



December 21, 2023



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

Blessed Christmas



On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff, we wish all of our families a blessed Christmas. May the light and warmth of this Advent season extend well beyond our immediate celebrations. May you treasure those who enter your life whether momentarily or long-term. May you create a plethora of Holy Moments within your family, your community, and the world. The power of prayer and the ability to positively impact those we encounter each day should never be underestimated.



**Please join us on December 24,
Christmas Eve for the 5:00 pm Mass at
Holy Spirit Catholic Church,
celebrated by
Bishop Michael Burbidge.**



A reminder that Family Financial Contracts for the 2024/2025 academic year are due back by January 5, 2023.

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance for the 2024/2025 academic year, the FACTS application is open. The deadline for applying is March 13, 2024.

holy moments

This week we did not have a specific Holy Moments challenge due to the short week. I hope that all of the moments you have created thus far this year for others has brought you joy as you reflect on the good you can do for others in the smallest of ways

Thoughtful Moments

St. Edmund Campion
St. Edmund Campion had a coveted position as lecturer at Oxford, and the admiration of his peers and Queen Elizabeth I. He renounced everything to become a Jesuit missionary. He traveled England secretly to administer the sacraments to persecuted Catholics. He was betrayed by an informant pretending to be Catholic, and was taken to the Tower of London. He was martyred for refusing to deny his faith.



Our Lady of Guadalupe
At a time of great upheaval in Mexico (1531), Jesus' Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego with messages of hope, and conversions began occurring at an astounding rate. By 1539, almost nine million had converted. Mary is Jesus' first and best disciple to bring the message of hope and salvation.



"Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God to the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Add peace to Advent this year

There is no denying that it may be more challenging to find peace and joy during Advent this year, given all that's happening around the world. Still, we know that the world isn't where we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebrations after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year.

Sweep the inn.
Jesus chose lowly circumstances for His birth to encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys in good condition that you don't truly need and donate them to people who do. Then limit the number and value of gifts you give. This will free up attention and affection for

what really matters. Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to meet His newborn son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time together.

Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born, Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of each moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder every wonderful moment in your own heart.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

"... And his name shall be called Emmanuel" of faithfulness means, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God and He came, not just to save us, but also to be with us. In fact, He promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Emmanuel"?

Jesus is invisibly but powerfully present with us now in the Church, the Scriptures, the words of the faithful, the priest celebrating the Sacraments, prayer, and, most especially, in the Eucharist. God is truly with us.




K - 8TH GRADE

FRIDAYS

3:20PM - 4:20PM

2/2 - 5/31
SKIPS: 2/16, 3/8, 3/29, 4/5, 4/26, 5/24

No club meeting on school closure or early dismissal days

TUITION: \$243 FOR 12 WEEKS




HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHESS CLUB

Fun is the name of the game...

...but Magnus Chess Academy also sneaks in a bit of critical thinking, sportsmanship, and patience into chess club!

Each week students of all levels do a fun but challenging lesson with one of our great coaches from our world class curriculum followed by practice games against other students in the class.

Join the 100,000 (and counting!) kids who've learned chess with the official academy of world champion Magnus Carlsen. This in-person club includes online extras like practice tournaments and a bonus lesson with Magnus or Judit Polgar, the best female chess player ever!



To register, scan the QR Code or visit www.chessacademy.com

Questions? Email: info@chessacademy.com or call: 703.574.2070

After School Classes

Why choose us?

- Fun
- Educational
- Hands-On

Theme:
Flour Power (ES)

Our pastry chefs-in-training will learn about the power of flour in our new Baking and Sweets course. We will explore ingredients familiar and new to bake savory and sweet dishes. Students will make Fudgy Pumpkin Brownies, Blueberry Muffins, Dessert Fruit Sides, and so much more! Foundational cooking skills will be taught, including proper techniques for measuring, mixing, stirring, dough, and of course, kitchen safety! We hope to see you in the kitchen soon.

iCook After School

Cooking Classes for Kids

- Kids will learn how to make healthy and delicious recipes
- Master cooking safety, measuring, mixing, slicing, chopping, sautéing and more
- Learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits
- Explore international cuisine
- Further develop social-emotional learning and executive functions skills

What We Teach

Culinary Skills Nutrition Culture of Food

School: Holy Spirit Catholic School
Day: Tuesday
Time: 3:30 - 4:30
Dates: Jan 23rd - Mar 12th (@ weeks)
No Class Dates: None
Grade Levels: 2nd - 5th
Min/Max Enrollment: 10/12
Price: \$176 + processing fee
Registration Deadline: January 16, 2024

REGISTER OR LEARN MORE AT
icookafterschool.com

Call or email with any questions | (773) 697-3115 | info@icookafterschool.com

After School Classes

Why choose us?

- Fun
- Educational
- Hands-On

Theme:
Secret Agent Academy

"Secret Agent Academy" is a STEAM-focused after school class with a spy-themed curriculum. The class will include a range of hands-on activities and challenges that will encourage students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They will learn about the science of encryption and code-breaking, as well as the physics of motion and energy. Students will also explore the world of forensic science, analyzing fingerprints, DNA samples, and other evidence to solve mysteries. Led by experienced instructors, students will work collaboratively and have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a final mission. The class aims to excite and inspire students about STEAM and encourage further

iSTEAM After School

Science Classes for Kids

- Kids will explore the connections between science, technology, and the arts
- Learn through hands-on experimentation and real-world applications of scientific concepts
- Prepare for the future by developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills

What We Teach

Scientific Reasoning Teamwork Planning & Visualization

School: Holy Spirit Catholic School
Day: Monday
Time: 3:30 - 4:30
Dates: Jan 22nd - Mar 18th (@ weeks)
No Class Dates: Feb 19th
Grade Levels: 1st - 4th
Min/Max Enrollment: 10/12
Price: \$176 + processing fee
Registration Deadline: January 15, 2024

REGISTER OR LEARN MORE AT
isteamafterschool.com

Call or email with any questions | (773) 697-3115 | info@isteamafterschool.com

–Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming PTO Events

Tuesday, January 16th

PTO Meeting 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

January PTO Meeting – Virtual and In-Person

Join us in person in the school on January 16th and hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about what is going on at Holy Spirit School this year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on events? This is a great opportunity for new, as well as returning families, to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. Can't make it in person? Join us via [Zoom](#) so you don't miss anything! Be sure to sign up in Connect1 for meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending.

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](#).

[Recess Duty](#) volunteers are still needed for the remainder of the school year. Families who have completed their required commitment of one day are eligible for 4 PSSC points for each additional day served.

PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org

Vice President - Rob Wu - PTOVP@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!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Holy Spirit Catholic Church

2023

Mass & Confession Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

Sunday, 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 6:00-8:30 PM, Dance 8:30-10:30 PM

www.holyspiritchurch.us



Christmas 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: "For unto us a Savior is born who is Christ and Lord." This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God's holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and grace we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

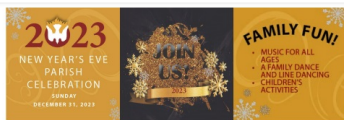
So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: *holy families*. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Mass at 6pm and Midnight
Catered Buffet from 6 to 8:30 PM
Music and Dancing until 10:30 PM

Name (First and Last): _____ Today's Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Children Under 4 (Cost per ticket \$0) _____ Number of Children 5-11 (Cost per ticket \$10) _____

Number of Persons 12+ (Cost per ticket \$20) _____ Family Maximum \$75

Seating Request (If possible, I would like to be seated with/near the following family/families): _____

Special Reservation Needs

High Chair _____ Seating for Wheelchair _____

Payment by check: _____ Parish Giving _____

Please put registration in collection basket with check or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Prepayment Required. Reservations deadline December 30 at NOON
Any Questions? Call Patty Tang at 202-320-8711

A CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

We know what happens when two or more are gathered in the Lord's name, so what happens with 80,000?! Join your Catholic brothers and sisters at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing and personal commission to invite others to know Christ. Your life - and our Church - will never be the same.

Tour Inclusions

- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights' accommodations in Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily
- Farewell Lunch

Tour Does Not Include

- Airfare or motorcoach transportation
- Optional transportation offers will be extended at a later date
- Meals and beverages not specifically identified
- Items not specifically mentioned above

3 Step Registration Process

1. Scan the QR Code on the cover of the flyer or click [HERE](#) to access our online registration site.
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress' website.

Adult Pricing

\$949
Triple/Quad

\$1,149
Double

\$1,649
Single

Family Pricing

-\$200
off price alone for children ages 3-18

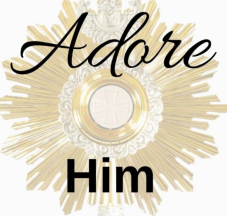
FREE
for lap children (0-2) when rooming with two paying adults in double occupancy

Payment Schedule:
\$250 per person deposit due upon registration
\$500 per person due December 31, 2023
Remaining balance due April 17, 2024
All payments are non-refundable. By registering for this tour, you understand and agree to CTS Terms and Conditions and accept our CTS Liability Release. All cancellations must be received in writing.
Travel Insurance: Cancel for any reason (CFAR) travel protection is highly recommended. See Travel Insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency/parish-4500308-CTS

CORPORATE TRAVEL 866.468.1420 | NEC@CTS-CENTRAL.NET

Seeking a place for peace and quiet during the hustle and bustle of Advent?

Come, Let Us



Monday
7am-7pm
Wednesday
7am-7pm
Fri 7am-Sat 9am

Parish Holy Hour
M, W, F
7pm-8pm
led by Priest or Deacon with Confessions till lines end!

Choose your ONE HOUR each week of Advent to make this Christmas different!

*Just sit in His presence to sort out priorities

*Bring your family members intentions to Him

*Advent spiritual reading

*Rosary and/or Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Ask Him for help with anything

*Bring Him your worries and desires

Sign up at: adorationpro.org/hsannandale
or email: lisa.ciola@holyspiritchurch.us



Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit

Quo Vadis events are for young men in high school interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocation.

What's college seminary like? See for yourself!

Meet the seminarians and their formators
See where they live, pray, eat and study
Tour their campus at Catholic University

Saturday
January 27
8:45am-2:15pm

Fathers are welcome but not required.
Cost is \$15 per person.



For more information and to register, visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis

Deadline to register is January 18.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations 703.841.2514 / vocations@arlingtondiocese.org



JOIN US AT OUR NEW PARISH MINISTRY:

Coffee with Rebecca



Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and treats in the company of your fellow parishioners!

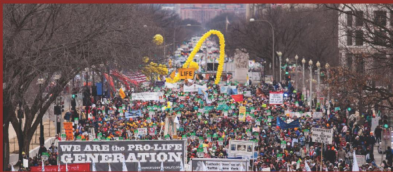
IN JANUARY: THURSDAYS AFTER
9AM MASS, MCGIVNEY HALL

Come meet our host Rebecca. She is a PVI graduate who loves Special Olympics Bowling, music and dancing. Rebecca is eager to meet you and to serve her parish community!



March for Life

Friday, January 19th



Breakfast from 7:00 - 10:00 AM

School Cafeteria

Special Mass at 10 AM

Prices

Kids under 6 years: FREE

6-12 years: \$3

13-99 years: \$6

Maximum cost per family: \$20

Sign Up for the Bus via the Sign Up Genius

Bus departure at 11:15 am.



[Inova Blood Donor Services](http://InovaBloodDonorServices.com)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Blood Drive

Saturday, January 13, 2024

6:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

8800 Braddock Rd.

Annandale, VA

Inova Blood Donor Services will be in the school gym.

Account Coordinator

Dick Cecka

(703) 978-8435 | Racecka@aol.com

In honor of National Blood Donor Month,
all donors will receive a sweatshirt*.

Photo ID Required. Masking is optional for all donors and team members. Allow one hour for your donation.

*While supplies last. Must complete screening process to receive giveaway.

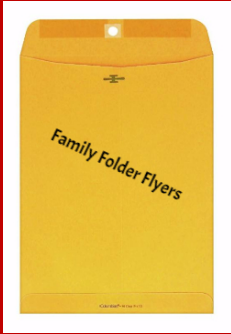


Book your appointment today!

InovaBlood.org

1/10/24 10:11

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "December 21, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Partners in Faith (December) newsletter
3. Chess Club Winter Session flyer
4. iCook - After School Cooking Class flyer
5. iSteam - After School Science Class flyer

PTO Flyers:

Parish Flyers:

1. Christmas Mass and Confession Times
2. Bishop's Christmas Letter
3. Parish New Years Eve Family Dinner Dance
4. Eucharistic Conference 2024
5. Parish Adoration
6. Seminary Visit
7. Coffee with Rebecca
8. March for Life 2024
9. Blood Drive flyer

Community Flyers:

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

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