

March 11, 2021



Holy Spirit School ***Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts*** **2020/2021**

"Protect the Creation; Praise the Creator"

I am sure you noticed....



A construction crew has been at work for a couple of days now as the parish continues to prepare for the new edition to the church building. The crew has been widening one portion of the road in front of the school.

As I mentioned previously, we will have a new traffic pattern for the duration of the construction project. It has been decided that the road in front of the church will be closed to thru traffic and the road in front of the school will become a two-way road.

For purposes of drop off and pick up from the lower lot, cars will enter the campus from Woodland Way and will turn left in order to travel down the hill towards the school. Cars will

continue past the school, turn right heading into the lower lot, continue to the top of the hill and then create the same lines we have always had.

It will be very important that no one attempts to "cut corners" across the lower lot; please follow all traffic directional signs.

Students will still be dropped off on the sidewalk in front of the school, exiting the cars only from the right side of the vehicle.

It will be imperative that parents do not attempt to exit their car for safety purposes and in order to not impede the flow of incoming cars.

With regard to afternoon dismissal, nothing will change for prekindergarten, kindergarten or vanpool pickup.

For those who make use of the lower lot for afternoon pickup, you will follow the same traffic pattern as the morning.

If you are picking up from the lower lot and your child is delayed in exiting the building, you will not be able to pull forward and wait like we currently do since that will halt all cars from exiting. If your child is late, you will be asked to continue on and pull into the upper lot. Your child will walk up the sidewalk that leads from the school to the upper lot.

The change in traffic pattern is currently scheduled to begin on April 2nd, so for us, we will be implementing these new procedures when we return from the Easter break. Of course we will have additional faculty and staff positioned to assist as this starts.



There has been much in the news this week as we are set to mark the one year anniversary of when our world turned upside down with the closing of schools for in-person instruction due to the onset of the global coronavirus pandemic.

It is amazing to reflect back on the days leading up to the closure when there was much conjecture as to whether the schools in Virginia would close. I recall making the decision, out of an abundance of caution, to send our students home with all of their books on Thursday, March 12th, but thinking we would be back the next day. We pushed forward that evening with the middle school musical and then it happened, we received word that indeed schools were closing. We took Friday, March 13th as a day off from school; the students had Monday, March 16th off as teachers turned on a dime and prepared for online learning. And, on Tuesday,

March 17th we were up and running with asynchronous learning taking place.

I continue to marvel at the resiliency of our teachers and staff, but just as equally of our students and parents. Teachers dedicated themselves to seeing that the major curriculum concepts were completed and they implemented as quickly as possible resources and platforms that would move the learning forward. The endless creativity of teachers came forward with videos of lessons and we relished the continued prayer services and other special events during the months leading to June.

The phrase, "parents are the primary educators of their children" took on a whole new meaning. The sacrifices that parents made in their daily schedules in order to provide a routine and structure for their children was paramount in us being able to find any and all success.

The PTO was pivotal in making sure we were (and still are) #holyspiritstrong. They pressed forward with the Talent Show and provided behind the scenes support to the teachers on a regular basis.

We were thrilled to provide an in-person graduation Mass and ceremony for the class of 2020 and we looked forward to the days when we caught glimpses of our students and families in person as they drove through the campus or lunched on the lawn out front.

The summer months brought there own stressors as we navigated the requirements of opening our school for in-person instruction. Sadly, the year's policies and procedures meant not having some of our families return, but the opportunity to open brought us new families and friendships and the ability to spread the joy of Catholic education to many who had not been a part of it before.

I look forward to continuing the year and finding ways to open up and reimplement some of the "traditional" ways we have done things. Keeping our community healthy is key to this happening.

I think the week's warm weather has renewed our optimism that school life will continue to open itself up and that Holy Spirit School and Catholic education will emerge stronger. It is faith that has brought us through it all and it is faith that we will always stand on as the foundation of all we do.



8A Cast



8T Cast

Congratulations to all involved in the production of High School Musical Jr.!

Today's shows were terrific. I am so very proud of all of the 8th graders for taking on a multitude of roles for this production. The prop pieces created by the 7th grade students were spot on as our gym was transformed into East High School. And the talents of the 6th graders who lent their voices to the large group songs was the icing on the cake.

A huge thank you to all of the teachers who assisted with the production, but in particular, this production would not have happened without the energy, creativity, and dedication of Mr. Toussaint, Mrs. Wisneski, Mrs. Liss and Mr. Sibal.

If you have not yet signed and returned the Financial Contract for the 2021/2022 academic year, please take a moment to so do.

Tuition Structure Letter to Families

Financial Contract
2021/2022

A few reminders:

Friday, March 12th - **End of Trimester 2**

Tuesday, March 16 - **PTO meeting**

Wednesday, March 17 - Deadline for apply for **tuition assistance** through FACTS

Wednesday, March 17 - Students may wear **St. Patrick's Day accessories** with regular uniform

Thursday, March 18 - **PTO Spirit Day**

Thursday, March 18 - **T2 Report Cards go home** for K-8

Friday, March 19 - **NO school for students**; teacher professional development day

Monday, March 22 - **Crazy Sock Day** in recognition of Down Syndrome Awareness

Monday, March 22 - **Stations of the Cross** - grades 6-8

Tuesday, March 23 - **Vocations Awareness Day** - 8th Grade

Tuesday, March 23 - **Middle School Parent Meeting** regarding The Gift of Human Sexuality program

Wednesday, March 24 - **Confessions** - grades 5-8

Thursday, March 25 - **St. Isidore of Seville** prayer service

Friday, March 26 - **Spring Pictures** - watch for more information

Monday, 29 - **Stations of the Cross** - grades Prek - 5

Wednesday, March 31 - **Confessions** - grades 2-4

April 1 - **Living Stations of the Cross** presented by the 8th grade

April 2 - April 11 - **Easter break**

April 12 - Return to school - **Spring uniform begins**

-Maureen Ashby

Principal



Holy Spirit School's Lenten Project

Thank you to those who have made our tree project a part of your Lenten sacrifice. We have thus far raised just over \$1,500.00!

**So, will we keep going?
Of course!**

As you might imagine, a project like this has many components to it, so although we have reached the initial goal of raising enough money for the seeds, we will now look to contribute to other needs.

This project lists items from wheelbarrows, to watering cans, to plant food, etc. so, we will continue on in order to make the biggest impact we can.

Through charitable works and sacrifices, help us to raise \$1500.00 this Lenten season to purchase seeds for 6000 trees to populate a tree nursery near a newly built village in Balan, Haiti.

Operation Starfish was established in 1998 by Nativity Parish in Burke. Since its inception, 11 "Nativity Villages" have been completed and the 12th is nearing completion. Operation Starfish works in close connection with Food for the Poor to accomplish their ambitious goals.

Our own Ms. Garcia (PreK teacher) has participated in this mission work and has had the privilege of traveling to Haiti.

As we continue to explore and expand on this year's theme of caring for God's creation, this is a wonderful example for the children how the good works of ourselves and others can have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of others.

The current village is being built in Balan and the project goal is to plant 6000 trees—primarily

fruit and moringa trees which are high in fibre, zinc, and help regulate blood sugar. This project will help with reforestation, soil erosion, and provide shade. The trees will also absorb pollutants, and provide oxygen through photosynthesis. In addition, they will be a food source.

So, how is this a Lenten project?

Teachers will be explaining the project to the children and showing them a part of a video so they can see the village under construction and “meet” some of the families who are beneficiaries. We are hoping that through small sacrifices (for instance, if your family decides to forgo eating out during Lent, that a small portion of what is saved might be donated to the cause. Or, if your child decides to “add” to their Lenten journey by doing something extra at home to help out, that some small change might be provided that they can then donate.

Collection containers will be available in the classrooms and we will track, as a school, our progress.

Truly this is not meant to be just a donation, but instead a great way to converse with your child about the season of Lent and the ultimate sacrifice that Our Lord made for us.



It's Recorder Time!!

It is recorder time for those in 3rd & 4th Grade!
All students will need to bring a soprano recorder, a two pocket folder and a pencil to school for music class starting in Trimester 3!

Your first day of recorder will be:

3rd Grade:

3J- Thursday, March 18

3M- Monday, March 15

4th Grade:

4L- Friday, March 26

4R- Monday, March 15

Recorder attendance and class preparedness will be reflected in their music grade.

Where to Get a Recorder:

The recommended brand is Yamaha, which you can find at the following locations:

Music and Arts Center- Locations in Springfield, Falls Church, Oakton, Burke, Mclean and more. Please visit musicarts.com for inquiries.

Twinbrooke Music- in the Twinbrooke Shopping Center. Please visit Themusicstores.com for inquiries.

Amazon.com- search "Yamaha soprano recorder."

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Toussaint.
atoussaint@holyspiritflames.org

Used Uniform Sale - COMING SOON!!!



When: March TBD

Time: TBD

Where: Holy Spirit School – Quinn Room

Cost: \$5 per item (\$1 for socks/tights)

How to Pay: Cash or Check (made out to the Holy Spirit PTO)

ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE HELP STOCK the SALE!!!

**DONATE ANY USED UNIFORMS THAT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED to THE OFFICE or
SEE MELANIE in VANPOOL SLOT 2**

Important Details-

- Masks will be required
- Limited volume of shoppers at one time, as needed
- Enter and exit through the Quinn Room's SIDE DOOR
- Plan ahead - bring a list of items and sizes needed
- Shopping preference - one shopper per family, if possible

Support this PTO Fundraiser While Getting a Great Deal!

Spring Pictures Friday, March 26th

Students are welcome to wear their BEST DRESS for the Spring pictures.

They may not wear athletic wear, jeans, spaghetti strap dresses or tops, tank tops, open toed shoes or shoes of any sort with an open back.

Spring pictures let you be you!

Order before Picture Day on: **mylifetouch.com**



Friday, March 26, 2021
Holy Spirit School

- ① Visit: **mylifetouch.com**
- ② Enter your Picture Day ID: **EVTMNRMRK**
- ③ Order your perfect package—and don't worry about returning anything on Picture Day!

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REWARDS™ Order online and receive exclusive offers from Lifetouch Rewards.

Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 800-736-4753.

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SCHOOL

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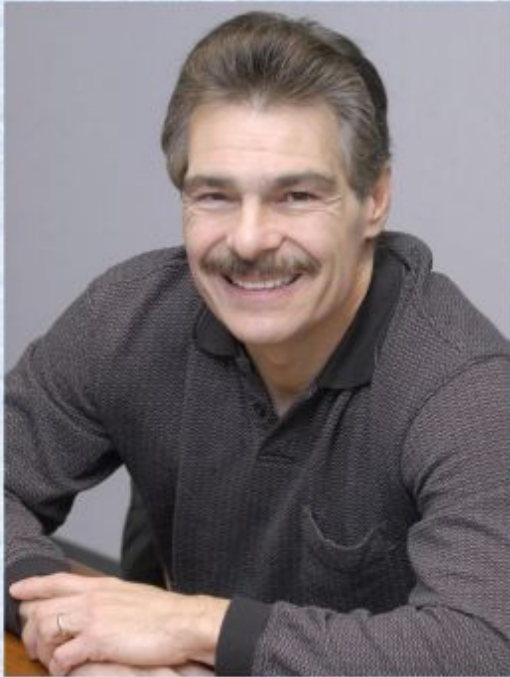
\$20 until APRIL 16, 2021

School Code: 11439521

Lifetouch.

Standing Strong as a Parent with Dr. Ray Guarendi

For the Holy Spirit Catholic School Community



Dr. Ray Guarendi is a Catholic father of ten adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker, and national radio and television host. His radio show, “The Dr. Is In” can be heard on over 440 stations and Sirius XM channel 130. His TV show, “Living Right With Dr. Ray” can be seen on EWTN Global Catholic Network and is aired in 140 countries. Check out www.drray.com for more information.

March 25, 2021 at 7 p.m. on Zoom
**Please RSVP [here](#) to ensure we have
enough Zoom slots available.**

Sponsored by the Holy Spirit PTO

Required Symptom Screening Questionnaire

We continue to work on an App for the daily health screening. Students must continue to arrive at school each day with a paper copy of the completed form. We are asking for the paper copy for now as trying to manage emails from families at the start of each day

Required Symptom Screening Questionnaire - 8.27.2020

Parish Happenings!

Covid can't stop the Love! The Squire Roses are sponsoring the



Soup Supper Drive Thru!

6 Fridays of Lent
February 19 - March 26

Come Join Us!
Drive Thru Upper Parking Lot 5:30-7pm

Soup Makers Needed!
Sign Up Today!
(see website for details)



SIGNUP,
www.holyspiritchurch.us

QUESTIONS?
Soupsupper@holyspiritchurch.us



Holy Spirit Youth Ministry
Large Group Meetings - High School & Middle School

Sunday Night Holy Hours


Youth & Jesus

Come Encounter Him

7:00-8:30pm
February 14 & 28
March 14 & 28
April 11

Join us for reflection on Lenten topics, confession, prayer time, and beautiful meditative music

www.holyspiritchurch.us/youthministry




Easter Candy Collection

Dropoff *Palm Sunday Mar. 28*

The Office of Parish Activities & Youth Ministry is collecting Easter candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in April. Drop off donations in the metal bins outside the Church.



 www.holyspiritchurch.us



Catholic Women's Bible Study

Do you desire to grow in your Catholic faith? Do you seek connection with other women in our parish community? We invite you to consider joining us this spring!


In-Person, Parish Center Large & Small Meeting Rooms

April 13 - June 8 **April 15 - June 10**
Tuesday Mornings *Thursday Evenings*
9:45-11:00 a.m. 7:30-8:30 p.m.

April 15 - June 10
Thursday Evenings, (Virtual) 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Register at holyspiritchurch.us/wwwp
Or visit, wwwp@holyspiritchurch.us

walking with purpose



5 Car Raffle

**5 - 2021 VEHICLES *plus*
20 CASH Drawings**

**1 - \$5.00 Ticket gives you a chance
to win ALL 25 prizes, including:**

2021 Honda Odyssey Van
2021 Honda CRV SUV
2021 GMC Canyon Truck
2021 Buick Encore
2021 Honda Civic

**Plus 20 CASH Drawings totaling
\$20,000**

Drawings held April 24, 2021

**To obtain tickets, see the bulletin or website,
www.holyspiritchurch.us**

Sponsored by: ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cars Provided By: Joyce Koons of Manassas

Community Happenings!

Theater Sports



Theater Sports are short and funny improv games that will get you up and moving after a long day of distance learning and socially distancing. Whether you are bashful, brazen, or somewhere in the middle, Theater Sports let your inner actor shine!

Wednesday, March 10 @ 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24 @ 4:00 p.m.

For Ages 10 and up



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



**Boy Scout
MULCH**

ORDER NOW!
Delivery Date, Saturday, March 27

www.annandale50.mytroop.us

 HOLY Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder

labeled "March 11, 2021" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.



Family
Folder

School Flyers:

1. Spring Pictures flyer
2. Recorder instrument information for Grades 3 and 4
3. Yearbook order information
4. Lenten Service Project Information
5. Dr. Guarendi presentation flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Car raffle flyer
2. Lenten Soup Supper flyer
3. Sunday Night Holy Hours - Middle School Youth Group

Community Flyers:

1. Boy Scout Mulch Sale
2. Theater Sports