

November 16, 2023



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

### **Looking Forward**

Last night we hosted our first Open House of the year and it was a great success. Thank you to all those who help with word of mouth advertising! And a BIG thank you to all of the middle school students who volunteered their time to provide tours to the prospective families. Our students are terrific ambassadors for the school and all of the great work that is being done here.

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 for the 2024/2025 academic year will be sent home in early December once the proposal is approved. There is a re-registration fee that is assessed per student. The date for that being posted to family FACTS accounts will be in the information that comes to you regarding tuition. For those families who are not returning for next year, the packet will include an Intent Not to Return form that we ask that you complete and return.

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The parent portal will close at the end of the school day on November 17th in order for us to begin to prepare report cards.

The 1st Trimester comes to a close on Tuesday, November 21st. Report cards for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will go home on December 1st.

The Thanksgiving holiday break begins on Tuesday, November 21 when we have a scheduled early released. Extended Day is NOT open that afternoon. The school is closed the remainder of the week. **Please remember that there is NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH.**

When we return from the Thanksgiving break we will launch right into our annual Toy Drive benefitting Santa's Ride; there is a flyer below with information. Our Giving Mass will be held on Friday, December 1st at which time representatives from the Fairfax County Police Department will be here to collect all of the donations.

If I do not see you prior, I wish you all a "Happy Thanksgiving!" Safe travels for those visiting family. May the days together be a blessing for all.

**Holy Spirit will be hosting a Virtus seminar on December 2nd from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. You may go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) in order to register.**



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you do the right thing regardless of whether others were watching? Maybe we made sure to keep our thoughts and opinions about other people's driving to ourself. Maybe we went out of way to assist a struggling colleague even though it wouldn't garner us the limelight as when others might be around. Maybe we greeted with genuine kindness the stranger at the store or on the street for no other reason than to brighten their day. Maybe we prayed just a little bit deeper and gave more concentration to the needs of others. There are so many ways we can create a Holy Moment for no other reason than "just because".

As mentioned, each Thursday this note will contain the Matthew Kelly, Holy Moments videos that he recorded during Lent of 2023. These relate to the Holy Moments book.



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**Whose Ready for Some Basketball???**



**WHEN:** November 13-17

**WHERE:** PE classes, gym

**FOR:** *Catholic Charities*

**COST:** ***\$1.00.***

**Money will be collected starting Monday, Nov. 13th** in homeroom.

**Parent Volunteers:** A signup will be in Connect 1 to volunteer to help during the PE classes.

For a \$1-dollar donation, students will pair with their mass buddies in a free throw competition. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the gym to help keep score. Volunteers will assign points to shots-- 3 points for every basket made, 2 points for hitting the rim, backboard or net and 1 point for any missed attempts. Each team will get a total of 5 free throws. The top mass buddy teams will compete in a **final shoot out on Tuesday, November 21 at 10:30 am** with the entire school cheering them on. Parents are welcome to attend the final competition on the 21st. There will be a trophy for the winning team to be displayed in the front office. All proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities

**Thank you to all who have donated!**

**You are welcome to join us for the Turkey Shootout Finals at 10:30am on Tuesday morning! Get ready for some crazy!**

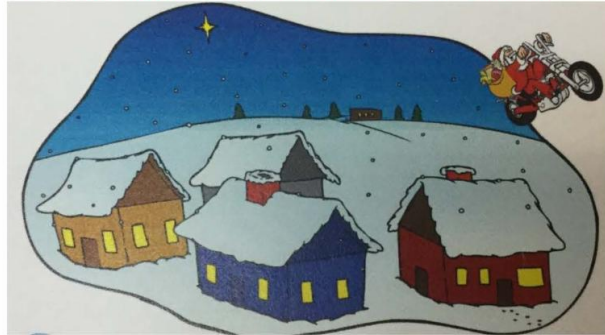
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**Our annual Toy Drive begins on Tuesady, November 28th!  
(As soon as we return from the Thanksgiving break!)**

# Annual Holy Spirit School Toy Drive

## SANTA'S RIDE

*Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Sick Children*



Monday, November 27th - Friday, December 1st



**Make a difference in the lives of the many sick children who are unable to return home for the holidays.**

The Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle squad is collaborating with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and others to collect and distribute toys to children at Fairfax Hospital and Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center.

**Please donate a new, unwrapped toy, game, or book.**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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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.

**What is the program?**

The Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program provides financial assistance to families in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington through funding from diocesan parishes as well as the Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope Capital Campaign Endowment. It is open to all qualified students whose parents might not otherwise be able to pay the full cost of tuition.

**Who is eligible?**

- Students attending or accepted by a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school (K-12). Preschool/Pre-K students are not eligible. Not applicable to students of private independent Catholic schools associated with the Diocese and/or international students.
- Students who are Catholic and members of a parish in the Diocese of Arlington or military base parish.
- Families who reside within the boundaries of the Diocese of Arlington and are registered and active members of a diocesan parish or a military base parish.

**How do I apply?**

- Submit financial aid assessment application and all supporting tax documentation by due date. Applications will be completed electronically online at <https://online.factsmat.com/signin.aspx>. **Only one application and processing fee is required per family.**
- Families with students in ELEMENTARY **AND** HIGH SCHOOL should follow the high school due date.

**Due Dates**

Elementary/Middle School students: March 13, 2024  
 Year of Tax Forms Required: 2023

High School Students: January 5, 2024  
 Year of Tax Forms Required if submitted by due date: 2022  
 Year of Tax Forms Required if submitted AFTER due date: 2023

\*Families applying for financial aid for both high school **AND** elementary/middle school students will need to submit BOTH 2022 **AND** 2023 tax forms.

**Awards**

Awards are made for **ONE ACADEMIC YEAR** and are based on each family's demonstrated financial need. Individual schools determine the amount and the distribution of all awards for each academic year. The schools will contact families when award decisions have been made and will credit the tuition accounts of approved families.

*\$3,809,000 awarded in 2023*

● For more information ●

**Questions regarding financial aid process**

Bo Zamoyta 703.841.2551  
[Bo.Zamoyta@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:Bo.Zamoyta@arlingtondiocese.org)

**Questions regarding application**

FACTS Management 1.866.441.4637  
<https://online.factsmat.com/platform/customer-service>

**Award decisions**

Please contact your school.

**Diocesan Tuition Assistance**

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Catholic-Schools/Tuition-Assistance/>

The Art Room needs your boxes from flat screens for the middle school musical. 75 inch size or bigger would be preferable.



Thank You! Mrs. Liss Art Teacher

Please contact me if you have any questions.

[iliss@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:iliss@holyspiritflames.org)

**Thoughtful Moments**

**St. Margaret of Scotland**  
St. Margaret was beautiful, kind, and generous. Her family was shipwrecked on Scotland while fleeing from William the Conqueror. The king of Scotland welcomed them, fell in love with St. Margaret and made her his queen. St. Margaret practiced the corporal works of mercy, including feeding the poor before eating her own meals. Her private life was simple, prayerful, and penitential, and she inspired her family to imitate her. Finally, she worked to bring ecclesiastical and moral reform to the kingdom.

**Take time for gratitude**  
Are you stressed or anxious? Take a moment and thank God for the blessings in your life — big and small. Making a list of these blessings is a powerful way to remind ourselves of God's love. Whatever you face, you won't do it alone.

"Peace is not just the absence of war. Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakable faith."  
Pope St. John Paul II

**Giving thanks leads to generous hearts**

"What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (Psalm 116:12) We can never repay God for His gifts to us but we can show gratitude by sharing them with others in ways that glorify Him. During the Thanksgiving season, my three suggestions to make your holiday more meaningful:

**Offer prayers of gratitude.** Jesus was deeply moved when one of the ten lepers He healed came back to thank Him (Luke 17:15-19). Give thanks as a family every day this season by each offering gratitude for specific blessings received throughout the year.

**Go to Mass.** The word "eucharist" is from the Greek for "thanksgiving" or "gratitude." The Eucharist refers to the

Mass and the Blessed Sacrament, the ultimate form of Thanksgiving. When we actively take part in the Mass — praying with others, offering our own prayers, reverently receiving the Blessed Sacrament, joining in the singing — we offer heartfelt Thanksgiving to God.

**Send it out.** Another tradition of Thanksgiving involves sending notes of appreciation and thanks to friends and loved ones, especially for kindness received throughout the year. Kind words are always a powerful and a much needed gift.

**Share the blessings.** If you know of people without holiday plans, offer them a place at your table. Adding to your family circle sets a powerful example of generosity.

**Why Do Catholics Do That?**

Just as families remember important milestones, the Church's liturgical calendar recalls the history of our Catholic family. The feasts and seasons that draw us deeper into salvation history are reflected in the Mass vestments, readings, and music of our

**Why do Catholics follow a liturgical calendar?**

liturgical celebrations. "Thus recalling the mysteries of the redemption, she opens up to the faithful the riches of her Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present in every age" (Constitution of the Catholic Church, #1163)

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



**Upcoming PTO Events**

**Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Trees **Early Delivery – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO UNLOAD THE TREES THIS WEEKEND!**  
See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

**Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Tree Sales begin  
See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Gingerbread House Decorating – Holy Spirit Cafeteria 4:30pm  
Connect1 sign up to be posted soon.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Christmas Tree Sales** (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

**UPDATE:** Christmas trees will **now** be delivered **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sales begin on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Help is requested for setup, tree delivery on 11/18, 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](mailto:PTOChristmasTrees@holyspiritflames.org)

**Christmas Boutique Volunteers** (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

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

Questions? Contact Lauren Schmidt [PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org)  
or Toni O'Neill [PTOVPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org)

## Updates

### Spirit Gear


The Spirit Gear Committee would like to thank all those who purchased gear during our Fall sale. We sold over \$4,670 in garments. There will be accessories sales during the school year. Upcoming sales will be held at the Christmas Tree sales, after Holy Spirit Church masses, and at the Used Uniform sales. More details and a Connect1 signup will be posted soon. If you'd like to purchase accessories and can't make it to one of the sales, email Stacey at [RNChickie@gmail.com](mailto:RNChickie@gmail.com).

## 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.

Annual Holy Spirit School Christmas Ornament  
2023-2024



Payment is via check in the amount of \$15 and made out to the **Holy Spirit School PTO. NO CASH.** Please return the lower half of the form with your check by **Friday, November 17, 2023.** Checks and forms may be redirected to % Jennifer Sylvester (Homerooms 2E: Epperly and PKG Garcia).

*Questions:* Contact [jennifermichellevyester@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermichellevyester@gmail.com) or [toniquinnonell@gmail.com](mailto:toniquinnonell@gmail.com).


Please return the lower half of the form with a check in the amount of \$15, made out to the **Holy Spirit School PTO** by **Friday, November 17, 2023. NO CASH.** Checks and forms may be redirected to % Jennifer Sylvester (Homerooms 2E: Epperly and PKG Garcia).

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total (\$): \_\_\_\_\_  
Homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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



HOLY SPIRIT PTO PRESENTS

## SONshine Committee

2023-2024

Hello! Do you know of someone who is going through a difficult time? Maybe a friend who recently experienced a loss, or a family that recently welcomed a new baby? The HS SONshine Committee can help! This school year, the committee will be led by Tanuja Gnanasekaran. If you know of a family or person in need, please first contact Mrs. Ashby with their name. Tanuja will then make arrangements for meals, babysitting, carpooling, etc. to meet the needs of those individuals. We hope to hear from you, and look forward to supporting our HS family!

If you have a family or friend in mind,  
contact Mrs. Ashby at  
[mashby@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:mashby@holyspiritflames.org)

**We know it isn't quite Thanksgiving yet, but....**



**The Christmas Tree Crew is calling! Check out Connect 1 for volunteer opportunities. This is a GREAT family activity too!**



## PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - [PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org)

Vice President - Rob Wu - [PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org)

Treasurer - Karin Floyd - [PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org)

Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - [PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org)

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt - [PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org)

Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - [PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org)

Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - [PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org](mailto: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!

**HOLY SPIRIT**  
Catholic Church

### Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by the Men's Club

Menu	Prices
Spaghetti with Meatballs	Adults \$7
Garlic Bread	Children Under 13 \$5
Salad with Italian Dressing	\$25.00 Family Maximum
Dessert Items	

Wine, Sodas, Juice, and Water


Saturday, November 18  
5:30-7:30 pm  
In the School Cafeteria  
(joined with Meeting Rooms 1 & 2)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church invites you to  
*Eucharistic Adoration*  
*"Mira una hora conmigo."* *"Watch one Hour with Me."* *"Xem n'Ol goi'ê i'êi tã."*

WEEKLY **Adoration Times**  
 BIWEEKLY Monday 7am-7pm  
 or MONTHLY Wednesday 7am-7pm  
 Friday 7am-Sat 9am

**Hours Most Needed:**  
 Monday 11am, 2pm, 5pm  
 Wednesday 12p, 2p  
 Fri 11p and Sat 12a, 1a, 2a, 3a, 7a


**Pope John Paul II**  
 "The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world ... Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek."  
[adorationpro.org/hsannandale](http://adorationpro.org/hsannandale)  
 or email: [lisa.ciola@holyspirtchurch.us](mailto:lisa.ciola@holyspirtchurch.us)



**BISHOP BURBIDGE**  
*invites you to join him for*  
**SOLEMN VESPERS**  
*with EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION*  
*of the MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT*  
*to inaugurate*  
**THE DIOCESAN GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR**  
**RENEW**  
*"Behold I make all things new."*

SOLEMN VESPERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 5 P.M.  
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023  
 SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA

*Reception follows.*  
*To register or for more information:*  
[WWW.ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/JUBILEEVESPERS](http://WWW.ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/JUBILEEVESPERS)




**Do you have a friend who is ...**  
 ...an expectant mom?  
 ...a first-time mom?  
 ...in a high risk pregnancy?

**Gabriel Project has volunteers to help with:**

- Information and education as she prepares for the baby's birth.
- Companionship, encouragement and a listening ear.
- Introductions to groups and key contacts in the area.
- Connections to resources in the local community.
- Invitations to special opportunities, activities and events.

**For more information, contact:**  
 Gabriel Project Parish-Based Pregnancy Help  
 Confidential Helpline: (703) 841-3810  
[info@helpforpregnantwomen.org](mailto:info@helpforpregnantwomen.org)  
[www.helpforpregnantwomen.org](http://www.helpforpregnantwomen.org)

*spiritual, emotional & material support*



Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life  
 Catholic Diocese of Arlington  
 (703) 841-2550 | [familylife@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:familylife@arlingtondiocese.org)



# Community Happenings!



## BISHOP IRETON THEATER ARTS PRESENTS



Based on the screenplay by  
**Jonathan Lynn**

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
EDITION

Written by **Sandy Rustin**

Additional material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price

Based on the **Paramount Pictures Motion Picture** based on the **Hasbro** board game **CLUE**

**NOVEMBER 10, 11, 17 & 18 at 7pm**  
**NOVEMBER 12 at 2pm**

**GARWOOD WHALEY AUDITORIUM**

Purchase your \$15 tickets online at [bishopireton.org/tickets](http://bishopireton.org/tickets) or at the door!



## FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "November 16, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

### School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Turkey Shootout flyer
3. Santa's Ride Toy Drive
4. Art Room supply need flyer
5. Partners in Faith (November) newsletter

### PTO Flyers:

1. Holy Spirit Ornament Order Form
2. Santa Boutique flyer
3. SONShine Committee flyer

### Parish Flyers:

1. Parish Spaghetti Dinner flyer
2. Solemn Vespers flyer
3. Eucharistic Adoration flyer
4. Gabriel Project flyer

### Community Flyers:

1. Bishop Ireton's Production of CLUE

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

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

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