

November 19, 2020



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts
2020/2021

"Protect the Creation; Praise the Creator"

**So much for which to be
thankful!**

Traditionally, November is the month when many folks celebrate with the family and friends for whom they are thankful and take stock of the events and "things" that have brought joy and happiness throughout the year.

Although this year has been more of a challenge than any of us would probably like to have, I am so very thankful for so much.

When we all first went into "lockdown", we were right in the midst of the Lenten season; for my family that "forced" time together provided us with the very best Lent we have had together in a long time and it was followed by a truly meaningful Easter.

During the Summer months, although stressful and at times overwhelming as decisions were made regarding this academic year, we experienced the joy of having our daughter get engaged and begin her first "real" job as a teacher and our son beginning his collegiate career. Sadly, we experienced the death of my husband's mother, but under the circumstances were able to celebrate her life in a beautiful and intimate way.

And, of course, there is this most spectacular of academic years. The anticipation, excitement,

and genuine sense of accomplishment when we opened the doors on September 8th can hardly be rivaled. As I say often, we are stringing together the days and weeks and take none of them for granted.

I am truly thankful for the friendship of my colleagues here at school. I am continually in awe of the leadership of our Pastor, Father O'Donohue both for this parish and our school. I am humbled by the continued trust of each and every family in our school. And I am joyful at being able to smile from ear to ear as I watch and listen to your children as they learn and grow.

As we move into our week off for Thanksgiving, I pray that each and every one of our families has a safe and meaningful celebration.

Happy Thanksgiving!

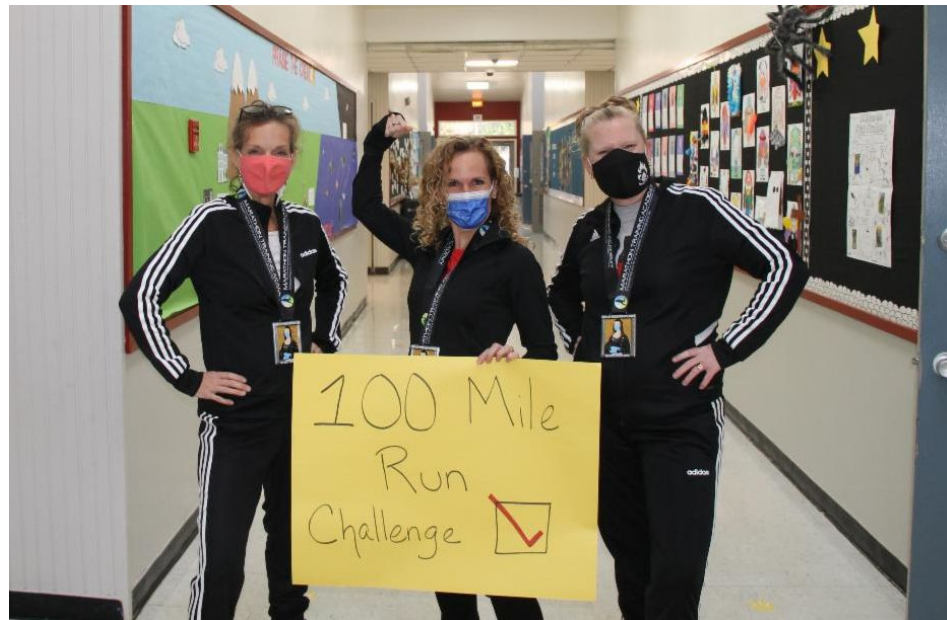
Our "Graffiti Wall" Continues to Grow!

Mrs. Liss and Ms. Stawowczyk have been busy adding to our Graffiti Wall. With each special event we celebrate here at school, we document with a picture. Needless to say the wall fills over the course of the year and we are off to a great start!



100 Mile Run Challenge....Done!

Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Crone and I have spent the past few weeks participating in the "Social Distance Run, Corona Lisa, 100 Mile Challenge". We completed our 100 miles last Saturday and thought today would be a great day to celebrate - medals and all!



And if this doesn't make you smile....

3M is celebrating one of their Boosterthon prizes today with Crazy Hair Day. Jessica's "Dr. Pepper hair" spilling over into the cup is so creative!



A few reminders:

The **1st Trimester will officially end on Tuesday, November 24th**. The Parent Portal for grades will close this afternoon and report cards will go home on Friday, December 4th.

The Thanksgiving break will begin Monday, November 23rd and we will return to school on Monday, November 30th.

On Monday, November 30th we will livestream into the classrooms the first of our **Advent prayer services**. And on Tuesday, December 1st we will have the next in our series of monthly

prayer services as we concentrate on **St. Juan Diego**.

The week of November 30th through December 4th is our annual toy drive in support of **Santa's Ride**. Please see the information below.

We will celebrate **St. Nicholas Day on Friday, December 4th**. Students should bring an additional shoe that day so it can be put in the hallway as we await a visit from some of St. Nicholas's helpers who usually have a special treat with them.

On Tuesday, December 8th we will celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** with students attending Mass.

Start planning your costume now! The annual **NJHS Christmas Dress Down Day** to benefit Catholic Charities' We Care Week is Thursday, December 10th. See the flyer below for more information.

Friday, December 18th will be an early dismissal day with NO Extended Day.

Our **Christmas break** begins the afternoon of December 18 and goes through Sunday, January 3rd. We will return to school on Monday, January 4th.

As you can see, there is so much to look forward to after the Thanksgiving holiday which places that much more of an emphasis on everyone doing their part and staying small, safe, and local.

During his news conference yesterday, Governor Northam indicated that at this point the closing of schools to in-person learning will be handled on a local level. Although he was really speaking about the public school systems, this is good for us right now that he is not looking at state-wide rollbacks to Phase II which mandate only distance learning.

So, it is up to us...

For the sake of the whole community, please consider whether it is wise to send your children directly back to school if you have been traveling or if you have participated in a large family celebration with people with whom you do not have regular contact. And of course, it is always best to error on the side of caution and keep children at home if they or someone in your home is feeling unwell.

Thank you!

Registration for the 2021/2022 academic year

We will consider your children to be automatically re-enrolled for the 2021/2022 academic year and the \$100.00 non-refundable re-registration fee per child will be assessed as of January 1, 2021 via FACTS. If you know for certain that your child will not be returning please complete and return the Intent Not to Return prior to leaving for the Christmas break (December 18, 2020).

Letter to current families regarding
registration

Intent NOT to Return
Form

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

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 is not workable or practical for the staff.

Required Symptom Screening Questionnaire - 8.27.2020



Did you know that this is the 55th year that Holy Spirit School has been open?

Did you know that Tuesday, December 1st is National Giving Day?

As the calendar year winds down, are you or family or friends looking for a terrific organization to support with a tax deductible donation?

Holy Spirit is registered as a part of the National Catholic Education Association's #iGiveCatholic campaign.

In honor of the 55th year of Holy Spirit School, we are hoping to engage our community and raise \$55,000.00 to assist in filling some of the holes in the budget. We are honored to be in a position to be open this year for in-person instruction and hope that you will assist us either personally or by passing along our information to others so as to continue our mission of Inspiring Minds and Igniting

Hearts for this year and years to come.

Early donating has begun!
Thank you to those who have already contributed!

Holy Spirit's #iGiveCatholic
Site

A Virtual Santa's Secret Shop Is Coming To Our School!



Dear Parents,

Our school is hosting a Virtual Santa's Secret Shop for our students and school families. This program makes it possible for your child to experience both the thrill of choosing gifts "secretly" and the "joy of giving" to their family members. All of this is done right in the comfort of your home.

We believe this program will help children learn about budgeting and decision-making. A large variety of gifts in several price ranges will be available for all shoppers. Imagine the fun they will have surprising a loved one with a gift they picked out and wrapped (gift bags included) "all by themselves"!

With your help, your child can log on to our school specific website, where they will be able to select their special gifts. They will need some assistance, mostly at check out.

You can approve the purchase and make payment by credit/debit card. Once approved, the order will be packed and shipped.



Our Shopping Dates:

Today until December 8, 2020

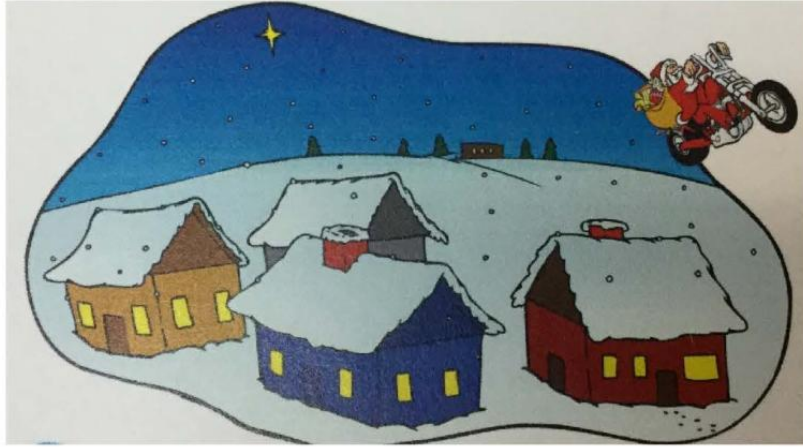
Follow These Steps To Shop:

1. Visit: BOAK.schoolholidayshops.com
2. Shop Type (login): **Santa**
3. Click the "Enter Here" Button on Door
4. Enter Password: **HSS2020**
5. Start Shopping!

Annual Holy Spirit School Toy Drive

SANTA'S RIDE

Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Sick Children



Monday, November 30th - Friday, December 4th



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.

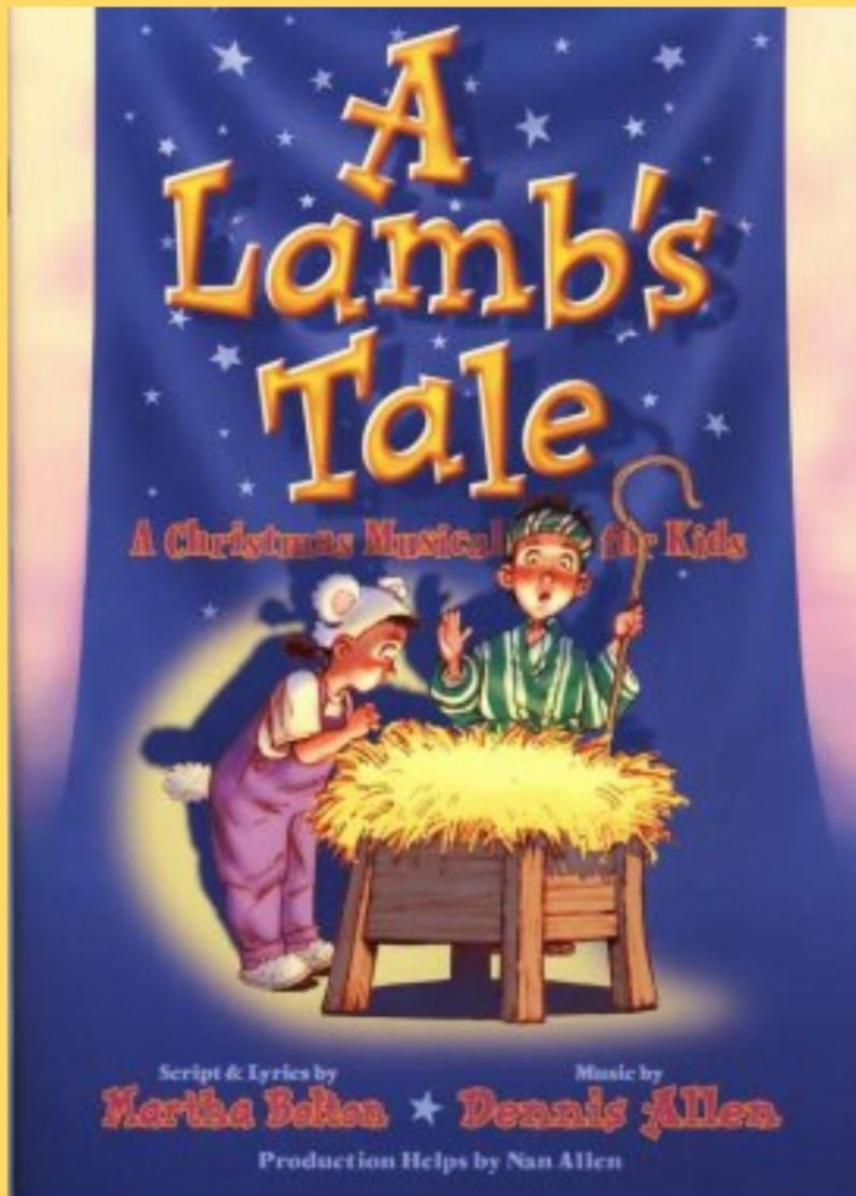




Christmas Dress Down Day

The NJHS is sponsoring a school wide
dress down day on December 9th.
Please bring in a one dollar (\$1.00)
donation to participate. All funds are
going to benefit
Catholic Charities We Care Week.

Tis' the season for all of our
favorite Christmas movies!
Come to school dressed up as one
of your favorite Holiday
characters.
All costumes must be school
appropriate.



"The
show
must
go on!"

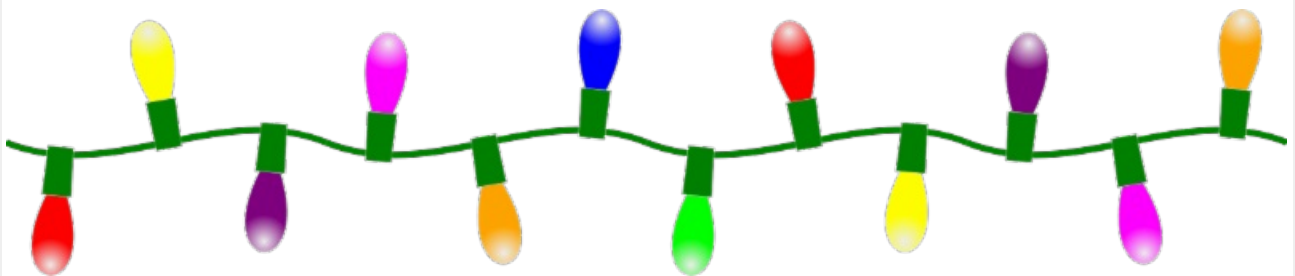
Stay
tuned
for
more
details!

Two casts! Two shows!

December 14 and December 15, 2020

We are learning our lines, singing our songs, and practicing
our moves!

We continue to plan and adapt to however we will present.



Costume Sheet for the Christmas Musical:

A Lamb's Tale

The Christmas Performances are currently scheduled for

December 14th & 15th.

If the current “gathering limits” are lifted, we are planning for two performances each day in order to space out the parent-only audience.

If limits are not lifted, we are working on ways to either record or livestream each show.

Kindergarten - “Angels”

The Kindergarteners will wear their PE uniform sweatpants inside out, long-sleeve white T-Shirts, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with halos and wings.

1st Grade - “Sheep”

The 1st Graders will wear their PE uniform sweatshirts and sweatpants inside out, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with floppy sheep ears and a Christmas bow tie.

2nd Grade - “Shepherds”

The 2nd Graders will wear dark brown long sleeve shirts, dark brown pants, dark brown socks, dark brown shoes. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking like shepherds!

3rd Grade - “Town-Kids”

The 3rd Graders will wear light blue short-sleeve shirts and dark blue pants (NO Jeans), black socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking Biblical!

4th Grade - Main Cast

Please see your child's Fourth Grade Music Schoology Page regarding costume essentials for the individual cast member.

“Night of Nights”

December 16 and December 17, 2020



Two 5th Grade Classes means two
beautiful productions!

Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

Parish Happenings!

The Knights of Columbus invite you to:

Men's Morning of Recollection

Join other men from Holy Spirit Parish for a morning of spiritual recollection.

Saturday, December 12th
10:00am-12:00pm
Quinn Room
(School Building)

Deepen your faith and prayer life this Advent

- That Man is You at 7:30am
- Mass at 9:00am
- Confessions available at 3:30pm

For details, contact knights@holyspiritchurch.us



YOUTH

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020
DO NOT BE AFRAID

- Pope St. John Paul II

Middle School
2 Fridays a month

Be sure to register
for the 20-21 youth ministry year!

www.holyspiritchurch.us/category/youth/



YOUTH

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020
DO NOT BE AFRAID

- Pope St. John Paul II

High School
2 Sundays a month

Be sure to register
for the 20-21 youth ministry year!

www.holyspiritchurch.us/category/youth/



Christ, Cookies, Community, Advent Reflection & Holy Hour

Saturday, December 5 **1:00 - 3:00pm** **Parish Center and Church**

Cookie Social
Advent Reflection with Fr. O'Donohue in Parish Center
Holy Hour with Praise & Worship

For details,
www.holyspiritchurch.us/youngadults

Youth Poster Contest!
Submissions
Oct. 31 - Dec. 13
Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus

**KEEP CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS THEME**

For Details,
www.holyspiritchurch.us

Young Adult Fire

**First Friday Holy Hour
and Hangout**

Holy Spirit Church **7:00 - 10:00pm** **Every First Friday**

Holy Hour from 7-8pm
Meet outside Holy Spirit at 8pm
Hangout at the Auld Shebeen Pub (or other)

For details,
www.holyspiritchurch.us/youngadults

#shoutyouradoption

SEND IN PICS, VIDEO OR A WRITE UP!
SUBMISSIONS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED DURING NOVEMBER'S
NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH CAMPAIGN

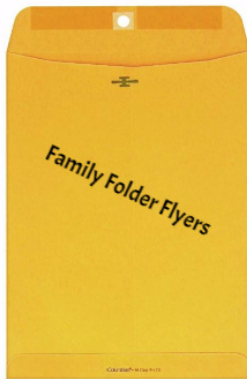
**Catholic Citizenship
Youth Essay Contest**
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

SUBMISSIONS
OCT. 31 - DEC. 13

cash prize! \$25

For details,
www.holyspiritchurch.us

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "November 19, 2020" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family
Folder

School Flyers:

1. Santa's Ride Toy Collection flyer
2. Santa's Santa Shop flyer
3. NJHS Christmas Dress Down Day flyer
4. A Lamb's Tale Costume Sheet
5. Registration Letter for Current Families
6. Intent Not to Return Form

Parish Flyers:

1. Christmas Card 2020 flyer
2. Men's Morning of Reflection flyer
3. K of C Essay Contest
4. Youth Poster Contest flyer

Community Flyers: