

April 18, 2024



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts
2023/2024
"Faithfulness"

Still Celebrating Easter





On Monday we were reminded that we are still in the Easter season with grades prekindergarten through 4th participating in an egg hunt organized by the school's National Junior Honor Society. It was a beautiful sunny day for some time outdoors!

A huge "Thank You" to Mr. Joe Terpenning for a wonderful Talent Showcase last weekend. Mr. Terpenning has spent years "perfecting" that event and his patience and talents will be greatly missed next year. There are many, many people who helped make the night a success and all of your time and efforts are great appreciated.

Congratulations to the Middle School students who were recognized for their original works in the Youth Apostles pro-life contest. The following students were recognized by the organization:

8th Grade

Monica B: 2nd in the Write a letter to a State Legislator to Support the Life of the Unborn category

Ashley D. 2nd in the essay category

Rosa W: Honorable Mention: Memes

7th Grade

Ethan B: 1st in the Meme category

Gianna S: 2nd in Meme category

Reagan S: 2nd in Video category

Keith M: Honorable Mention: Memes

Maggie H: Honorable Mention: Human from the Start category

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. The 2023 data related to child protection and related subjects is now being released by various organizations. The below resources were sent to school via the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

NCMEC launched an interactive video with the purpose of providing a "new interactive experience that plunges parents and caregivers into the reality of financial sextortion, coinciding with the release of new data on child sexual exploitation." Very well done.

· Press release: ["No Escape Room" Launches with New Data: Interactive Experience](#)

[Exposes Dangers of Financial Sextortion](#)

· The video, *No Escape Room*: <https://noescaperoom.org/>

Additionally, NCMEC released its **2023 Impact Report** today with surprising new numbers concerning threats to our youth:

- Reports of online enticement increased by more than 300 percent between 2021 and 2023;

- NCMEC's CyberTipline received 36.2 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online in 2023; and
- NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare with 28,886 cases of missing children with an 88 percent recovery rate in 2023.

View the full report here: [Our 2023 Impact Report \(missingkids.org\)](https://missingkids.org)

Harmony Healthcare IT

Harmony Healthcare IT has released new statistics concerning American phone screen time habits in a research piece entitled, [*Black Mirror or Black Hole? American Phone Screen Time Statistics*](#). Great information!

Lastly, Word on Fire (Bishop Robert Barron) mentioned the above information during an interview on YouTube. OPCYP has cued it up for you: [Healing Antisocial America \(youtube.com\)](#). The whole interview is 30 minutes and a worthwhile piece to listen to and reference.

Our rolling list of reminders!

The 5th and 8th graders will be taking the **ACRE assessment** on Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday, April 24th.

For those unfamiliar with ACRE, since the late 1970's the National Catholic Education Association has offered assessment instruments designed to strengthen catechetical/religious education programs. The ACRE (Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education) helps schools, parishes and diocesan leaders evaluate the faith knowledge and attitudes of students in Catholic schools. As an integrated assessment tool, ACRE provides faith knowledge questions and questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions. This tool that provides national scores for comparison and processes for tracking religious education program data over time.

Trimester 3 interims will go home on Friday, April 26th.

On Friday, May 3rd we will have our second **Nothing But Faith Day** of the year. The concentration will be on Pentecost.

The **Spring testing session** for NWEA begins Monday, May 6th and goes through Friday, May 24th. This testing is for grades 3-7; parents, watch for information from the classroom teacher as to which days/times your student will be testing.

The 8th grade will attend the annual **Vocations Mass** along with all of the 8th graders across the Diocese. This is a wonderful Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge as the students spend time contemplating and discerning the call God has for them.

The 8th grade will be taking the **Spanish Language High School Placement Exam** on May 9th. Students should be sure to be here on time as the exam begins promptly at 8:15 am.

We will **celebrate all of the mothers and women in our lives** on Friday, May 10th with Mass and receptions in the classrooms. See the flyer below with detail information.

The 8th grade will head to St. Paul VI High School to participate in the annual **Diocesan Shakespeare Festival** on May 20th.

Thursday, May 16th is the next **PTO Spirit Gear Day**.

We will also be attending Mass this day at 1:30pm to assist in opening the parish's **40 Hours Prayer Devotion**. Bishop Burbidge asks parishes to provide this opportunity for

continuous public prayer in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Friday, May 17th is **FIELD DAY!** See the information above for needed help.

Saturday, May 18th is the **5K Spirit Run** benefiting the school's Resource Department. Have you registered yet? Early registration ends on April 24th.

LUNCH ON THE LAWN will be on Wednesday, May 22nd. See the flyer below. There is NO hot lunch being served this day.

Friday, May 24th is an **early release** day with no afternoon Extended Day. And Monday, May 27th is a **school holiday for Memorial Day.**



Field Day will be Friday, May 17, this year. All grades participate, with grades K-7 assigned to teams. 8th graders run the games, and PK has its own fun activities this day.

There are still many volunteer spots open for our super-fun Field Day, **including 12 spots for Team Coaches. All Team Coach volunteers must register by Friday, April 19 to ensure placement on a team with their child -- that's less than two weeks away! Please help us ensure a fun and safe day for our kids by volunteering to help this way!**

If you need volunteer hours, this is an **awesome** way to fill them! **There are so many volunteer opportunities for Field Day**, found in three separate sign ups in Connect One. You can search "Field Day 2024" to find these:

[Field Day 2024: Team Coach](#) (Please help us here! We need 21 more fully child protection compliant volunteers!)

[Field Day 2024](#) (a myriad of opportunities!)

[Field Day 2024: Coolers with Waters and Ice](#) (one needed to each classroom)

If you have any questions about Field Day, please reach out to Jessica from the Field Day Committee at jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com. More information will be shared in May about the day of. We hope to see you there!

holy moments

Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you take a deep breath when you found yourself ready to complain and instead looked to something for which you are grateful? It certainly has to be an intentional effort to redirect our frustrations, but in a world filled with stress and a thousand things that may upset us, working to focus on the good in our lives has so many benefits.



Getting Closer!!

And as if coming out and running on a Saturday morning to benefit a department vital to our school isn't enough...

The homeroom class with the greatest number of sign-ups wins an afternoon with Father O'Donohue!!!

9th Annual

5K RUN & WALK

SATURDAY
MAY 18, 2024

EARLY REGISTRATION
\$25
PER PERSON UNTIL
APRIL 24TH



ONLINE REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED.

To Support the Holy Spirit Resource Program

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE EMAIL:
sgibbons@holyspiritflames.org



[Click Here to Register!](#)

[Race Sponsorship Information](#)

PLEASE JOIN US!



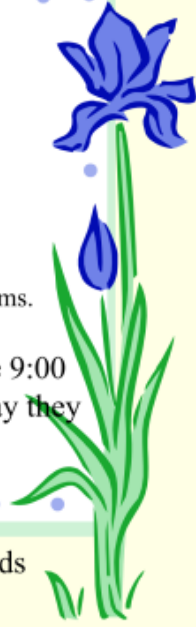
Holy Spirit School
Mother's Day Mass

May 10, 2024
9:00am

Light refreshments will be served after mass in your children's classrooms.

Students should arrive at school with their guest in time for the 9:00 am Mass in the church. If students will not have a guest that day they are welcome to arrive at school at regular time.

If Moms are unable to come then Grandmas, aunts, or friends are welcome to stand in for you.



It's right around the corner!

Lunch on the Lawn



May 22, 2024

6, 7, 8th Grades 11:15-12:00

3, 4, 5th Grades 11:50-12:35

K, 1st, 2nd Grades 12:25-1:10

Prek - watch for information from your teacher as to the time

Students should bring a bag lunch and a towel/blanket on which to sit. We will eat on the parish lawn and enjoy the great outdoors!

Parents are highly encouraged to join us!

Please do not forget there is NO hot lunch served this day.



Please join us
for

Variations

Of a Traditional Christian Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

and other selections

Featuring: Keyboard, Ukulele, Handbells and Chorus

Thursday June 6, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

NEW! April's Partners in Faith Newsletter!



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2024

Holy Spirit School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Gemma Galgani
Born in Tuscany in 1878 to a devout Catholic family, St. Gemma's life was marked by consolation and suffering. Early on, she loved to pray, mystically conversing with Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel. She suffered the loss of half her family to tuberculosis and was prevented from entering the Passionist Order due to her own poor health. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 25.

Religion, front and center
Treat children's religious education classes as the most important education they receive. Make attendance and homework as much a priority as "regular" school. Mastering the content they learn may not get them into college, but it will guarantee their entrance into someplace even more important.

"Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy. For the Lord is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him!" (Isaiah 30:18)



Family habits that can help keep youngsters Catholic

Recent studies have revealed that many Catholic children leave the faith when they leave high school. Those who remain faithful to Jesus come from families who follow four "best practices":
Cultivate communion: Researchers found that families who shared a meal regularly are more likely to raise faithful Catholic adults. It's a powerful way to strengthen communion, teach values, and share a love for Jesus. Resolve to have family meals three or four times weekly (without screens).
Be open to questions: Most young people leave the Church because they had many faith-based questions but no answers. Encourage children to ask and seek the answers together. Teach them how to use reliable sources, starting with the Catechism of the Catholic Church or turn to your local pastor.
Form a prayer tradition: Keep it simple. Gather around a Crucifix to pray for intentions and exchange a sign of peace. Let a different child lead the "nightly decade," or sing a hymn together and offer a blessing before bedtime.
Make prayer whatever works for you.
Encourage service: Faithful adults tend to grow up in families that prioritized service to the poor. Look for a way to donate time, talent or treasure to those in need. Your parish may need your support of one of its ministries. Let God's priorities shape your own.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Mass is the most important and powerful gift we have as Catholics. Holy Communion brings us into union - heart to heart - with Jesus, really and truly present. When He enters a soul, He brings with Him countless graces: peace, healing, remission for

Why do Catholics celebrate Communion?

venial sins, strength, spiritual nourishment, and a "love...among us at death" (Song of Songs 8:6). When Jesus enters the sanctuary of our hearts in Holy Communion, and especially at one's First Communion, it's a cause for joyful celebration.



-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



PTO Executive Board Nominations for 2024/2025

The Holy Spirit PTO is accepting nominations for the PTO Executive Board for the 2024/2025 academic year, specifically the position of Fundraising Coordinator.

Do you know a parent who made make a great contribution to the board?
Perhaps you have always wanted to participate and want to self-nominate?

Nominations will be accepted through

[Click here to access the nomination form](#)

Upcoming PTO Events

Friday, April 19th – TOMORROW!

Deadline to volunteer to be a Field Day Team Coach – **WE NEED 12 MORE COACHES!**
See Volunteer Opportunities below for links to volunteer and for more information.

Week of May 6th

Teacher Appreciation Week!
See Volunteer Opportunities below for link to volunteer.

Thursday, May 16th

Spirit Gear Day

Friday, May 17th

Field Day!!

Tuesday, May 21st

PTO Meeting 6:30 – 7:30pm in person and via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 895 9844 5225 Passcode: 268985

See Volunteer Opportunities for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

[Teacher Appreciation Week](#)

Let's spend the week of **May 6th** getting the teacher's lounge fully stocked with drinks, snacks, treats, and toiletries! Items can be dropped off at the front office or at drop off in the upper lot - Spot 19.

Questions? Email Jenny Tobin at tobinusaf21@gmail.com

[Field Day](#)

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[Field Day 2024](#) a myriad of opportunities!

[Field Day 2024: Coolers with Waters and Ice](#) (one needed to each classroom)

More information will be shared in May about the day of. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Email Jessica Driscoll jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com.

[May PTO Board Meeting](#)

Join us **in person or via [Zoom](#) on Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm** and hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about what is going on at Holy Spirit School for the remainder of the year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on something? This is a great opportunity for all families to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. For meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending, please be sure to sign up in [Connect1](#).

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

In order to volunteer with any youth in the Arlington Diocese, you must be [Child Protection Compliant](#).

Parents or legal guardians of each student(s) registered at Holy Spirit School are required to earn a minimum of 20 hours (40 PSSC points) per family or 10 hours (20 PSSC points) for single parent families (single parent families also include families with a deployed spouse) of combined volunteer service during the current school year. For more information, reference the [PSSC Handbook](#).

PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org

Vice President - Rob Wu - PTOVVP@holyspiritflames.org

Treasurer - Karin Floyd - PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org

Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt - PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org


Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org

Volunteering

Please remember that you must be fully compliant with the Child Protection policies of the Diocese in order to perform recess duty and to volunteer for activities where students are present.

Parish Happenings!



Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m.
Rosary, Litany of St. Joseph, and Mass
WITH BLESSING OF TOOLS BROUGHT TO MASS

Hand tools + Power tools + Office tools (laptops)
Cooking utensils + Medical devices

8:00 p.m. Reception with refreshments in McGivney Hall

"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."
—SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

Vacation Bible School

Hometown Nazareth

Where Jesus was a Kid



June 17-21

Vacation Bible School is Holy Spirit's weeklong event where children engage in lots of fun activities, games, and crafts, all while learning about Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith. All rising Kindergartners through rising 5th graders are invited to participate. Older children (under 18) are welcome as youth assistant volunteers.

For more information, or to register visit
www.holyspiritchurch.us/vbs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

www.holyspiritchurch.us/re
(703) 978 - 8925
REStaff@holyspiritchurch.us


Community Happenings!

DON'T MISS OUT!

SUMMER CAMPS


AT BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 5 - 8

**Sports Management • Theatre • Poetry
Game Design • Fashion • Gardening • Spanish
Brain Games • Blogging • Forensics • Entrepreneurs
Graphic Design • Photography • Intro to A.I. • Band
App Inventors • Junior Veterinary
...and more!**

bishopoconnell.org/summercamps



Summer Reading Skills PROGRAMS

CLASSES OFFERED IN CHANTILLY, SPRINGFIELD, and STERLING

Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners
In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read. Children learn letter recognition, beginning phonics, and easy sight words. Your child will learn to read simple words and short sentences and get excited about books and reading.

Program for Entering 1st Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read independently. Children learn phonics and sight words and build comprehension skills. Your child will develop a love of books and reading and get off to a great start in first grade.

Program for Entering 2nd Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will become a confident, fluent reader. Children build solid phonics and word-attack skills, develop reading fluency, and improve comprehension. Your child will develop a love of reading and get off to a great start in second grade.

Program for Entering 3rd Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will become a strong, confident reader. Children improve fluency and comprehension, build long-word decoding skills, and expand vocabulary. Your child will develop a lifelong love of reading and get off to a great start in third grade.

Programs for Entering 4th and 5th Graders
In these fun single-grade programs, your child will become a skilled, confident reader with strong comprehension in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand their vocabulary and learn to read more fluently and rapidly. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

Programs for Entering 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders
In these single-grade programs, your son or daughter will make substantial gains in comprehension and reading speed in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand their vocabulary and learn the best way to take notes. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and build confidence as a reader.

Programs for Entering 9th and 10th Graders
In these single-grade programs, students learn the skills they need to succeed in high school. Your child will double reading speed and improve comprehension and focus in fiction, textbooks, and nonfiction. Students expand their academic vocabulary and learn study strategies to complete work efficiently, get better grades, and score higher on exams.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
Call 1-800-903-0162**
Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm, Sat. 8am-7pm, and Sun. 10am-6pm

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "April 18, 2024" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Mother's Day Mass and Receptions flyer
2. Lunch on the Lawn flyer
3. End of Year Music Performance flyer
4. Partners in Faith (April) newsletter

5K Spirit Run

1. Race Registration information
2. Sponsorship Information

PTO Flyers:

Parish Flyers:

1. St. Joseph Mass flyer
2. Vacation Bible School

Community Flyers:

1. Bishop O'Connell Summer Camps flyer
2. University of Richmond Summer Reading Skills program flyer

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