

April 25, 2024



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

## Rolling, Rolling, Rolling...

Our rolling list of reminders!

**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.

Please remember our 2nd Graders on Saturday, May 4th when they receive their **First Holy Communion**.

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.

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.

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

Induction of new members to the **Holy Spirit School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society** is May 21st.

**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**.

**Final exams for Grades 6-8** will run from May 28 - May 31st.

The **Algebra and Geometry High School Exemption exams** will be held Saturday, June 1st.

**8th Grade Mass and Graduation Awards Ceremony** is Wednesday, June 5th at 7:00 pm.

The **last day of school for the Prekindergarten students** is Friday, June 7th.

The **Kindergarten Completion Ceremony** is Monday, June 10th at 10:00 am (students will go home with parents following the ceremony).

The **last day of school for Grades 1-7** is Tuesday, June 11th. This is an 11:30am dismissal day with no afternoon Extended Day.

Please be sure to watch the Schoology pages for items particular to your child.

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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 8 spots for Team Coaches. 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!)

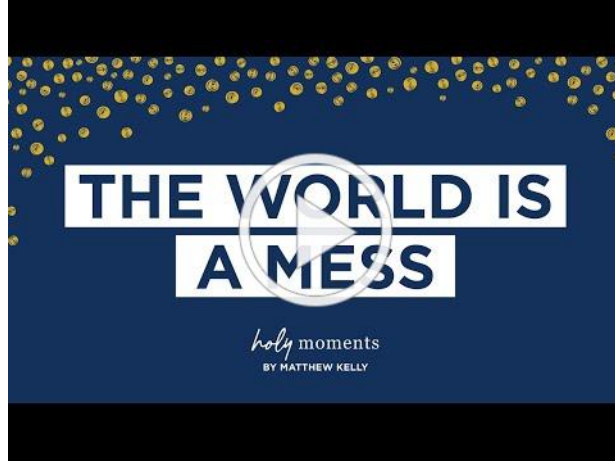
[Field Day 2024](#) (a myriad of opportunities!)

[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](mailto:jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com). More information will be shared in May about the day of. We hope to see you there!



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you identify someone in your life who has been a mentor for you and let them know that? Reconnecting with someone from our past and letting them know the impact that they had on us moving forward would be an awesome, uplifting moment for both that person and you!



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## 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](mailto:sgibbons@holyspiritflames.org)



[Click Here to Register!](#)

[Race Sponsorship Information](#)

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*PLEASE JOIN US!*



Holy Spirit School  
Mother's Day Mass

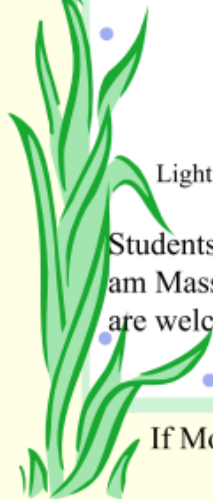


May 10, 2024  
9:00am

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, 8<sup>th</sup> Grades 11:15-12:00

3, 4, 5<sup>th</sup> Grades 11:50-12:35

K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

## 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 1875 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**

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Holy Spirit School PTO



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## **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 are now being accepted.

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

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## **Upcoming PTO Events**

### **Week of May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Teacher Appreciation Week!

See Volunteer Opportunities and flier below for more details and link to volunteer.

### **Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Spirit Gear Day

### **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Field Day!!

See Volunteer Opportunities below for links to help out. **We are still in need of Coaches!**

### **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 6<sup>th</sup>** 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. In addition, see the flier below with more details on the schedule for the week as well as the Kickoff Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Email Jenny Tobin at [tobinusaf21@gmail.com](mailto:tobinusaf21@gmail.com) or Stephanie Thull at [stephthull@gmail.com](mailto:stephthull@gmail.com)

### Field Day

Field Day will be **Friday, May 17th**. 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 8 spots for Team Coaches. All Team Coach volunteers must register by Friday, April 19th** 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 8 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)

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](mailto:jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com).

### May PTO Board Meeting

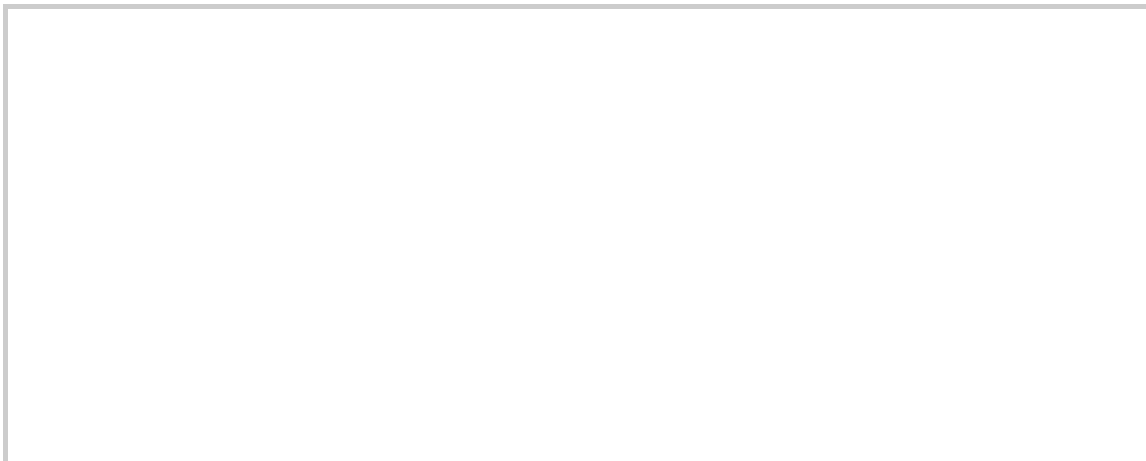
Join us **in person or via Zoom** on **Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm** and hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about what is going on at Holy Spirit School for the remainder of the year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on something? 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](mailto: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](#).





### WE NEED YOUR HELP

check out Connect1 for items to donate or volunteer to help with lunch



## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

MAY 6 - MAY 10

A whole week dedicated to show love for our teachers



### WHAT CAN YOUR KIDS DO

#### MONDAY

Bring your teacher a few flowers to brighten up their room all week

#### TUESDAY

Bring your teacher their favorite snack or treat

#### WEDNESDAY

Don't forget about specials! Bring in a note, treat, or flower for our specials and resource teachers



#### THURSDAY

Bring in a pack of fun pens, glue sticks, dry erase markers, or anything else your teacher may need to finish the year.

#### FRIDAY

Have your child fill out the provided writing prompt and bring it in to close out the week

### KICK-OFF DECORATION PARTY

Join us Sunday May 5th to decorate the front sidewalks and school, and create a fun craft gift for teachers

### LOOK OUT FOR

Keep an eye out for emails from your homeroom parents, posts in Facebook, and weekly email for updates and further details

### QUESTIONS?

Contact

Jenny Tobin  
tobinusaf21@gmail.com

Stephanie Thull  
stephthull@gmail.com



Holy Spirit Catholic School PTO



## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK KICK OFF

Sunday, May 5th  
1:00-3:00  
school cafeteria and  
front of school

stop by  
after mass!



## DECORATE THE SCHOOL

create posters and signs to  
decorate the school

adorn the front walks with colorful  
messages using chalk

## GIVE A CRAFT

create a magnet for a  
staff member and then  
make one for yourself!



Holy Spirit Catholic School PTO

### PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - [PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org)

Vice President - Rob Wu - [PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org)

Treasurer - Karin Floyd - [PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org)

Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - [PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org)

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt - [PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org)


Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - [PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org)

Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - [PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Kindergarteners 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](http://www.holyspiritchurch.us/vbs)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

[www.holyspiritchurch.us/re](http://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](http://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 25, 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:

1. Teacher Appreciation Week flyer
2. Teacher Appreciation Week flyer Part II

#### 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

Holy Spirit School | 8802 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003

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