

From the Principal's Desk



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Inspiring Minds
Igniting Hearts

May 9, 2024

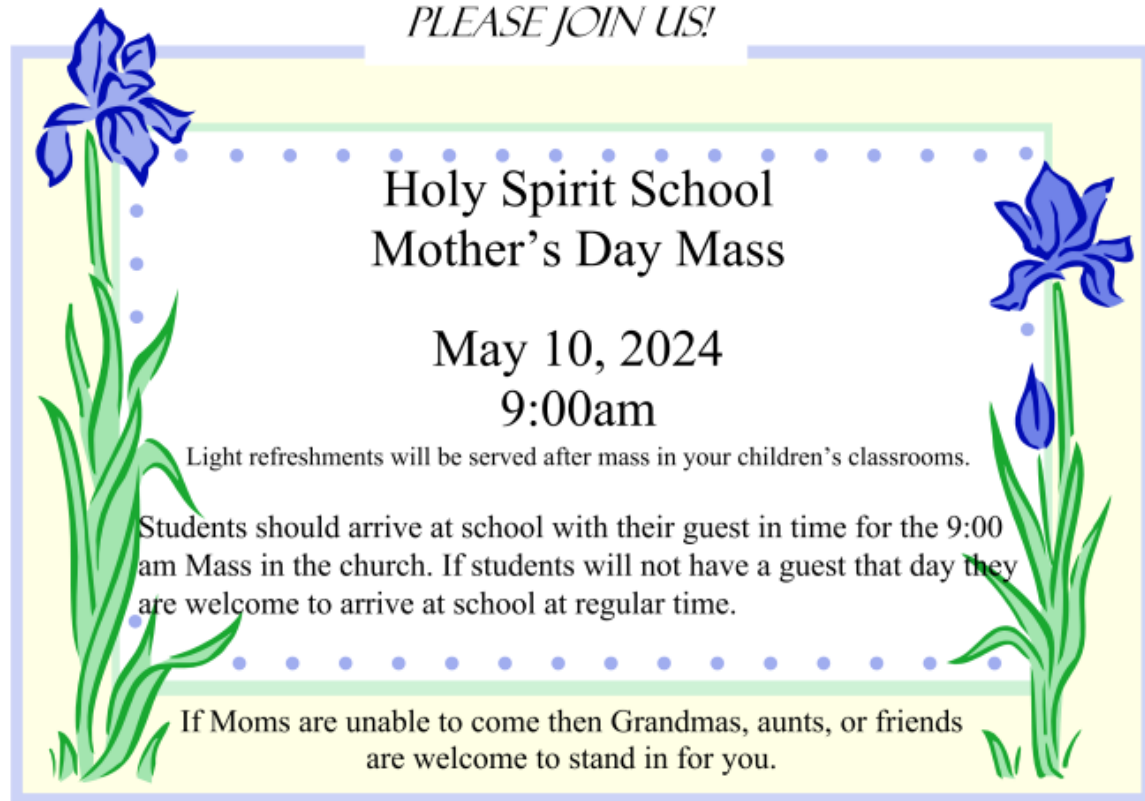


Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts
2023/2024
"Faithfulness"

Celebrating Our Mothers

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

PLEASE JOIN US!



Our rolling list of reminders!

We will **celebrate all of the mothers and women in our lives** on Friday, May 10th with Mass and receptions in the classrooms. See the flyer below with detail information.

Thursday, May 16th is the next **PTO Spirit Gear Day**.

We will also be attending Mass this day at 1:30pm to assist in opening the parish's **40 Hours Prayer Devotion**. Bishop Burbidge asks parishes to provide this opportunity for continuous public prayer in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Friday, May 17th is **FIELD DAY!** See the information above for needed help.

Saturday, May 18th is the **5K Spirit Run** benefiting the school's Resource Department. Have you registered yet?

The 8th grade will head to St. Paul VI High School to participate in the annual **Diocesan Shakespeare Festival** on May 20th.

Induction of new members to the **Holy Spirit School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society** is May 21st.

LUNCH ON THE LAWN will be on Wednesday, May 22nd. See the flyer below. There is NO hot lunch being served this day.

Friday, May 24th is an **early release** day with no afternoon Extended Day. And Monday, May 27th is a **school holiday for Memorial Day**.

The **Virtual Art Show** link will be available beginning May 27th; see the flyer below.

Final exams for Grades 6-8 will run from May 28 - May 31st.

5th Grade Move-Up Night Information Session will be May 29th at 6:00 pm. This session is both for parents and the rising 6th grade students.

The **Algebra and Geometry High School Exemption exams** will be held Saturday, June 1st.

8th Grade Mass and Graduation Awards Ceremony is Wednesday, June 5th at 7:00 pm.

The **last day of school for the Prekindergarten students** is Friday, June 7th.

The **Kindergarten Completion Ceremony** is Monday, June 10th at 10:00 am (students will go home with parents following the ceremony).

The **last day of school for Grades 1-7** is Tuesday, June 11th. This is an 11:30am dismissal day with no afternoon Extended Day.

Please be sure to watch the Schoology pages for items particular to your child.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you make time to pray each morning this week? As parents we are the primary educators of our children and they learn the most through following our example. Making prayer a priority in your home reaps rewards in the our families that are countless.



Right Around the Corner!!

And as if coming out and running on a Saturday morning to benefit a department vital to our school isn't enough...

The homeroom class with the greatest number of sign-ups wins an afternoon with Father O'Donohue!!!

9th Annual

5K RUN & WALK

SATURDAY
MAY 18, 2024

EARLY REGISTRATION
\$25
PER PERSON UNTIL
APRIL 24TH



ONLINE REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED.

To Support the Holy Spirit Resource Program

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE EMAIL:
sgibbons@holyspiritflames.org



[Click Here to Register!](#)

[Race Sponsorship Information](#)

Holy Spirit Virtual Art Show 2024



When: Monday May 27th-May 31st
Link will be posted on Schoology pages.

It's right around the corner!

Lunch on the Lawn



May 22, 2024

6, 7, 8th Grades 11:15-12:00

3, 4, 5th Grades 11:50-12:35

K, 1st, 2nd Grades 12:25-1:10

Prek - watch for information from your teacher as to the time

Students should bring a bag lunch and a towel/blanket on which to sit. We will eat on the parish lawn and enjoy the great outdoors!

Parents are highly encouraged to join us!

Please do not forget there is NO hot lunch served this day.



Mark Your Calendars!

The Keys to Success
Middle School Orientation

for

Fifth Grade Parents **AND** Students

WHEN: May 29, 2024 @ 6pm

WHERE: Holy Spirit Quinn Room

A "What You Can
Expect"
Information
Session



Please join us
for

Variations

Of a Traditional Christian Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

and other selections

Featuring: Keyboard, Ukulele, Handbells and Chorus

Thursday June 6, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

May's Partners in Faith Newsletter!



Thoughtful Moments

St. Athanasius of Alexandria
Born a Christian in Egypt, St. Athanasius became a priest and a great defender of the Catholic faith. He served as secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, and later succeeded him as bishop. Because of the terrible persecutions, he was exiled several times during his life and was (falsely) accused of murder by his enemies. By popular demand, Emperor Valens permitted St. Athanasius to return to his diocese. He spent the rest of his life working to defend Christ's divinity.

Our spiritual GPS

Children understand the importance of having guides. When we want to travel somewhere, a map or GPS can show us how to get there. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are like our spiritual GPS. If we follow them, we will get where Jesus wants us to go.

"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me" (Matthew 18:4-5).



Honor our Blessed Mother this month

In the month during which we honor our mothers, we give special honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus gave her to us as our Mother and we honor her for her love and care. Here's how we can show it:

Offer flowers: Flowers are a traditional way to show devotion. Place a flower crown on a statue of Mary in your home, plant a garden in her name, or place bouquets by her image. Praying the Rosary is also a way of giving flowers, with each prayer like a rose for Mary. **Give thanks:** We owe Mary our gratitude for agreeing to be God's mother, and ours, too. It is hard to comprehend the depth of the sacrifice involved in her "yes" to God.

Follow Mother's instructions:

Mary's requests are simple yet profound. Her directive, "Do whatever [Jesus] tells you," found in John 2:5, is her clearest instruction. By following Jesus, Mary tells us we will find happiness. **Acts of service and imitation:** Another way to show devotion to Mary is to emulate her virtues by following her example. Mary is venerated for her humility, obedience, purity, and love. By striving to live out these virtues in our own lives and by serving others with compassion and love, we honor her legacy and demonstrate our devotion to our Mother.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

The practice of crowning images of Mary began in the eighteenth century. Origins of the practice drew inspiration from Scripture, particularly Revelation 12:1, which describes the crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. By

Why do Catholics crown Mary in May?

crowning a statue of Mary with flowers, and commemorating her royal role, Catholics express gratitude for her unwavering faith and her "yes" to God, fostering a personal and communal renewal of devotion.



-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



PTO Executive Board Nominations for 2024/2025

The Holy Spirit PTO is accepting nominations for the PTO Executive Board for the 2024/2025 academic year, specifically the position of Fundraising Coordinator.

Do you know a parent who made make a great contribution to the board?
Perhaps you have always wanted to participate and want to self-nominate?

Nominations are now being accepted.

[Click here to access the nomination form](#)

Upcoming PTO Events

Thursday, May 16th

Spirit Gear Day

Friday, May 17th

Field Day!!

See Letter to Parents below for more information on what to expect.

Tuesday, May 21st

PTO Meeting 6:30 – 7:30pm in person and via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 895 9844 5225 Passcode: 268985

See Volunteer Opportunities for more information.

Friday, May 24th

Ice Cream Fundraiser 12pm – 9pm Woody's Ice Cream
10435 North Street, Fairfax
10% of all sales go to Holy Spirit – See flier below for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

May PTO Board Meeting

Join us **in person or via [Zoom](#)** on **Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm** and hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about what is going on at Holy Spirit School for the remainder of the year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on something? This is a great opportunity for all families to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. For meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending, please be sure to sign up in [Connect1](#).

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

2024 Boosterthon Committee Chairs (2 needed)

Join the fun and help us run our next **Boosterthon** in **September/October 2024!**

We are looking for two committee chairs to work collaboratively on our biggest fundraising event of the school year - Boosterthon! This role enables us to deliver a fun week of activities resulting in a big event that all the children love to participate in. The role includes overall planning, working with Booster Enterprises and engaging families to participate on the day. This role is worth 40 points per committee chair.

If you're interested in this role, please reach out to Lauren Schmidt

ptovpmembership@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

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

Parents or legal guardians of each student(s) registered at Holy Spirit School are required to earn a minimum of 20 hours (40 PSSC points) per family or 10 hours (20 PSSC points) for single parent families (single parent families also include families with a deployed spouse) of combined volunteer service during the current school year. For more information, reference the [PSSC Handbook](#).

FIELD DAY 2024



Friday, May 17, 8 am - 1 pm

Earn Volunteer Hours at the most fun day of the school year

**Volunteer signs ups available on Connect One.
Search "Field Day 2024"**

Team coaches must be fully child protection compliant

Made with PosterMyWall

Questions? Email jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com

Holy Spirit Field Day 2024

Friday, May 17

Hello Holy Spirit School Parents,

Field Day is quickly approaching! Here's what you need to know:

Field Day T-Shirts will be distributed to students (Kindergarten – 7th grade) on Field Day morning in their homerooms. Pre-K does not participate in the Field Day activities with the rest of the school; they have their own fun activities. They will, however, participate in the food: popsicles for a snack, pizza for lunch, and ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

Students should wear their gym uniforms and comfortable running shoes. Keep in mind they may get wet and dirty.

Students may bring **labeled** hats and sunglasses.

We will have water stations and cups. However, students may bring appropriately sized, labeled water bottles, if they wish. **Please do not bring any other drinks besides water, as they may attract bees.**

Apply sunscreen to your students **before they come to school!** Sunscreen containers are not allowed at school.

Please ensure that your children eat an appropriate breakfast to prepare them for a day of physical activity.

Food: We will provide popsicles during morning break, Domino's Pizza and water for lunch, and ice cream sandwiches during the afternoon. Students who are allergic to any of these items should bring their own snacks and or lunches.

Medical Conditions: In the event that any children are currently suffering from some type of temporary physical disability or injury, or are currently wearing or using any assistive device, they will not compete in Field Day for their safety. Other accommodations will be made for these students. For those who suffer from allergies, please take into consideration that we will be outside most of the day.

Field Day goes on rain or shine (hopefully shine)! We're looking forward to a day of fun!

Questions? Please feel free to email jessica.a.driscoll@gmail.com or call/text 908-338-5312.

Jessica Driscoll
Field Day Committee

We all scream for.... ICE CREAM!

Join the Holy Spirit Flames for
an ice cream fundraiser!



When: Friday, May 24th, 12 pm – 9 pm

Where: Woody's Ice Cream

10435 North St, Fairfax, VA 22030-2509

**Holy Spirit School will earn 10% of the
proceeds from the fundraiser!**

**Woody's has indoor seating as well as an outdoor covered
patio. There's a small parking lot, as well as free nearby
parking garages and lots throughout Fairfax City.**

PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org

Vice President - Rob Wu - PTOVVP@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 - PTOVFPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

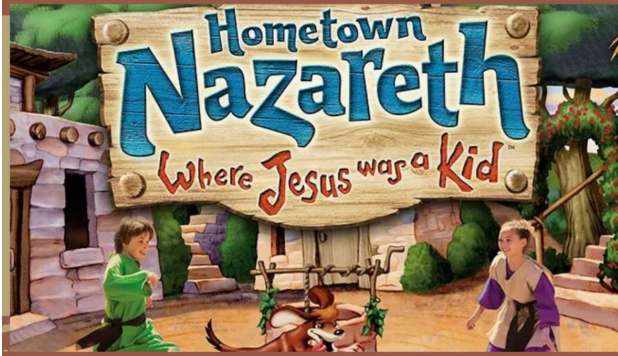
Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org

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!

Vacation Bible School



**June
17-21**

Vacation Bible School is Holy Spirit's weeklong event where children engage in lots of fun activities, games, and crafts, all while learning about Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith. All rising Kindergarteners through rising 5th graders are invited to participate. Older children (under 18) are welcome as youth assistant volunteers.

For more information, or to register visit
www.holyspiritchurch.us/vbs

**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

www.holyspiritchurch.us/re
(703) 978 - 8925
REStaff@holyspiritchurch.us

Community Happenings!



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

DYSLEXIC EDGE IS EXCITED TO EXPAND ITS
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR THE 2024-25
SCHOOL YEAR!

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES:
ONE ON ONE READING INTERVENTION
GROUP STEM ACTIVITIES
PARTICIPATION IN MONTHLY STEM-BASED
FIELD TRIPS

TO LEARN MORE YOU CAN:
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.SDSQUARED.ORG/](https://www.sdsquared.org/)
OR EMAIL OUR DIRECTOR KRISTA GAUTHIER:
KRISTA@SDSQUARED.ORG



SUMMER CAMPS

AT BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 5-8

KNIGHTS OF ADVENTURE

**Sports Management • Theatre • Poetry
Game Design • Fashion • Gardening • Spanish
Brain Games • Blogging • Forensics • Entrepreneurs
Graphic Design • Photography • Intro to A.I. • Band
App Inventors • Junior Veterinary
...and more!**

bishopoconnell.org/summercamps

Summer Reading Skills PROGRAMS

CLASSES OFFERED IN CHANTILLY, SPRINGFIELD, and STERLING

Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners
In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read. Children learn letter recognition, beginning phonics, and easy sight words. Your child will learn to read simple words and short sentences and get excited about books and reading.

Program for Entering 1st Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read independently. Children learn phonics and sight words and build comprehension skills. Your child will develop a love of books and reading and get off to a great start in first grade.

Program for Entering 2nd Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will become a confident, fluent reader. Children build solid phonics and word-attack skills, develop reading fluency, and improve comprehension. Your child will develop a love of reading and get off to a great start in second grade.

Program for Entering 3rd Graders
In this fun summer program, your child will become a strong, confident reader. Children improve fluency and comprehension, build long-word decoding skills, and expand vocabulary. Your child will develop a lifelong love of reading and get off to a great start in third grade.

Programs for Entering 4th and 5th Graders
In these fun single-grade programs, your child will become a skilled, confident reader with strong comprehension in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand their vocabulary and learn to read more fluently and rapidly. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

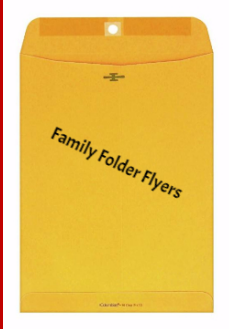
Programs for Entering 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders
In these single-grade programs, your son or daughter will make substantial gains in comprehension and reading speed in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand vocabulary and learn the best way to take notes. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and build confidence as a reader.

Programs for Entering 9th and 10th Graders
In these single-grade programs, students learn the skills they need to succeed in high school. Your child will double reading speed and improve comprehension and focus in fiction, textbooks, and nonfiction. Students expand their academic vocabulary and learn study strategies to complete work efficiently, get better grades, and score higher on exams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
Call 1-800-903-0162
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm, Sat. 8am-7pm, and Sun. 10am-6pm

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE

Source Code: 320-14-72021



The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "May 9, 2024" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Mother's Day Mass and Receptions flyer
2. Lunch on the Lawn flyer
3. Virtual Art Show flyer
4. End of Year Music Performance flyer
5. 5th Grade Move-Up Night flyer
6. Partners in Faith (May) newsletter

5K Spirit Run

1. Race Registration information
2. Sponsorship Information

PTO Flyers:

1. Field Day details letter
2. PTO Ice Cream Fundraiser at Woody's Ice Cream flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Vacation Bible School

Community Flyers:

1. Dyslexic Edge After School Program flyer
2. Bishop O'Connell Summer Camps flyer
3. University of Richmond Summer Reading Skills program flyer

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

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