

December 7, 2023



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

Our Advent Journey

Advent began on Sunday, December 3rd and we have begun our season of waiting and preparation here at school.

Monday started with a prayer service and the blessing of our school Advent wreath. We also started our annual tradition of adorning our Jesse Trees as we travel through the Old Testament while awaiting the birth of the Christ child.

We will participate in the Sacrament of Confession and have the wonderful blessing of being able to have Adoration in the school chapel before we leave for the Christmas break.

The K-4 Christmas Musical - Miracle at Midnight - and the 5th grade production of Night of Nights will soon be upon us. I hope that you will all take time to enjoy these shows. The students are wonderful and looking forward to sharing their talents with you!

Mixed in with all of that is a bit of fun too! Today was our Christmas Dress Down Day sponsored by the NJHS and benefiting Catholic Charities *We Care Week*.

See the flyer below for the Mini Christmas Spirit Week that the NJHS has put together for us. It should be great fun!

A reminder that Wednesday, December 20th is an early dismissal day with NO afternoon Extended Day. Everyone returns after Christmas on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

The application for the 2024/2025 academic year for NEW students is now open and accessible on the school's website.

If you have children (especially prekindergarten or kindergarten age), please take the time to complete that application as soon as possible so that we retain spaces.

For current students, Holy Spirit uses continuous enrollment, so unless we hear from you that you will not be returning, we plan for your children to be here.

The tuition rates and other information for the 2024/2025 academic year were sent home yesterday with the youngest or only child in your family.

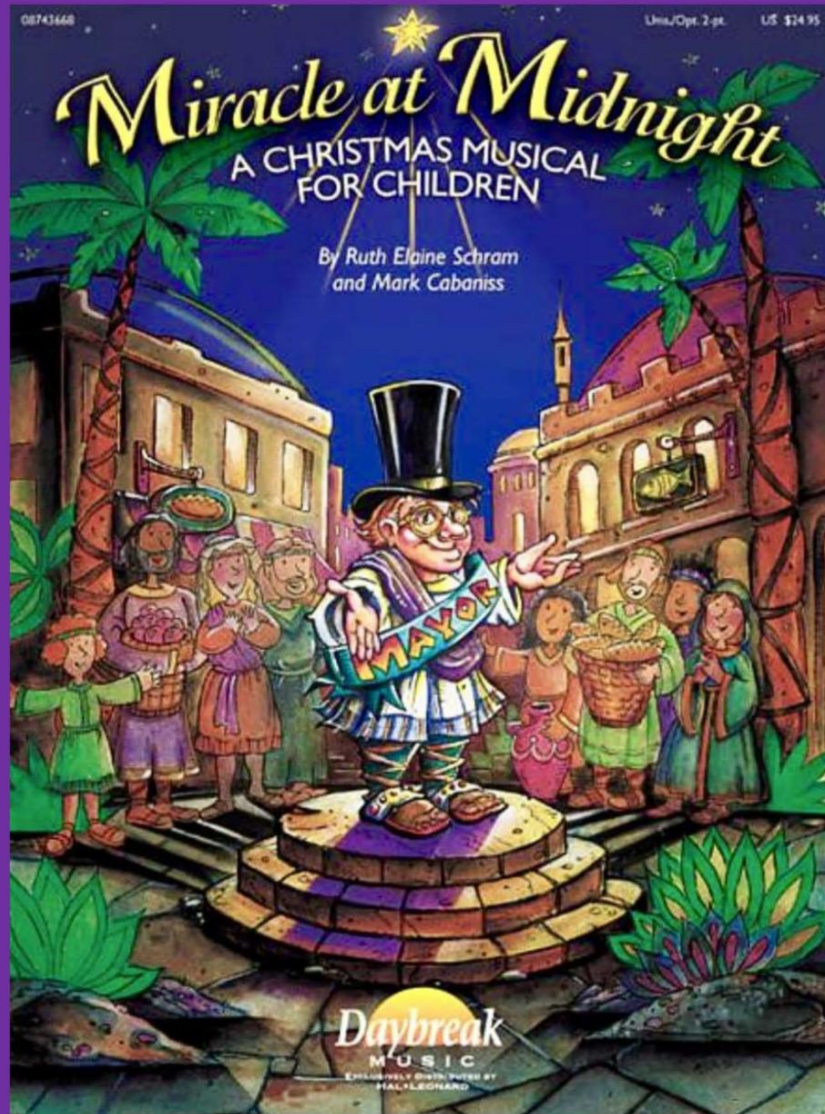
Families interested in applying for tuition assistance for the 2024/2025 academic year, the FACTS application is open. The deadline for applying is March 13, 2024.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you identify two things you really like about yourself? Once you identified those, did you take time to thank God for the gifts and talents he bestowed on you? Did you think about how you can take those pieces of yourself that you really like and discern how you can use them to create Holy Moments for others? In this season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ, may we take time to create some peace and quiet and remember that without Him we are nothing!

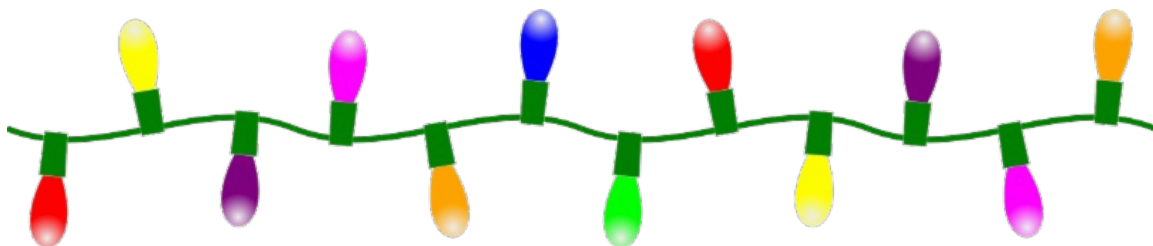


Holy Spirit School Presents:



Thursday December 14, 2023, 7 p.m.

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



Miracle At Midnight

**K-4 Christmas Musical
December 14 at 7:00pm**

Costume and Call Sheet for the Christmas Musical

Miracle At Midnight

The Christmas Performance is **December 14th @ 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, with white socks and black uniform 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.

2nd Grade- "Camels"

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

3rd Grade- "Townspeople"

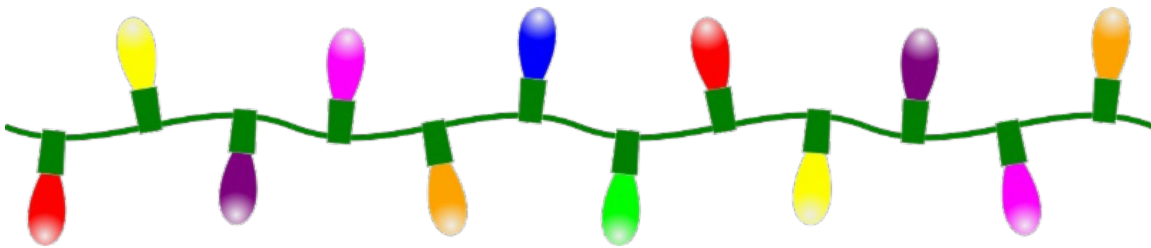
The 3rd Graders will wear long sleeve T-shirts in any shade of blue and khaki pants, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking Biblical!

4th Grade- Main Cast

Please see your child's Fourth Grade Music Schoology Page regarding costume essentials for the individual cast member.

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 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m.

Free Admission

Looking for a service project for your family?



PLEASE
JOIN HOLY SPIRIT'S
STUDENT COUNCIL FOR

*Wreaths Across
America*

SATURDAY

16

AT 7:30 AM

DECEMBER

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY

PLEASE EMAIL MRS. WEBB
TWEBB@HOLYSPIRITFLAMES.ORG

*Remember the fallen... Honor those who serve... TEACH our
children the value of freedom.*



These are not complete dress down days, but students may wear their accessories each day with their regular uniform.

**Partners in Faith December Newsletter and Family Advent Calendar
NEW!!**

2023 Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 December This is the first of Advent and there is a gift for every child every night this week.	4 Light one candle each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"	5 Go to the airport. Nobody uses. Add Christmas decorations throughout Advent. Save them for the family.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Encourage everyone to practice what they preach in honor of St. Nicholas.	7 On the Holy Day of Christmas, when the angels sang to the shepherds, they said: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor is bestowed."	8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary On the Holy Day of Christmas, when the angels sang to the shepherds, they said: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor is bestowed."	9 Decorate a tree, sing songs, and have a special meal. See www.catholic.org .
10 Light two candles each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"	11 Call or email your pastor or priest and ask how you might contribute to the preparation for Christmas.	12 The First Lady of Guadalupe The Virgin Mary became a sister of Mary and Mary Magdalene. She is the patroness of the Americas.	13 An angel will appear to each one of you that has been baptized for Christmas.	14 Invite visitors, perform a skit, or sing a Christmas carol. See www.catholic.org .	15 Catholic families should have a special Christmas Eve meal. See www.catholic.org .	16 Sing God's word in Christmas carols to a family or group of friends with other carols.
17 Sunday Light two candles each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"	18 Place a candle in the manger to represent the infant Jesus.	19 Encourage everyone to practice what they preach in honor of St. Nicholas.	20 Sing, write, or draw a Christmas card for the family.	21 Share Christmas stories and songs.	22 Ask everyone to make a special meal for God, and for today.	23 Sing God's word in Christmas carols to a family or group of friends with other carols.
24 Read about the great news the night of the birth of Jesus.	25 Rejoice! The baby Jesus has been born! Sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"	"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. This was the first census, which quirens was prepared to give, to all men to be enrolled, such as this was done. And Joseph was sent up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David. He went with Mary, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)				

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 informer 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 in 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 is happening around the world. Still, we know we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year. Sweep the dust, Jesus chose lowly circumstances for His birth to encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys to 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 shepherds in the fields that night weren't the most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to give 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" (Isaiah 7:14) (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)

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.



HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

PSA Winter

After School Enrichment

Winter Fitness & Movement

Mondays December 11th - February 12th
(No sessions 12/25, 1/1 & 1/15)

Open to students in Pre K - Kindergarten
3:15 - 4:00 PM directly after school
\$145 for 7 sessions - All equipment is provided!





SCAN ME

REGISTER NOW

WWW.THEPSASPORTS.COM

Admin@ThePSASports.com

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming PTO Events

Sunday, November 26th – December 17th

Christmas Tree Sales

See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

Thursday & Friday, December 7-8

Christmas Boutique

Details sent home via backpack mail.

Saturday, December 9th

Gingerbread House Decorating 4:30pm

Holy Spirit Cafeteria

See flier for more information and Volunteer Opportunities below to help out.

Thursday, December 14th

PTO Sponsored Luncheon for Holy Spirit Staff

See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

Saturday, December 16th

Dinner at Panera - 4pm – 8pm

6230 Rolling Rd Suite V, West Springfield

25% of sales donated back to Holy Spirit! See flier below for more information.

Tuesday, December 19th

PTO Board Meeting - CANCELLED

Holy Spirit Christmas Ornament Sale

See flier below for information on how to order.

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

Christmas Tree Sales November 26 – December 17

Sales begin on Sunday, November 26th. Help is requested for setup, sales and breakdown. We need two families per weekday sales shift and three families per weekend sales shift. This is a family event! Bring your spouse, kids, aunts, uncles, grandparents. Parents will earn PSSC service hours and teens can earn their service hours as well!

Questions? Contact Jouhn Borja PTOChristmasTrees@holyspiritflames.org

Christmas Boutique Volunteers December 6-8

Help is needed with set up/decorating on December 6th as well as 'running the show' on December 7th & 8th. Feel free to dress in fun holiday attire!

Gingerbread House Decorating December 9

The Craft Committee is looking for some help baking gingerbread houses and constructing houses for the December 9th event. Baking will be at home, dough and pattern will be provided.
Questions? Contact Stephanie Thull stephthull@gmail.com

Staff Luncheon December 14

The Hospitality Committee is hosting a holiday lunch for the staff on Thursday, December 14th.
Volunteers are requested for donations and holiday cookie baking.

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.



Santa's Secret Shop IS COMING SOON!
Get that special gift for everyone on your list!

Dates: December 7th and 8th

**Please consider volunteering your time at the
Boutique!**

Look for the volunteer sign-up on Connect1





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!

Women's Council

Please join the Women's Council on December 14 for some Christmas cheer. Bring your favorite appetizer to share. The Christmas party is in McGivney Hall from 6 to 8 pm.

Holy Spirit Church supports A Women's Choice, so if you can bring an unwrapped baby item, you will give Christmas cheer to a baby and his or her family.

All women of Holy Spirit Church are members of the Women's Council. There are no dues or formal meetings. Bring a friend, meet new women in the parish and celebrate the Christmas season with caroling.



An Exploration of the 16 Documents of the Vatican II Council with Fr. Jordan Willard
Thursdays 7 – 8 pm in the Narthex Annunciation Room

Document #1

LUMEN GENTIUM DOGOMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH

"When this whole Church, anointed as it is by the Holy Spirit, believes together, the truth of the faith is absolutely undeniable... [T]he Spirit gives gifts to each person and assists each in using them well." (12)
[Referenced in the Gen'l. Constitutions art. 99.1.]

As this is a seminar discussion format, each week the participants will be sent the material to read in advance in order to be prepared to join the conversation.

Email Fr. Jordan Willard at frjordan@holyspiritchurch.us to register

Last Session:
December 14

Men's Club Sponsored Event:

Advent Party & Jazz Quartet

The Hot Lanes with Bobby Jasinki
...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 Thieman
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

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 proclivities

*Advent spiritual reading

*Ask Him for help with anything

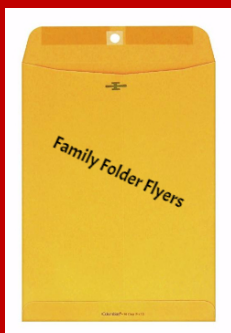
*Bring your family members intentions to Him

*Rosary and/or Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Bring Him your worries and desires

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

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "December 7, 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. Partners in Faith Family Advent Calendar
4. Wreaths Across America flyer
5. Miracle At Midnight Costume list
6. PSA Winter Excercise flyer
7. NJHS Mini Christmas Spirit Week flyer

PTO Flyers:

1. Santa Boutique flyer
2. Gingerbread House Decorating flyer
3. Panera Bread Fundraiser flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Women's Council Christmas Party
2. Men's Club Advent Party
3. Vatican II Document Study
4. Parish Adoration

Community Flyers:

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

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