

December 1, 2022



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts
2022/2023
"Joy"

Happy Advent!



Happy Advent! A chill is definitely in the air today and excitement is growing across the school as all of the activities of the month ramp up! There is a lot of singing and preparation for the upcoming Christmas performances.

But let us not forget the importance of the season of Advent!

The Advent Season is about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for us to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is. The Advent

season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in our faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

I pray that all of our families will look for both small and large ways to celebrate Advent and to give to those in need through our time, talent, and treasure.

On Monday we began our Advent journey here at school with a prayer service and the blessing of our Advent wreath. Each week we will gather together to mark the passage of time during Advent and to focus on the gifts that we were granted with the birth of our Savior.

We also began our learning about and reflecting on the symbols of the Jesse Tree as we travel through the Old Testament. Each day one of the homerooms adorns our trees with ornaments telling the story of God and connecting the Advent season with God's faithfulness across the centuries preceeding the birth of Jesus.

Thank you to those families who contributed to the purchase of our new Nativity display!



Trimester 1 report cards for students in grades K-8 will go home tomorrow, Friday, December 2nd.

Tuesday, December 6th is St. Nicholas Day - remember to have students bring an extra shoe so they can await a treat from St. Nicholas's helpers!

We will attend Mass next week on Thursday, December 8th to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

On Friday, December 9th, we will have the NJHS Christmas costume dress down day! All proceeds (\$1.00 to participate) will go to benefit Catholic Charities, We Care Week.

The Santa Boutique will be up and running on December 8th and 9th. Volunteers are still needed for both set up and to help our little shoppers. Check Connect 1 for information!

The next PTO Spirit Gear day is Thursday, December 15th.

Information regarding costumes for the K-4 Christmas musical are in this week's newsletter. The show is right around the corner! We are completely returning to our pre-COVID show

tradition of having just one production. Be ready for the excitement and fun of a packed gymnasium!

We hope that you will also join us for the 5th grade's presentation of Night of Nights on Tuesday, December 20th at 2:00 pm. This a beautiful and solemn telling of the Nativity story and a wonderful way to take us into the break from school.

(There is ALOT of information below!)

SANTA'S RIDE!!!

**Our annual toy drive ends tomorrow,
Friday, December 2nd!**

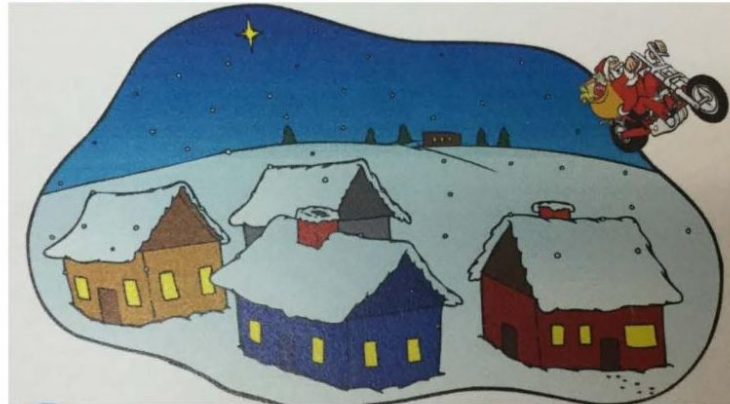
We currently have 379 donated toys.

**If each student contributes just one toy we will easily
meet our goal of 500 toys.**

Annual Holy Spirit School Toy Drive

SANTA'S RIDE

Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Sick Children



Monday, November 28th - Friday, December 2nd



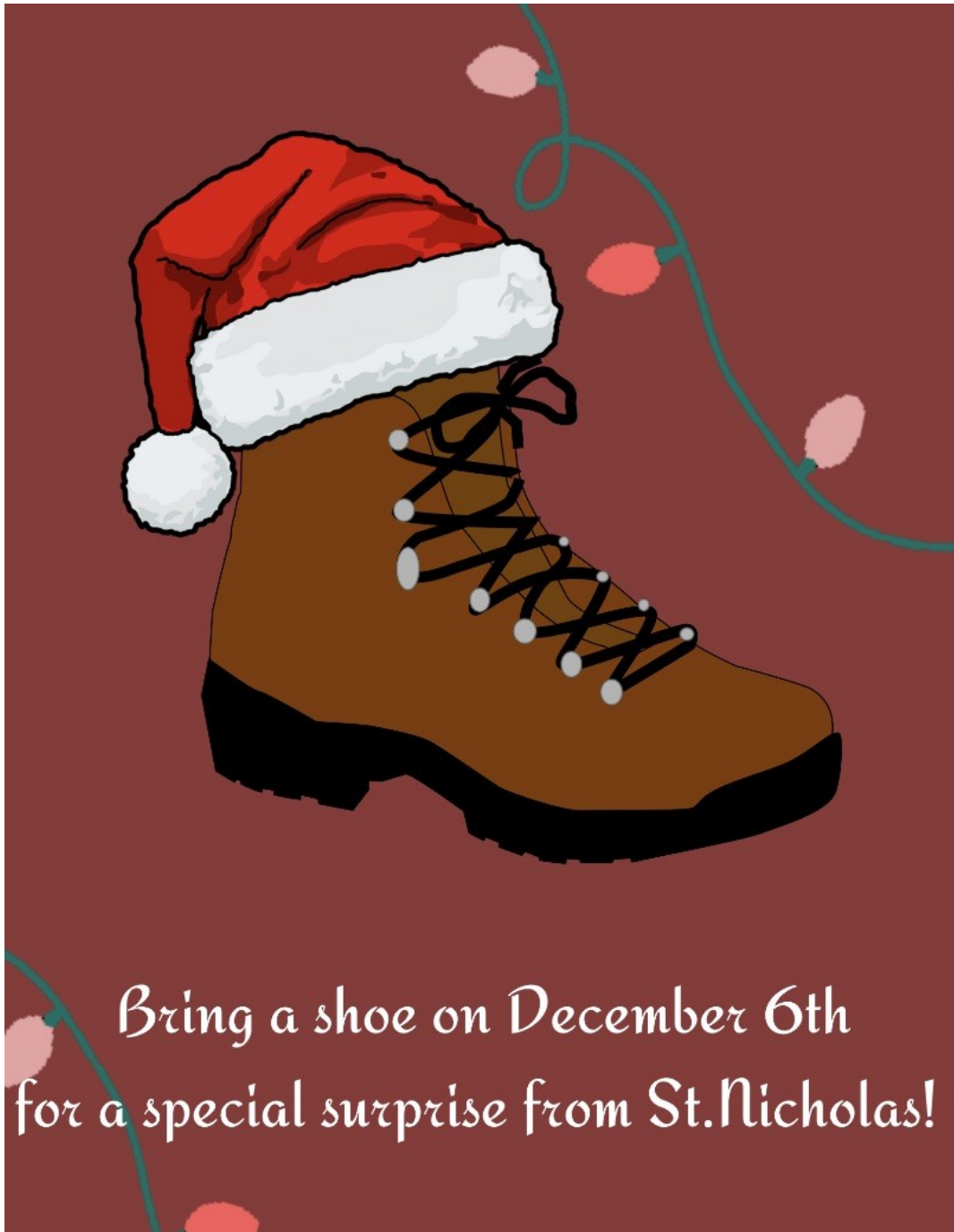
**Make a difference in the lives of the many sick children who are unable to
return home for the holidays.**

The Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle squad is collaborating with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and others to collect and distribute toys to children at Fairfax Hospital and Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center.

Please donate a new, unwrapped toy, game, or book.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please join us for our annual Giving Mass on Friday, December 2nd.
Members of the Fairfax County Motorcycle Squad will be here to receive the
toys from the children.



Bring a shoe on December 6th
for a special surprise from St. Nicholas!

NJHS DRESS DOWN DAY

DECEMBER 9th

ALL FUNDS GO TO:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WE CARE WEEK

ALL OUTFITS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE

BRING \$1 TO DRESS UP AS:

PRE-K THROUGH 2ND

GINGERBREAD BOYS & GIRLS

3RD THROUGH 5TH

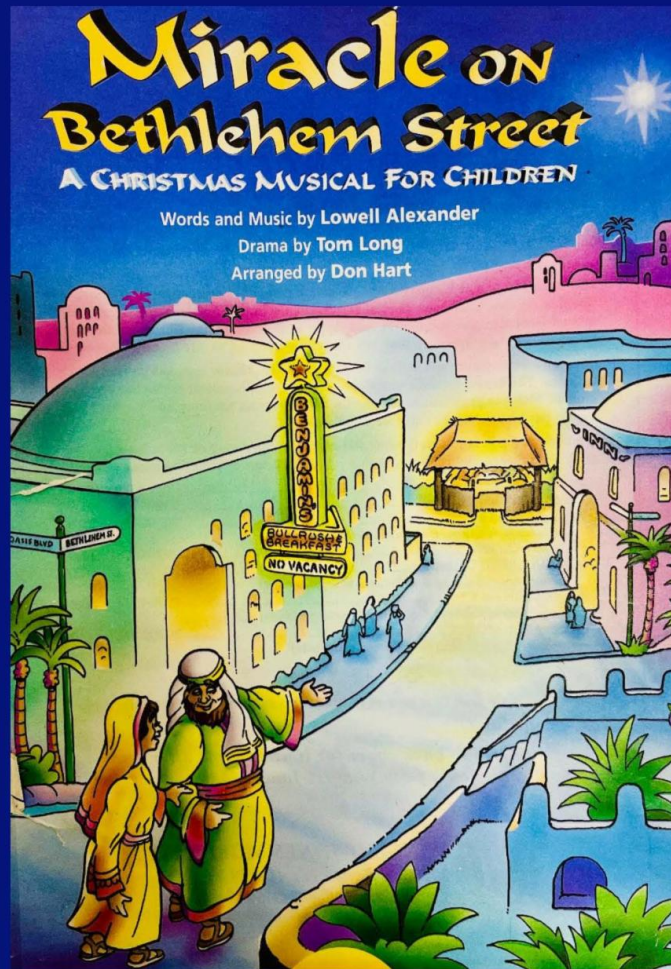
SNOW BOYS & GIRLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ORNAMENTS

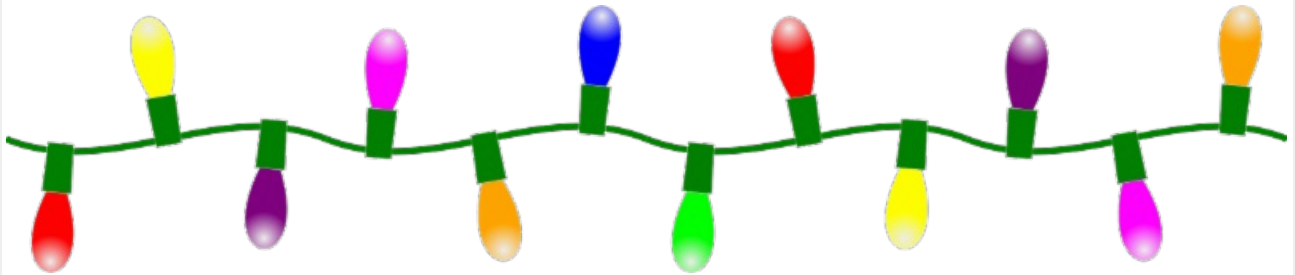


Holy Spirit School Presents:



Thursday December 15, 2022, 7 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. - Free Admission



Costume and Call Sheet for the Christmas Musical:

A Miracle On Bethlehem Street

The Christmas Performance is **December 15th @ 7:00 pm.**

Grades K-3: Please bring your child to their room **NO EARLIER** than 6:15 pm, **NO LATER** than 6:30 pm.

Grade 4: Please bring your child to their room **NO EARLIER** than 6:00 pm, **NO LATER** than 6:15 pm.

The show begins promptly at **7:00 pm.** Doors **DO NOT** open until 6:30pm.

Kindergarten- "Sheep"

The Kindergarteners will wear their PE uniform sweatpants and sweatshirts inside out, white socks and

shoes. They will be provided with floppy sheep ears.

1st Grade- "Angels"

The 1st Graders will wear their PE uniform sweatpants inside out, with a long sleeve white T - shirt, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with halos and wings.

2nd Grade- "Camels"

The 2nd Graders will wear brown or khaki pants and long sleeve T shirts, brown socks and shoes. They will be provided with camel visors!

3rd Grade- "Townspeople"

The 3rd Graders will wear long sleeve blue shirts and khaki pants, brown socks and brown shoes. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking Biblical!

4th Grade- Main Cast

Please see your child's Fourth Grade Music Schoology Page regarding costume essentials for the individual cast member. Details will be posted Thursday December 1.

**If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Sanborn at
CSanborn@holyspiritflames.org.**

**Thank you so much for your cooperation in making this year's Christmas Musical a beautiful
experience for us all!**

Holy Spirit School Presents:



Night of Nights

Nativity Play

Tuesday December 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m.

Free Admission

Partners in FAITH™

December 2022

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

Holy Spirit School

Thoughtful Moments

God knows us

"A God who draws near out of love walks with his people... We could never have imagined that the same Lord would become one of us and walk with us, be present with us, present in His Church, present in the Eucharist, present in His Word, present in the poor... And this is closeness, the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, whom he knows, one by one." Pope Francis

Jesus is Peace and Joy

It is possible to feel peaceful despite the stress of current turbulent times. It's also possible to be joyful, even amidst great sorrow. Jesus is the peace and joy we long for. The saints were able to find peace and joy in trials because they knew Christ.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge, of whom should I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

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Add a Catholic tradition to your Christmas celebration

Family traditions make our Christmas celebrations unique and special to our families. Consider adding a new tradition this year.

Candle by candlelight.

To symbolize Jesus bringing light to the darkness, gather around candlelight and sing your favorite Christmas hymns. Choose classics such as "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," "Angels, We Have Heard on High." Let the words tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Midnight Mass. This liturgy features the classic Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, and is the most elaborate celebration of Christmas. Many families bring children to this first Mass of Christmas. Hint: pack a blanket so little ones can lie down in the pew.

Bless the nativity scene. Leave your manger empty of the main figures when you set it up. On Christmas Eve, ceremoniously add the angels, shepherds, Mary, and Joseph. As a surprise, add baby Jesus before the children wake up on Christmas morning. Place the three kings across the room so they can "journey" until Epiphany.

Celebrate the Festival of Lessons and Carols. This service consists of nine Scripture lessons which recount the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission. Each lesson is followed by a song and a prayer. If the Festival of Lessons and Carols isn't offered in your area, consider performing your own.

<https://www.uchc.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/a-dvent/festival-of-lessons-and-carols>

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The elements of the Advent wreath remind us of the eternal nature of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life through Christ. The evergreens symbolize eternal life. The circle signifies God's unending love. Laurel stands for Christ's victory over sin and evil. Cedar is strength and healing. Ivy stands for faithfulness to God. The holly's thorny leaves and red berries stand for Christ's Passion, recalling the Crown of Thorns and the precious blood Jesus shed to save our souls.

2022 Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 November Buy or make an Advent wreath. Place the strongest light (the first candle) for Hope.	28 Choose a gift to present throughout Advent to give Jesus on His birthday: a myth (unicorn, frankfurter, bellows), gold (treasure).	29 Make Christmas cards for people you love. Use these ideas: https://tinyurl.com/2pvc9vne .	30 St. Andrew the Apostle St. Andrew preached the Lord's call. Pray for wisdom and more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.	1 December Practice singing all the verses to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	2 First Friday Devotion Visit Jesus in the Eucharist in church (find the lighted tabernacle candle). Thank Him for His blessings.	3 Make and decorate cookies. Advent, style, holiday-style, or fun-style. Enjoy them together.
4 Light the first candle and a second candle for Faith. Share a way you experienced God's love today.	5 Add gently used clothes to a box. When it's full, bring it to a clothing drive.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Perform an act of kindness in honor of this generous saint.	7 Practice reciting and memorizing the rosary as penance for the souls in Purgatory.	8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary Honor Mary by attending Mass and praying a family Rosary.	9 St. Juan Diego Mary's Immaculate Conception on St. Juan's feast (which helped convert Mexico). Use playdough to make roses like the ones he gathered in his time.	10 Read Confession as a family. Make sure everyone is prepared. Celebrate God's mercy.
11 Light all the candles and the first one for Joy.	12 Other Lessons of the Gospels: Place roses on the family table and pray a decade of the Rosary together.	13 Eat dinner together by candle light. Mention the ways Jesus brings light to the darkness.	14 As families, pray together for Christmas.	15 Join a Christmas Charity Chain. Every year someone performs a good deed out of charity, and a loop to the chain. Hang it on the tree at Christmas.	16 Eat pizza and play board games together.	17 Write each child a pick-up "O Antiphona" and draw it. (Hint: find them here at https://www.uchc.org/prayer-worship/a-dvent)
18 Light all the candles, including the last one for Peace. Pray for peace in the world.	19 Sing "Nunc that for Catholics" in the world.	20 Sing "Nunc that for Catholics" in the world.	21 Eat dinner together and ask everyone to share a favorite Christmas memory.	22 Put up your family Nativity set. Leave out the baby Jesus.	23 Read Luke 2:7-20. Talk about how you would make room for Jesus if you visited the manger.	24 Epiphany (Three Kings) Put the infant Jesus in the manger and sing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"

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Art Room needs recyclables! Specifically, cereal boxes and 2 liter bottles and plastic bottles. They can be dropped off in the Art Room.



Thank You! Mrs. Liss Art Teacher

Academic Year 2023/2024

Registration of our current families will begin in early December.

Families who have children who are ready to become Holy Spirit Flames, especially in either prekindergarten or kindergarten, be sure to contact Mrs. Laclede now so that we have their names. The online application for new students is open and accessible via the school website.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming Events:

- November 27 – Christmas Tree Sales Started!
- December 7 – Christmas Boutique
- December 10 – Gingerbread House Decorating

PTO Meeting: The November PTO meeting will be on December 13, 2022, at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming events, meet fellow parents, and to get involved. Additionally, the meeting attendance counts towards the PSSC hours. Please join us at the following link:

<https://holyspiritflames.zoom.us/j/87077053723?pwd=SkJiMEdsWHcvKzdVZC9qN09GdlgrZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 7705 3723 Passcode: 483688

Recess Duty: Sign up for recess duty opportunities is now available through:
<https://app.connect1.io/volunteers/ta43kmlw3>.

Connect1:

If you need more assistance with Connect 1 you can either contact Tom Fields at PTOPSSC@holyspiritflames.org or visit <https://app.connect1.io/volunteers/gmgujg6pp>

**Christmas
Trees
For Sale**



November 27 – December 17

MON – FRI: 5:30PM – 8:30PM

SAT – SUN: 9AM – 8PM

Located at Holy Spirit Church by the Braddock Road entrance

PLEASE CASH OR CHECK ONLY



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PTO

WHILE STOCKS LAST



SECOND ANNUAL

Gingerbread House Decorating Party

SATURDAY, DEC 10TH, 4:30-6:30PM

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL
CAFETERIA

Join us for some holiday cheer and
decorating fun!

Gingerbread house and icing
will be provided

Bring candy decorations to share
(candy canes, peppermints, gumdrops, ect)

Light refreshments will be
served

Please RSVP by Thursday,
December 8th
ptocrafts@holyspiritflames.org

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!!!

Santa's Secret Shop

IS COMING SOON!

**Get that special gift for
everyone on your list!**

D a t e s : D e c e m b e r 8 t h a n d 9 t h



[Santa Boutique
Schedule](#)

[Connect 1 Volunteer
Link](#)

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL WITH DOMINO'S PIZZA!

DOUGH RAISER

Order from
your local
Domino's and
use code DN3
online, on our
app, over the
phone, or in the
store. Holy
Spirit School
will receive 20%
of these sales.

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 21

USE CODE
DN3

Stores

Annandale
7129 Columbia Pike

Barcroft
6357 Columbia Pike

King's Park
8962 Burke Lake Rd

Springfield
6715 Backlick Rd
Skyline
4698 King St

Kings Hwy
6228 Richmond Hwy



PTO Board 2022 - 2023

President - Christine Ploschke - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org

Vice President - Trevor Lowing - PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org

Treasurer - Danielle Hetzler - PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org

Secretary - Lee Conroy - PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Volunteer Coordinator - Mary Sonnen - PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org

Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - PTOVPPDevelopment@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 in activities where students are present.

Parish Happenings!

Merry Christmas
from Holy Spirit Catholic Church

2022

Mass & Confession Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Vigil Masses: 5:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Midnight Mass: 12:00 AM

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Masses:

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Vigil Mass: 5:30 PM & 11:30 PM

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Solemnity Masses:

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM,

12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Confession Schedule

Sat. Dec 24: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM (No Confessions at 3:30 PM)

New Year's Eve Family Party

Dinner 6:30-8:30 PM, Dance 8:30-10:30 PM

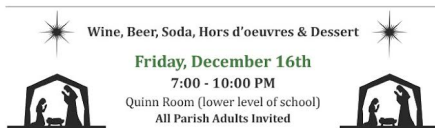
www.holyspiritchurch.us

Men's Club Sponsored Event:

Advent Party & Jazz Quartet

The Hot Lanes with Bobby Jasinski

...music featuring Christmas and Jazz classics



Host Committee:

Sean & Becci Roberts
Kevin & Barbara Kessler
Dan & Melanie Bennett
Mike & Maura Locke
Steve & Alicia Steger

Mike & Laura Thiemann
Chris & Kristi Craig
Mike & Irma Rupar
Don & Kim Pedersen
Bill & Carrie Seifert

Limited Tickets...Don't Wait to Last Minute...Lock in a Fun Night

\$40 Couples / \$20 Singles

Payment must be received by Monday December 12th

RSVP to SeanRoberts911@gmail.com & make checks payable to 'Holy Spirit Men's Club' and mail to:

Sean Roberts, c/o Men's Club
5416 Panola Court
Springfield, VA 22151



Squire Roses will Host

A Children's Advent Party

December 11 after the 9:00am Mass

in the school Meeting Rooms

Families are invited for refreshments, games, crafts and stories to celebrate the JOY of Advent

Questions: contact Kristin Gorak, squiroseroses@holyspiritchurch.org



3rd Annual Project Manger Crib Delivery



Join us at the Holy Spirit rectory on Saturday, December 3rd from 8-10 AM

24 Volunteers needed; They will be paired into 12 teams

If you are interested, please use the Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44aca822a7fd0-crib>

You can donate online at <https://www.projectmanger.org/donate-a-crib>
Checks can be made payable to PROJECT MANGER - AWC
and mailed to P.O. Box 11457, Burke, VA 22009

Thank you for helping us turn every crisis pregnancy into a joyous event!



There is a longstanding Catholic tradition for families to have Jesus blessed and then placed in His crib on Christmas morning.



Come and join Fr. Carroll on Sunday, December 4th at 1:15 pm when he will bless the Holy Spirit Church's outdoor creche and families' baby Jesus using a relic from the original manger from Bethlehem.



Knights of Columbus Holy Spirit Council 11922

Business/Social Meeting 1st Tuesday of the Month 8PM
Planning Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the Month 8PM
Rosary before meetings start time 7:40PM
Holy Spirit School Quinn Room

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
with St. Nick!
Pancakes, Sausage,
Fruit, Orange Juice,
Coffee, and more!
Adults \$5 Children \$3
Max Family Cost \$20
Sunday, Dec 4th
School Cafeteria after the
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM Masses

Knights Checklist
✓ Catholic Gentlemen
✓ 18+ years old
✓ Practicing Catholic
Not a Knight? Why NOT?

Join Us, Today!
Use QR code or
KofC.org/joinus

Wednesday Night

Bible Study

With Father O'Donohue



What is the importance and meaning of islands in Isaiah? Our class will explain this and other passages as we continue through our journey through the book of Isaiah.

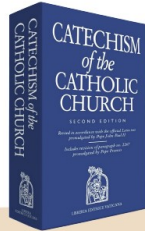
While there is a livestream option, it is encouraged to take an hour a week to attend in person.

Next Class: December 7, 2022
Parish Center Large Meeting Room
8:30-9:30 PM



You know what a Bible study is...

THIS WILL BE 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

WHEN: 7:00–8:15 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Rectory, Large Meeting Room

FIRST MEETING on JANUARY 10

Livestream also available—details to be announced

To sign up or for more information:
CatechismStudy@holyspiritchurch.us

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



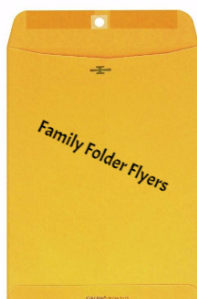
ACCA is looking for food delivery drivers to deliver food to needy clients within the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area. Drivers can work weekly or every few weeks or less as it fits their schedules each week. Deliveries are between 1:30 and about 5 PM, Tuesday through Friday. The time involved is usually less than one hour. Email casweeder@verizon.net for more details.



We partner with the Shepherd's Center of Annandale/Springfield to provide critical transportation. We urgently need volunteer drivers who drive local seniors in Annandale, Springfield, and other sections of Alexandria to medical appointments during the week, and grocery shopping on weekends. You determine when, where, and how often you drive. Email shepherdcas@vacoxmail.com.



Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "December 1, 2022" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family
Folder

School Flyers:

1. Santa's Ride Toy Drive flyer
2. NJHS Christmas Dress Down Day flyer
3. Santa Boutique flyer
4. PTO Christmas Tree Sale flyer
5. PTO Gingerbread House Decorating flyer
6. K-4 Christmas Musical Costume List flyer
7. Partners in Faith (December) newsletter
8. Family Advent Calendar
9. Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Overview

Parish Flyers:

1. Parish Mass and Confession schedule for Christmas flyer
2. Men's Club Advent Party flyer
3. Squire Roses Children's Advent Party flyer
4. Project Manger Crib Delivery flyer
5. Blessing of the Creche flyer
6. Pancake Breakfast flyer
7. Bible Study flyer
8. Catechism Study flyer
9. ACCA Volunteers flyer

Community Flyers: