## From the Principal's Desk



August 31, 2023



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

# Ready to take a breath this weekend?

Thank you to everyone who was able to be at the two Back to School Night events this week. It is important for the teachers to connect with parents in order to continue to get to know the students in their classes.

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday, September 1st is an early dismissal day for everyone and that there is NO afternoon Extended Day. This is Labor Weekend and there is no school on Monday, September 4th and no school for students on Tuesday, September 5th as there is professional development for the teachers.

It was mentioned last night, but the meeting for the Middle School parents regarding The Gift of Human Sexuality program is Wednesday, September 6th. This is a 7:00pm Zoom meeting; watch for an email from Mrs. Evans with the link. Remember this is an OPT-IN program and we must have on file the permission form that was provided in your Family Packet.

The Band and Strings programs are gearing up; students had the opportunity to meet the instructors and to see some of the instruments yesterday. Information is below regarding the Strings program and there is a parent meeting for the Band program on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.

There is also information below for students in grades 3-8 who would like to sing in the Mass Choir.

The Fall Yearbook pictures, both individual and class, will be taken on Tuesday, September 12th. All students should be in their dress uniform (not PE uniform) regardless of whether they have PE that day. Listen for further instructions from Coach Gregas and the homeroom teachers on how PE dress will be handled that day.

Afterschool activities will begin to ramp up over the next few weeks. Be sure that if your child is participating in an activity that you arrive on time to pick them up. Students who are not picked up at the time designated by the moderator will be checked into Extended Day and charges will accrue.

Mr. Anson Groves is now the Director of Youth Ministry for the parish (in addition to being the Director of Religious Education). He is getting his schedule set and programs organized, but know that many of the traditional programs (like Militia Immaculata) will return.

Thank you to everyone for your confinued patience during the arrival and dismissal processes—we are getting in the swing of it all! Especially in the lower lot, please be sure that you give yourself enough space to turn your car so that it is as straight as possible in the line. It makes it difficult to maximize the space in the lot when cars are at an angle. I know sometimes it may not seems necessary to drive to the top of the lot just to swing around and drive back down in the lane, but there really is a "method to the maddness" and I appreciate your cooperation.

I hope you have a terrific long weekend. I am sure most everyone is ready for a small breather as we get accustomed to the rigor of daily school life.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you challenge yourself to reach out to someone who impacted your life and let them know?

We hope you did and that you felt the grace that came from that interaction.

As mentioned, each Thursday this note will contain the Matthew Kelly, Holy Moments videos that he recorded during Lent of 2023. These relate to the Holy Moments book.



## Holy Spirit Mass Choir



If you are interested in singing at the Friday school Masses, sign up for choir!

We practice Thursdays after school 3:15-4:30

**Sign-up** by: Filling out the form and bringing it to Ms. Sanborn by Thursday September 14th

First Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 14th, 3:15-4:30 p.m. in the music classroom

\*Communication will happen over email in advance in the case of any schedule irregularities\*

NOTE: Parents please plan to pick up your student in the car line in front of the school at the end of each rehearsal. Parents who are late for pick up (4:40), your child will be sent to extended day and charges will accrue.

Fill out the form below and return to Ms. Sanborn. Questions?

csanborn@holyspiritflames.org

Students 3rd grade and older are eligible

Click here for choir registration form



### **Holy Spirit School Strings Program**

The program is designed for students from 3rd to 8th grade who wish to study a string instrument (violin, viola, cello). The curriculum incorporates group lessons, master classes, ensemble playing and performance opportunities. During the first year of study, your child will learn the basics of playing his/her instrument. We focus on holding the instrument and bow with the correct posture, as well as producing a relaxed, resonant tone. They will also learn the basics of reading music and taking care of their instrument.

Dr. Hwan-Ah Lee is the program director.

Please see the attached letter for more information.

Letter

## Strings Program Registration Link

#### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! I hope your summer was fun!!!

I'm looking forward to a second year of band at our school. I hope to see you there!

In the meantime, be sure to go to the following link, with your child, and take a look at all of the fun information about band instruments and such:

https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/group/index.php?id=8459

### JOIN THE

### **HOLY SPIRIT**

## BAND!!!



## Don't Forget:

Come to the Band INFORMATION and REGISTRATION Night —

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 6<sup>™</sup>

6pm

Will include info on: schedule, costs, instruments, texts, etc.

Please bring your checkbooks.







#### **Substitute Teachers Needed**

Are you interested in being on the Substitute Teacher list?

Contact Mrs. Evans for information and paperwork

nevans@holyspiritflames.org

Thank you!

-Maureen Ashby



### **Upcoming PTO Events**

#### Thursday, September 7th

Connect1 Training 7:00pm - 7:30pm via Zoom (2 PSSC points for attending)

Meeting ID: 844 0184 3962; Passcode: 801912

### September 8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Spirit Gear Sale (link forthcoming)

#### Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

Parish Picnic 2:00pm - 5:00pm Holy Spirit Front Lawn

#### Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

PTO Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 895 9844 5225; Passcode: 268985

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Homeroom Parents** (40 PSSC points)

If you would like to be a Homeroom Parent for your child's classroom this year, the signup has been posted to Connect1. There are two spots for each teacher, but they are filling up fast. Thank you so much for volunteering to make this a wonderful school year. Please reach out to the PTO Homeroom Coordinator, Val Overstreet, at <a href="mailto:ptohomeroomcoordinator@holyspiritflames.org">ptohomeroomcoordinator@holyspiritflames.org</a> with any questions.

#### Outdoor Classroom Committee Chair (40 PSSC points)

Works with designated faculty member to coordinate help to upgrade and maintain the school's outdoor classroom. Requires two committee chairs.

#### **Hospitality Committee Chair** (40 PSSC points)

Focuses on working with parent volunteers to provide home baked goods, paper products, drinks, etc. for various school events throughout the year, including monthly teacher luncheons and the National Honor Society induction ceremony reception. Requires two committee chairs. Only one role is available.

Please reach out to the Holy Spirit Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt at PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org for more details.

#### Reminders

#### Connect1

We appreciate your efforts to get signed up in Connect1. Connect1 is easy to use on a computer and

smartphone.

The application does three main things for our community:

- 1. A prayer board
- 2. Volunteer Sign-ups Connect One (connect1.io)
- 3. Community Directory

You will notice an addition to your last name in Connect1. We are adding your family numbers to Connect1. You will see "-##" i.e. Lastname-85. If you want to update your information in Connect1 that would be helpful. Please don't remove the numbers. This will help track events and PSSC hours.

If you haven't set up your account, please register <u>here</u> and follow the instructions in the flier. If you need help there are some training opportunities at this sign up:



#### RECESS DUTY SIGN UP in Connect 1 is ready

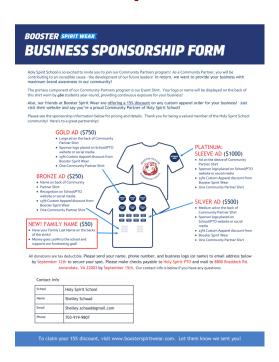
Access your Connect 1 account to sign up!

Recess Duty in Connect 1



## Consider being a Boosterthon Sponsor!!







Registering for Connect 1 at Holy Spirit School

How to sign up for an account on Connect1:

- 1. On your computer, go to https://app.connect1.io
- 2. Click the green bar that says "Sign up (School Code).



- 3. Enter your email address. Enter our school code, which is L4 IVP6. (Areyon both a teacher and a parent at the school? You'll need to set up two accounts. One using you: "hospiterflames, or", "email account for your ole ac a teacher, and your personal one for your role as a parent!)
- 4. This will open a new page where you enter your name, role and password. For Role, select "Parent! Com munity Mem bet", (Thiese you are a teach her creating your account with your "holyspiritflames areg" account. In that case, please select "Parenty School Bipplyse"). Click Submit when you are done.
- Anew page opens. AConfirmation Code will be sent to your email. Copy that confirmation code and paste it into this page. Click Confirm.
- This brings you back to the Sign In page. Enter your email address and newly created password to open the app.

#### PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - <u>PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Vice President - Robert Wu - <u>PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Treasurer - Karin Floyd - <u>PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - <u>PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org</u>

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt -<u>PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill -<u>PTOVPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet -<u>PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org</u>

#### 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!







## **Great Expectations Care Packages**

Donate \$15 to buy gift cards for foster care college students

Several parish groups are working together to create care packages for students in Northern Virginia Community College's Great Expectations program. This program is for students who have aged out of foster care. Most of these students live in group homes, and some are young moms.

Your \$15 donation will help us purchase a gift card to Barnes and Noble bookstores, which are located at each of NVCC's campuses, and we are creating 60 care packages.

You can make your donation using our ParishGiving program. You can also drop off a check at the parish office, but the check must indicate GREAT EXPECTATIONS on the memo line.

For more information, see the parish website or email gss@holyspiritchurch.us

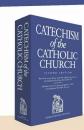
This is a project of our parish Good Samaritan Society.



You know what a Bible study is...

#### THIS IS A

## Catechism Study!





The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) is one of the beautiful gifts of the pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II—the first new Church-wide catechism in over 400 years.

#### Join Deacon Tom in 2023

2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY of EVERY MONTH

WHEN: 7:00-8:15 p.m. WHERE: McGivney Hall, Narthex

Zoom links provided to remote attendees as needed

CatechismStudy@holyspiritchurch.us

Paced to Fr. Mike's "Catechism in a Year" podcast from Ascension Press, but open to all who want





#### Taking a Stand

Armed with charity and unity, the Knights of Columbus has long responded to attacks against the Catholic faith and human dignity

By Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly / July 2023

The Knights of Columbus cannot take up every fight... But 2 million Catholic men can make an enormous difference where it matters most — always through prayer and often through action.

Interested in becoming a Holy Spirit Knight of Columbus? Contact Grand Knight Don Pedersen at

Who are the Knights?



ast month's opening Mass of our nual Organizational Meeting of tate Deputies was followed by a eautiful eucharistic procession, nights of Columbus leaders and ate chaplains from throughout the rder participated, as our supreme paplain carried Jesus in the lessed Sacrament up and down

Home to St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order, Hillmose is lined by majestic ein trees, stately bindings. The procession was a peaceful expression of piety and unity, yet the seems and setting also between our Catholic faith and those who fight to keep Catholic states and the seems of the control of the Catholic faith and those who fight to keep Catholic states and the public equare. In July 18 to 18 t

ars, but much remains the same. thi-Catholic bigotry may look flerent today, but there can be no but that it is still prevalent — and en on the rise. As one historian it, today's anti-Catholicism is se last acceptable prejudice." The cacks go beyond anonymous acts vandalism or permicious online munertary; they are aired on tional television and publicly pressed by leaders in politics and

A recent instance was the abhorrent decision of the Los Angeles Dodgers to honor a group alleld the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops noted that the group's 'lewdness and vulgarity in mocking our Lord, His Mother and consecrated women cannot be overstated. The Dodgers, when hallenged on the decision, initially backed down and disinvited them.

only renewed the invitation, but

and ironic in the extreme. The same people who ery out for tolerance often demonstrate complete intolerance for Catholics and other Christians. The U.S. bishops, in denouncing the Dodgers' decision, said it was more than offensive; it was blass phenous. As such they acked

The U.S. bishops, in denouncing the Dodgers' decision, said it was more than offensive; it was blasphemous. As such, they asked Catholies to pray the Litany of the Secred Heart of Jesus as nact of Secred Heart of Jesus as nact of Secred Heart of Jesus as nact of Secred Heart of Jesus have been asked to word tool, just that. And beyond praying, our brothers in California were among many Local Catholies who expressed their displeasure to the Dodgers organization.

organization.
This latest stand against bigotry is in keeping with the Order's history. A century ago, the Kulghts prominently opposed the Rulghts prominently opposed the Legislative attempts to destroy the Catholic school system in the United States; published books on the contributions of Black, Jewish and German Americans; and spoke out against the persecution of the Church in

The Knights of Columbus cannot take up every fight. We must choose our battles wisely, the control of the contr

stand up for the fundame



Join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes Saturday, October 7, 2023

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

#### NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

9 a.m.
Presentation on Mother Seton
and veneration of her relics
9:45 a.m.
Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge
10:30 a.m.
Visit Mother Seton museum and gift shop

12 p.m.

Outdoor picnic lunch at the Seton Shrine or
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
(Limited restaurant options available, visitors
encouraged to pack bag lunch. Note:
transportation between locations not provided.) 12 p.m.

#### NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

1:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and recitation of the Holy Rosary 3:30 p.m. Depart





#### Explore the final documents of Vatican II with Fr. Jordan Willard in a series of seminars beginning Thursday Sept 14th at 7 pm in the Parish Center

From 1961 through 1965, the Vatican II Council was held. For Catholics and others, it had profound implications and changes.



#### Holy Spirit Friends of the Poor Walk Saturday, October 21 from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm

Help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul raise funds for those in need and enjoy fun and fellowship Route: start and finish at Holy Spirit Church lot, walk along a short route on the Long Branch Valley Stream Trail



All are welcome to come and support the Poor. Freewill offering requested from participants – t-shirts provided. Sign up at fopwalk.org - choose "Virginia" and "Holy Spirit Friends of the Poor Walk"

## Help Those in Prison by Baking Cookies

The KAIROS Prison Ministry will be offering a Christian retreat in mid-October.

Catholic Charities' Prison Ministry needs cookies to offer to the inmates who attend.

#### Note that, because of the restrictions of the prison, cookies must follow their guidelines:

- Cookie types that are generally acceptable are: oatmeal peanut butter, molasses, and chocolate chip. All cookies must be between 2 and 2½ inches in diameter and no more than ½ inch thick: There can be no icing, sugar, or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookies.

- coating on the outside of the cookies; Do not add any type of fruit or nuts to the cookies; chocolate chips are allowed. Cookies must be bagged in quart-sized zip-lock bags, one dozen cookies per bag. Label each bag with the type of cookie.

Cookies that do not meet these requirements will be rejected.





Please contact **Marilyn Grodek** by October 2 at **margrodek78@gmail.com** or **703-978-5793** to volunteer! Recommended cookie recipes are also available.



#### Join the Squire Roses Today!

We meet the second Sunday of each month from 1:15pm-2:30pm in the Annunciation Room in

A youth organization sponsored by the Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus for girls ages 10-18.

What do Squire Roses Do?

With appropriate guidance, the girls will develop their own ideas on how to participate in parish and live out their Catholic faith through charitable contributions. The adults involved will be available to provide guidance and assist the girls in learning the skills needed to bring about the successful completion of their projects. Some past projects and activatives include: Heighing to decorate the church for Christmas and Easter, hosting an Advent event for chidren, helping to sort and stock food for the poor at the St. Lucy Project warehouse, the Cowning of Mary Ceremony in May, move nights and a father/Daughter lunchenon.

For information contact: Kristin Gorak at Kristin@gorak.us

## **Community Happenings!**



Try New Things

**Serve Others** 

Boost Self-Confidence Make Ethical Choices

Explore the Outdoors

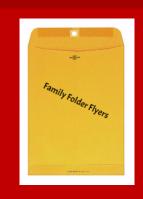
**Holy Spirit Boy Scout Troop 50** 

Summer Camp at Goshen Boy Scout Reserve

Sept 11 First Troop meeting of the year







## **FAMILY FOLDER**

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "August 31, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

#### School Flyers:

- 1. Boosterthon Sponsorship Information
- 2. Boosterthon Sponsorship Form
- 3. Mass Choir Registration Form
- 4. Strings Program Parent Letter
- 5. Band Parent Meeting flyer
- 6. Partners in Faith (September) Newsletter
- 7. Mabel's Labels flyer
- 8. Little Medical School flyer
- 9. PSA Sports flyer
- 10. Connect 1 Registration Instructions

#### Parish Flyers:

- 1. Parish Picnic flyer
- 2. Pancake Breakfast
- 3. That Man Is You flyer
- 4. Great Expectations Care Packages flyer
- 5. Catechism in a Year flyer
- 6. Knights of Columbus information
- 7. Diocesan Pilgrimage to Emmitsburg
- 8. Vatican II Document Study with Father Willard flyer

- 9. Holy Spirit Friends of the Poor Walk flyer10. KAIROS Cookie Ministry flyer11. Squire Roses flyers

#### Community Flyers:

- Scouting Family Fun Night flyer
   Boy Scout Troop 50 flyer
- 3. Walk 4 Life flyer