



**Holy Spirit**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Inspiring Minds* | *Igniting Hearts*

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December 5, 2014

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Toys for Tots campaign. As always, this community looked beyond themselves and provided over 680 toys for children in our surrounding communities who are less fortunate than ourselves. The faces of your children were priceless as they proudly presented their gifts at Mass.

Your generosity is also evident as you have taken the time to look for all of those gently worn winter coats. To date, Mrs. Gillespie has already been able to deliver several dozen coats. We will continue to collect coats until Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please be sure to look at the flyer with the details regarding the Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Concert. Before we know it December 16<sup>th</sup> will be here; the children are working so hard and the excitement continues to build as everything comes together.

As the weather turns colder, please remember to have your children wear appropriate outerwear (coats, hats, mittens, etc.) to school. I know it is often a quick few steps from the warmth of your home to the warmth of the car but the students do often wait outside in the morning and in the afternoon. Additionally, we try and take the children out for recess as often as possible to let loose some of their energy prior to lunch.

As we complete this first week of Advent, I pray that your family sets aside time to remember and celebrate the true meaning of this liturgical season. Celebrating the coming of Jesus with children provides us with the chance to see this wondrous season with innocence and freshness. Our children present us with both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is the way, as families, we soak up the values of the culture that has had children anticipating Christmas since the beginning of November. The opportunity is that we can introduce our children to the timeless rituals of celebrating the coming of the Messiah in a way which adds depth to their spiritual lives and strengthens their understanding of our unity with Christ.

Blessings always,

Maureen Ashby  
Principal



A blue ribbon school of excellence that enjoys state of the art facilities and a beautiful private campus located on 15 acres within easy access of the National Capital Beltway. Providing an education of eternal significance in Northern Virginia for half a century.