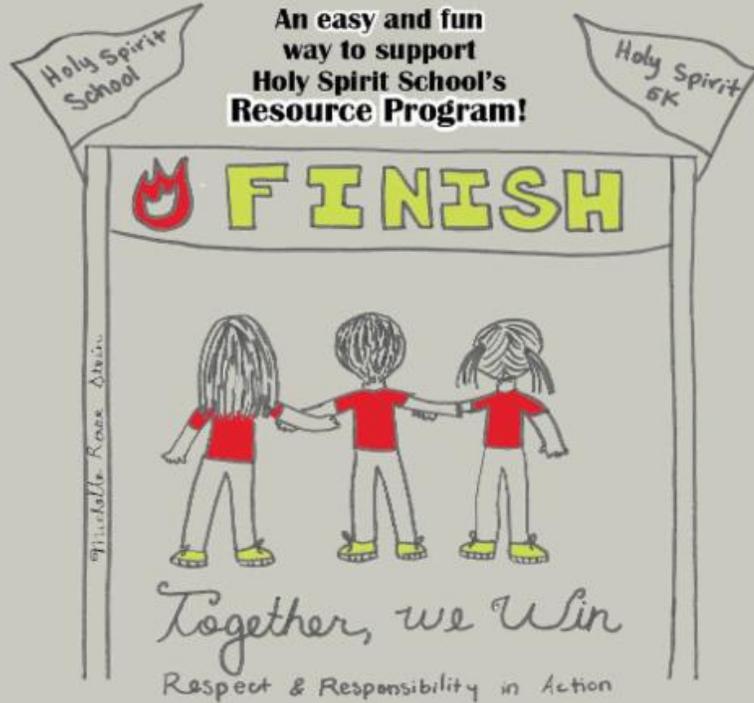
Questions? Contact Jessica Driscoll at jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE: Parents who volunteer to be coaches **MUST BE FULLY CHILD PROTECTION COMPLIANT** in order to participate in Field Day

[Click here to sign-up!](#)

Holy Spirit 5K Spirit Run

An easy and fun
way to support
Holy Spirit School's
Resource Program!



May 19, 2018

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

Online registration required. Visit HolySpiritFlames.org



Do you own a business or would your employer agree to sponsor our race?

Please see the information available on the school website under the 5K Spirit Run tab.

For those who maybe can't sponsor - won't you consider running/walking? We would LOVE to have our entire school community participate!

Ready to Sign-Up to Race?!

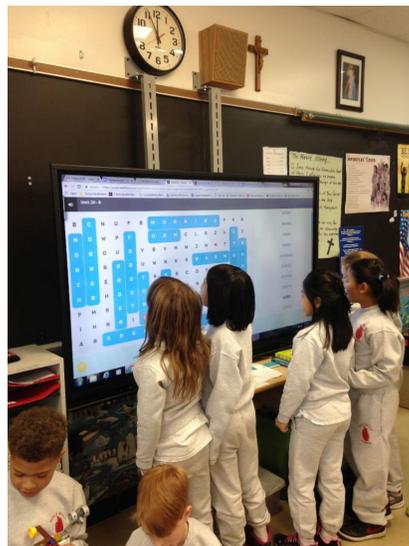
[Click Here](#)

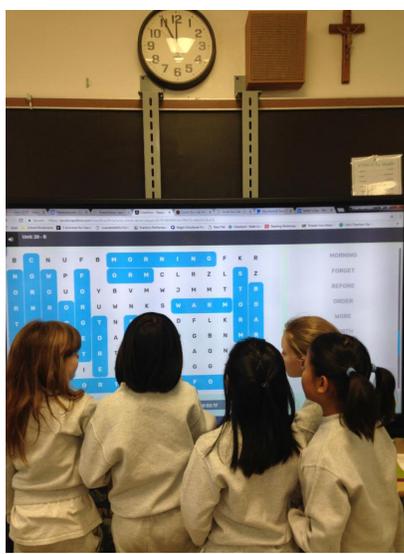


Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
&
little sparks
PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Inspiring Minds | *Igniting Hearts*

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow





(Third Grade's Word Search)

Monday's Professional Development Day for the teachers was terrific. They learned a platform called Classflow which works in connection with the ActivPanels.

Not only can teachers create visual lessons for use on the panels but they can create interactive lessons that students can do directly on the panel or on either the iPads or Chromebooks as teachers can "push" the activities to students devices.

Thank you to those who have already contributed - I am deeply appreciative of your generosity.

Several methods of payment are available: follow the link below; send a check made payable to Holy Spirit School (designating "ActivPanel" on the memo line); or make use of the Online Giving tool via the school website under the *Support Holy Spirit* tab.

[Click here to donate to the Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow Campaign](#)



Holy Spirit
Catholic Church
Annandale, VA



Capital
Campaign
Newsletter

COMMITMENT WEEKEND IS HERE AT LAST!

Over the past few months, every registered Holy Spirit Parish family should have received a campaign brochure packet either at a reception or in the mail. Pledge Cards are now in the hands of ALL parishioners. The leadership of Holy Spirit asks that you make your commitment TODAY! While we are asking every household to consider a pledge of \$4,000 or more (payable over a three-year period), *gifts of all sizes are important and greatly appreciated*. We are not asking for equal giving, just equal sacrifice. Your gift should reflect how the Lord has blessed you and your loved ones. Please return your Pledge Envelope as soon as possible. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Together we will make this campaign a success!!

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION...

In an effort to make personal contact with all registered families regarding our "Building Communion & Community" Capital Campaign, committee members and volunteers have been reaching out to anyone who did not have a chance to attend a reception. We know it's very important to engage each parishioner in order to ensure that everyone is informed and has had his or her questions answered. We are grateful for the positive response received thus far. Now, we respectfully request that you please turn in your response to help lighten the workload of our dedicated and enthusiastic campaign volunteers who will begin their follow-up work very soon. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance!

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

If you have any questions, please call our Campaign Director Charles Recznik at 703.978.8074

Holy Spirit NVJCYO

TENNIS

Information and registration:
HolySpiritChurch.us/Youth

**Grades
1-8**

**Practice
begins
April 21**

**Practice
ends
June 2**

**Practice Only
Skills
Development**

“Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person.”

-St. John Paul II



**Teams Forming
Register Today!**

Coaches Needed!

Interested in coaching?

Contact Dennis Smolak at DSMOL@aol.com

Holy Spirit NVJCYO TRACK AND FIELD

Information and registration:

HolySpiritChurch.us/Youth

Open to
Grades
3-8

Practice
begins
March 7

Wednesdays
3:15-4:30pm

Track Meet:
May 12-13

"Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person."

-St. John Paul II



Teams Forming
Register Today!

Coaches Needed!

Interested in coaching?

Contact Dennis Smolak at DSMOL@aol.com



Holy Spirit NVJCYO VOLLEYBALL

Information and registration:

HolySpiritChurch.us/Youth

**Grades
3-8
Girls Only**

**Practice
NOW**

**Matches
begin April**

**Matches
end May 20**

“Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person.”

-St. John Paul II



Coaches Needed!

Interested in coaching?

Contact Dennis Smolak at DSMOL@aol.com

Coaches still needed for Girls Grade 3/4 Team!



**Bring your family to enjoy homemade
soup every Friday in Lent.**

**Fridays February 16 - March 23
School Cafeteria**

5:30 -7:00 PM Soup Suppers

Free will donations accepted.

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

**Soup Makers
Needed!**

Contact Carol Eldridge
(703) 978-7141 or
cle74@hotmail.com

OR

www.holyspiritchurch.us

Volunteer!

† Lenten Food Drive

To Benefit The St. Lucy Food Project

Hunger continues to burden many in our diocese. More than 205,000 people in our diocese do not know where their next meal will come from. Our neighbors continue to need our help!

Pick up your blue St. Lucy food bag in the church narthex beginning March 10th and fill it with non-perishable food items.

Blue Bag Food Collection March 17 & 18 | All Masses Holy Spirit Church

The St. Lucy Food Project is in need of the following items: (no glass items please)

- Cooking Oil
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Meat/Fish
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Breakfast Cereal (hot & cold)
- Dried & Canned Beans
- Children's Snacks
- Shelf-Stable Milk

Check Donation or Gift Card:

Please consider donating critical (tax deductible) funds on collection day for continued food delivery throughout the year. Write your check to "CCDA" with "Holy Spirit St. Lucy" written in the Memo. Or you can mail check to: "Program Director, St. Lucy Project, 8426-28 Kao Circle, Manassas, VA 20110" if you miss the collection. We also gratefully accept Walmart and Giant gift cards.



For more information about the drive, please contact
Vince Cannava, Holy Spirit Food Ministry, 571-442-4673 (cell)



Family Bingo!

Saturday,
March 17

In Holy Spirit School
Doors Open 6 PM
Games Begin 7 PM

Celebrate with us!
St. Patrick's Feast Day
&
Fr. John O'Donohue's
Birthday

Admission (includes book of 3 cards)

- Players 12 Years and Older: \$5
- Players Under 12 Years: \$3
- Extra Cards \$1
- Free for children under 5 years who are not playing.

Prizes

- Cash Bingo Prizes - Grand Prize \$100
- Other Games At Least \$30

Snacks Sold

- Pizza • Hot Dogs • Nachos • Soft Drinks

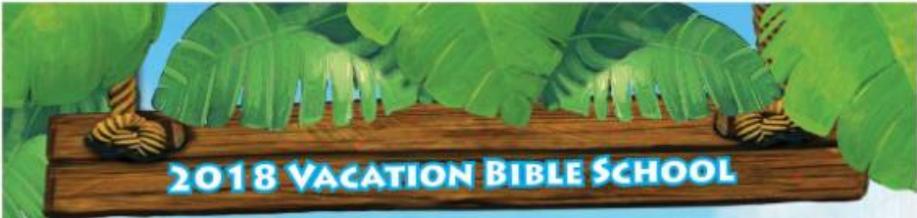
If you are
Fr. John
snacks are
on us!

Saint Patrick,
pray for us.



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS

HOLY
SPIRIT
Catholic Church



JUNE 25-29
9 AM-12 NOON
LUNCH INCLUDED!

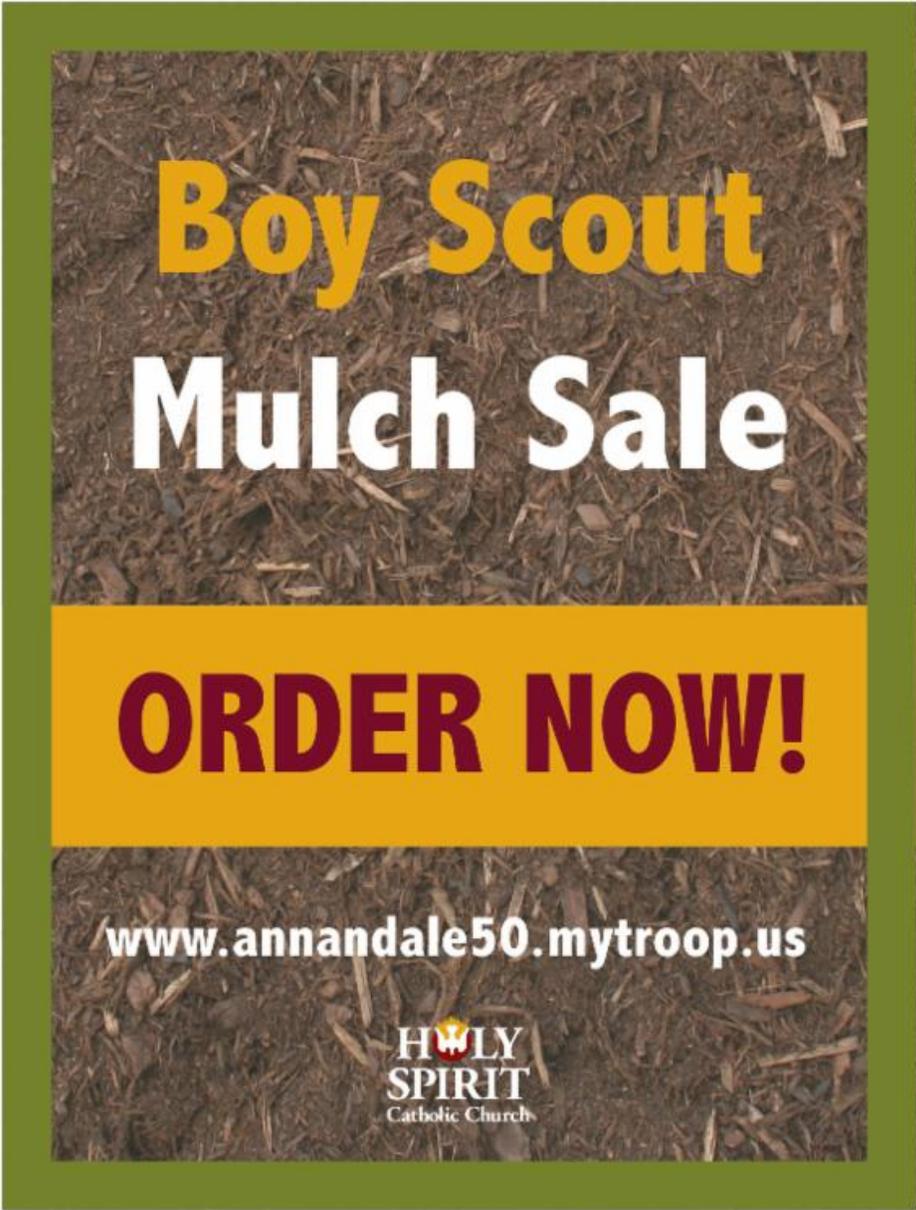
REGISTER NOW!!
OPEN TO ALL YOUTH
RISING K-5TH
GRADERS



HOLY SPIRIT
Catholic Church

Register at holyspiritchurch.us/vacation-bible-school/
Cost is \$65 first child, \$35 second child, \$30 third child,
4th and subsequent children come for free
Adult and Youth Volunteers Needed!
(Children of adult volunteers are free!)



The advertisement features a background of brown mulch. At the top, the words "Boy Scout" are written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, and "Mulch Sale" is written below it in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A central yellow horizontal band contains the text "ORDER NOW!" in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font. Below this band, the website address "www.annandale50.mytroop.us" is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, there is a logo for "HOLY SPIRIT Catholic Church" with a small icon of a dove above the word "HOLY".

Boy Scout Mulch Sale

ORDER NOW!

www.annandale50.mytroop.us

**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church

BISHOP IRETON THEATER ARTS PRESENTS

The
Addams
Family

A NEW MUSICAL
COMEDY



MARCH 9,10,16,17 at 7:30pm
MARCH 11 at 2:00pm

Kidz Coding Camps

@ Holy Spirit School

8800 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA



Animation Studio

Grade 3-8

Create animated cartoons just like the pros. Learn the basics of animation as you draw your own characters and bring them to life with code. You will use visual programming to control the speed and type of animation as you add animals, dragons, monsters, and avatars into your coding projects. Create a portfolio of fun projects including original animated games, cartoon strips, music videos, and interactive worlds to share with friends and family.

No prior programming experience required.

July 9th—13th

Half Day Camp— 9AM—Noon

- Day 1: Frame Based Animation
- Day 2: Character Animation
- Day 3: Animated Storytelling
- Day 4: Music Videos
- Day 5: Two Player Games

JavaScript Coding

Grades 6 – 9

An introduction to JavaScript for intermediate or advanced coders. Students will be introduced to JavaScript as they complete engaging lessons, solve challenging puzzles, and build their own games in JavaScript.

Topics Covered: JavaScript syntax, sequencing, repetition, conditional logic, nested loops, automation, pattern recognition, simple motion, keyboard and mouse events, creating and using an HTML canvas, operators, expressions, variables, collision detection, using arrays and objects to store structured data.

July 9th—13th

Half Day Camp—1PM—4 PM

- Day 1: JavaScript Basics
- Day 2: More JavaScript Basics
- Day 3: JavaScript Game Design
- Day 4: JavaScript Games
- Day 5: Collaborative Exercise

Registration Form:

Name: _____ Grade Entering in Fall: _____

Address: _____

Name of Parent(s): _____ Phone # (during camp hours): _____

Email: _____

Payment: \$250/camp (includes snack)

Session: ___ AM ___ PM ___ Both

___ Check (Made payable to: Mark Pietuska) ___ Cash ___ Credit Card (You will receive a phone call to make payment)



[Click here for the April 2018 school lunch menu.](#)

Send in a separate menu for each child in your family along with a check for payment. The cost of lunches is \$5.00/day/lunch.

Reminder that you must purchase milk/water separately in order for your child to receive it - beverages are not included in the lunch price.



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "March 15, 2018 "(or [CLICK HERE](#)). For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

School Flyers:

1. Letter from Dr. Bigelow, Superintendent of Catholic Schools
2. "Bucks for Books" - flyer, reading logs, donation instructions, etc.
3. Fathers Day Mass flyer
4. April Lunch menu
5. Players Soccer Academy flyer
6. Yearbook ordering flyer
7. PTO Talent Showcase Reservation form
8. PTO Talent Showcase Art Show form
9. Field Day Announcement

5K Spirit Run:

1. 5K Launch Letter
2. 5K Sponsorship Letter

Parish Flyers:

1. "Building Communion and Community" - HS Catholic Church Capital Campaign Newsletter
2. CYO Tennis flyer
3. CYO Volleyball flyer
4. CYO Track and Field flyer
5. Lenten Soup Suppers
6. Lenten Food Drive flyer
7. Family BINGO flyer
8. VBS flyer

Community Flyers:

1. Kidz Coding Camp
2. Boy Scouts Mulch Sale
3. St. Rita Chess Tournament flyer
