

January 4, 2024



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

Merry Christmas Still!

We are so very fortunate as Catholics to still be in our Christmas season as we celebrate through this coming weekend with the Solemnity of the Epiphany on January 7 and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th. I hope that you take time this weekend to honor these days while emphasizing with your family the importance of Christmas beyond the decorated trees and special packages which can become a real focus of our time and attention.

I am so happy to welcome Mrs. Susan Kahn to our school community in her role as School Receptionist. As you come and go with your children for appointments, etc., please be sure to introduce yourself!

Additionally, I am thrilled to have Mrs. Rachel McBride in a new role in the school, that of kindergarten aide. She took over that position in Mrs. Paulson's classroom when we returned from the break. I am sure her upbeat disposition will be a great fit with those kiddos.

With her move to the classroom, we are now in search of someone to take over Mrs. McBride's "old role" of recess monitor. This is a two-day/week commitment (Tuesday and Wednesday) from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. If you or someone you know might be interested, please reach out to me via email.

With all of the "weather talk" this week, I thought it prudent to remind families that we follow the Fairfax County Public School System with regard to inclement weather related closings and late arrivals. Be sure to watch your local news and/or follow FCPS on their social media for information. School policies with regard to inclement weather closings can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook.

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.

And, of course, it wouldn't be January without the annual Catholic Schools Week celebration which begins on Sunday, January 28th. Watch for information regarding our planned events.

A reminder that Family Financial Contracts for the 2024/2025 academic year are due back tomorrow, Friday, January 5, 2024. If you are in need of an additional copy of the contract, you may access it below.

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.

[Family Financial Contract 2024 2025](#)



This week we did not have a specific Holy Moments challenge due to the short week.

I started reading a book (it is a pretty short, quick read) which I think dovetails so well with the idea of Holy Moments and what can be accomplished when being intentional in our interactions with others. The book is entitled: *Deep Kindness: A Revolutionary Guide for the Way We Think, Talk and Act in Kindness* and is written by Houston Kraft. Check it out!

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 1676, 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 there 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).



© Copyright 2024 Sacrament Publishing & Media, LLC

Shape children's hearts with virtues

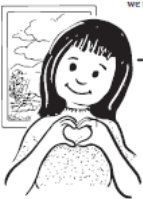
A key element of Catholic parenting is to shape the hearts of our children, not just manage their behavior. One way to shape a child's heart is to offer opportunities to grow in virtue:

Modesty: "Modesty protects the intimate center of a person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden" (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2521). Modesty awakens 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 intuit 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.

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

Charity: "If 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 put others' 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 surest 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: 2/16, 3/6, 3/29, 4/5, 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



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, dicing, chopping, nesting and more
- Learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits
- Explore international cuisine
- Further develop social-emotional learning and executive functions skills

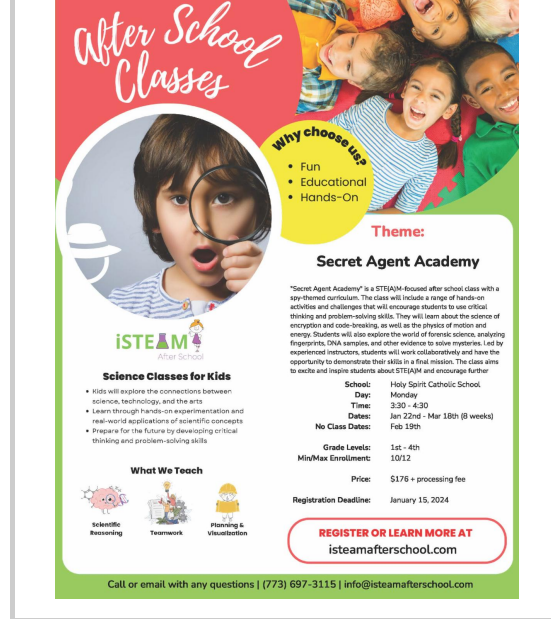
What We Teach

- 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

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

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

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](#).

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!

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

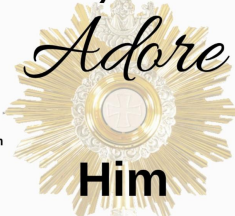
Bus departure at 11:15 am.

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

Come, Let Us

Adore

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!

Him

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

*Just sit in His presence to
sort out proitites

*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!



NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

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

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.



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 Waiver. All cancellations must be received in writing.

Travel Insurance: Cancel for any reason ("CFAR") travel protection is highly recommended.

See Travel Insurance link: www.travelinsuranceagency.com/agency?agency=48700&ip=CT1521



CORPORATE TRAVEL

866.468.1420 | NEC@CTS-CENTRAL.NET



NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress



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

© 2023 INOVA

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "January 4, 2024" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Partners in Faith (January) 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. Eucharistic Conference 2024
2. Parish Adoration
3. Seminary Visit
4. Coffee with Rebecca
5. March for Life 2024
6. Blood Drive flyer

Community Flyers:

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

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bypto@holyspiritflames.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!