



January 11, 2024



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

Up and Down

The weather in terms of temperature has certainly been up and down of late. I know I sound like a broken record, but we do try to be outside in the fresh air as much as possible instead of having everyone cooped up indoors. That being said, it is important for your children to have actual coats, hats, and mittens/gloves to keep them warm.

As we turn into the second part of the school year, I encourage you to reset your efforts in getting to school on time. We have crept into the time of year where more and more families are arriving after the 8:00 am bell has rung. Please remember that those ten minutes of time in the classroom are important for students to be able to start their academic day off on the best foot possible as they need time to organize themselves and their materials for learning.

Last night we had the second of our Open Houses for prospective families. It was well attended and our student tour guides were phenomenal. It is always wonderful to hear from families how well spoken and knowledgeable the students are about our school. We thank them all!

The first round of acceptance letters for new students went out on January 8th. If you have not returned your Financial Contract for the 24/25 academic year, it is past due.

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.

A few schedule reminders:

Friday, January 12 is an early dismissal day with NO afternoon extended day. Interims for

T2 go home this day for grades 3-8 as well as the Prekindergarten Progress Reports.

Monday, January 15 is a NO school day in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

The Winter testing session of the NWEA begins on January 16th; information on specific testing days for grades 3-7 will be available from the classroom teachers.

Thursday, January 18th is a PTO Spirit Gear Day.

Friday, January 19th is a NO school day as Father has closed the school in order to accommodate out-of-town groups who seek lodging as they attend the annual March for Life.

I highly encourage families to participate in the March for Life. The Holy Spirit Parish has planned events and transportation available; see the flyer below in the parish section.

Information regarding our Catholic Schools Week schedule may be found below.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you take time to get enough sleep? Throughout the week the children were reminded that the Bible tells us that our human body is a temple for the Holy Spirit and that we are charged with taking care of it. Setting an example for our children is important albeit hard with the many, many demands of parenthood. Nonetheless, I hope you take time to rest and recharge!





Schedule of Events 2024

Sunday, January 28

- Beginning of Catholic Schools Week.
- Wear your uniform to Sunday Mass to show your school pride.

Monday, January 29

- **"Parent Appreciation Day"**
- Look for your parent "thank you" in the morning carpool line.
- Prayer Service – 8:30am

Tuesday, January 30

- **"Student Appreciation" Day**
- Dress-down day (follow school policy for dress-down days)
- Spelling Bee finals in the Quinn rm.
 - 9:15 6,7,8
 - 10:15 3&4
 - 11:15 1&2
- Students will have movie/popcorn in the afternoon in the gym at 1:15

Wednesday, January 31

- **"Faculty and Staff Appreciation" Day**
- **8:30 – 9:15 Ned Mindset Mission Assembly** (for students)
- PTO lunch for the faculty.
- This is a great opportunity for your student(s) to write a note of appreciation to their teacher(s).

Thursday, February 1

- **"Service Day"**
- Students will create cards for Letters of Love
- Each prayer partner pair will create a card and a friendship bracelet to send to children with cancer.
- Parent volunteers needed look for the signup in Connect1.

Friday, February 2

- "Clergy Appreciation Day"
 - 9:00am School Mass
 - Students will honor not only the work that Father O'Donohue, Father Willard, Fr. Agure, Deacon Grodek and Deacon D'Souza do within the school and parish community, but also the efforts of those involved with the parish Religious Education and youth ministry.
-



Little Medical School is now offering
Little Nutrition School at
Holy Spirit School!



These future dieticians will learn about healthy eating habits, the food pyramid, and global foods through our nutrition workbook *Asha's Magical Ride*. They'll learn how to identify "red light" foods (added sugars, solid fat, etc) and learn how to do "switcheroos" and how to create healthier alternatives for snack and meal recipes! Finally, they'll explore careers in the nutrition field and design their dream nutrition job with a graduation ceremony on the last class!

THURSDAYS STARTING JANUARY 18TH THRU FEBRUARY 22ND

3:30PM - 4:30PM

GRADES K-2 WELCOME

6-WEEK CLASS

Questions?
Contact Colleen Esposito
at
CESPOSITO@LITTLEMEDICALSCHOOL.COM

INTERESTED?
**SCAN
HERE
TO
REGISTER**



Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2024

Holy Spirit School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St. Marguerite desired early on to become a missionary. A friend introduced her to the mayor of Ville Marie (now Montreal, Canada) and, at his invitation, St. Marguerite traveled to Canada to teach the children of the colony. She was later joined by several women - all consecrated to God and devoted to teaching and Works of Mercy. In 1674, she gained approval for her order, the Congregation of Notre-Dame de Montreal.



Fishers of Men

Some of the first apostles were fishermen working in the Sea of Galilee. The fish were known for their quality and commanded a high price. Next time you eat fresh fish, remember Peter and Simon, James and John, the hard-working fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Shape children's hearts with virtues

A key element of Catholic parenting is to shape the hearts of our children, not just manage their behavior. One way to shape a child's heart is to offer opportunities to grow in virtue.

Modesty: Modesty protects the intimate center of a person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden.

Modesty teaches in youngsters a respect for the human person. Teach them to dress, speak, and take in entertainment that is wholesome, uplifting, and respectful of themselves and others.

Faithfulness: When children see that their parents are faithful to one another, for example, they imitate that faithfulness or fidelity means to act in a way that honors a commitment. Children may not always hear what we say, but they are influenced by what they see us do.

Mekness: Mekness is not timidity. It helps self control. St. Thomas Aquinas cautioned against expressing physical anger because it makes anger outlasted. Guide and model how to use meekness to manage anger. Mekness will help prevent evil from ruling actions.

Charity: "I... have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). Charity is giving love without an expectation of receiving in return. Teach children to not share needs first. They will find that as they grow in charity, they will be happier and more joy-filled.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have infants baptized?

As a Sacrament, Baptism conveys grace and the "washing away" of sin and the "rebirth" of the baptized as a child of God. It starts us on the sacred path to salvation: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will

be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Catholic parents, desiring the best for their children, baptize them as infants, believing it will give them the best chance of true joy in this life and eternal life in the next.



K - 8TH GRADE

FRIDAYS

3:20PM - 4:20PM

2/2 - 5/31
SKIPS: 9/16, 10/8, 10/29, 4/15, 4/26, 5/24

No club meeting on school closure or early dismissal days

TUITION: \$243 FOR 12 WEEKS



MAGNUS CHESS ACADEMY

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

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming PTO Events

Tuesday, January 16th

IN PERSON PTO Meeting 6:30pm – 7:30pm Room 14

See details below - Light refreshments and snacks will be served!

Thursday, February 1st – Friday, February 9th

Scholastic Book Fair – Connect1 signup and more details to come!

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

January PTO Meeting

Join us in person for drinks, snacks and Holy Spirit camaraderie on January 16th at 6:30pm. This in-person meeting will allow you to hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about upcoming events. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on events? This is a great opportunity for families to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. We will not have a zoom option for this month's meeting, so we hope to see you and be sure to sign up in [Connect1](#) so we can plan for food/drinks appropriately as well as to earn PSSC points for attending.

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Recess Duty

Volunteers are still needed for the remainder of the school year for recess duty. Families who have completed their required commitment of one day are eligible for four PSSC points for each additional day served. See [Connect1](#) to view available slots and other details.

Questions? Contact Amy Mannion PTORECESSDUTY@holyspiritflames.org

Spring Fundraiser Chair and Co-Chair (40 PSSC points each) Virtus Certification is NOT required

Do you love Spring and organizing fun events? Would you like to plan and execute our Spring fundraising activities during this year's Talent Show? This Chair/Co Chair role includes coordinating with classroom parents to develop class baskets and identification of fun "perks" and raffle ideas. It requires at least 3 months of support to ensure a smooth but exciting series of activities to raise money for the school and new ideas are always welcome!

Questions? Contact Toni O'Neill PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

In order to volunteer with any youth in the Arlington Diocese, you must be [Child Protection Compliant](#).

It is time to pull out those dancing shoes, warm up those instruments, dust off your best jokes and get ready to WOW! our

HOLY SPIRIT TALENT SHOWCASE & DANCE



SIGNUP DAY

Want to Perform in the Show?
Come Sign Up!!



When: February 13, 2024

Where: Holy Spirit Quinn Room

Time: 3:15 – 5:00pm

Auditions/registrations are open to all students who want to perform in the show on April 13, 2024.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:
SINGERS, ACTORS, JUGGLERS, MAGICIANS, MUSICIANS, COMEDIANS, MARTIAL ARTISTS,
DANCERS, CLOWNS

*** ANY TYPE OF PERFORMANCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO ***

PERFORMER PARTICIPATION SIGNUP

Student's Name: _____

Performing with (if in a group) _____

Talent/Act: _____

Everyone who signs up to perform will perform. Please keep your act to 4 minutes. If you cannot make it on February 13 but want to perform, email Joe Terpenning (jterpenning@infinetitech.org) to discuss.



NOTES FOR AUDITION MONITORS:

TIME LENGTH: _____

SONG NAME: _____

STAGE NEEDS: _____

For Singers: Using a karaoke version of song or regular version: _____



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 - 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 for activities where students are present.

Parish Happenings!



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

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!

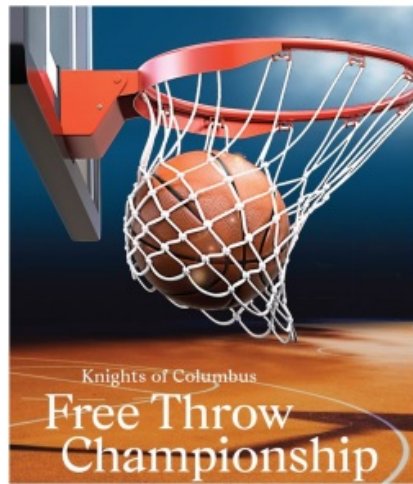
InovaBlood.org


01/06/24 11:21

2024 Annual Holy Spirit Free Throw Contest

- **Who:** Boys and Girls aged 9 and Under, 10-14 yrs. (12 age/gender categories)
- **Where:** Holy Spirit School Gym
- **When:** Sunday afternoon, January 14th, 2024
 - Registration begins at 7:30 pm
 - Contest begins at 7:45 pm
- **What:**
 - FREE contest
 - Contestants shoot 15 free throws for record
 - Winners get an engraved plaque and advance to District contest in February
 - Basketballs are provided (*please do not bring any*)
 - Registration forms available on site

Questions? Contact knights@holyspritchurch.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

NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

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 (6 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 prices above 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 15, 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 Waiver. All cancellations must be received in writing.
Travel Insurance: Cancel for any reason (CFAR) based protection is highly recommended. See travel insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47901&pr=C1321

CORPORATE TRAVEL 866.468.1420 | NEC@CTSCENTRAL.NET

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "January 11, 2024" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Catholic Schools Weeks Schedule
3. Partners in Faith (January) newsletter

4. Chess Club Winter Session flyer
5. Little Nutrition School flyer

PTO Flyers:

1. PTO Talentshow Sign Up

Parish Flyers:

1. Eucharistic Conference 2024
2. Seminary Visit
3. March for Life 2024
4. Blood Drive flyer
5. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition

Community Flyers:

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

[Unsubscribe pto@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:pto@holyspiritflames.org)

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