

# From the Principal's Desk



November 23, 2023



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

**Happy Thanksgiving!**





Congratulations to all who competed in our annual Turkey Shootout benefiting Catholic Charities! The buddy class teams were on fire Tuesday morning with their shooting skills! This year's winners are Yonathan B (8th grade) and Teddy C (2nd grade)!! Well done gentlemen! The boys names will grace our famous turkey trophy for the year - check it out the next time you are in the building.

Congratulations also go to Ms. Cahill who won our first ever teacher competition! The battle was fierce but her youth basketball skills reigned supreme!

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

**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.

**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.**

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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.

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.

# *holy* moments

We did not have a specific Holy Moments challenge this past week due to the short week. As was said to the students though, I hope that you reflect on all of the challenges we've had thus far and the information from the book and that you create your own Holy Moments during this week as you gather with family and friends.

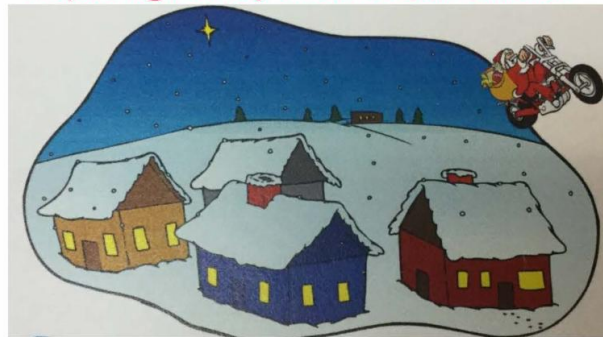
**Our annual Toy Drive begins on Tuesday, November 28th!  
(As soon as we return from the Thanksgiving break!)**

**We have set this year's goal at 400 toys.**

## 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.**

Each year our Middle School students decorate collection boxes for the toy drive. This year's theme is "O Come All Ye Faithful" to fit right into our school theme. Thank you Mrs.

Evans for organizing this annual charitable drive.



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**Holy Spirit supports Catholic Charities "We Care Week"!**



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**Looking for a service project for your family?**

PLEASE  
JOIN HOLY SPIRIT'S  
STUDENT COUNCIL FOR

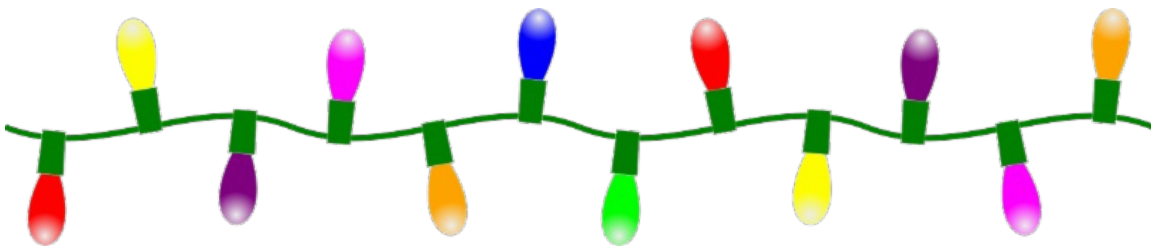
*Wreaths Across  
America*

SATURDAY **16** AT 7:30 AM

DECEMBER

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMENTARY  
PLEASE EMAIL MRS. WEBB  
TWEBB@HOLYSPIRITFLAMES.ORG

*Remember the fallen... Honor those who serve... TEACH our  
children the value of freedom.*



## Miracle At Midnight

**K-4 Christmas Musical  
December 14 at 7:00pm**

# Costume and Call Sheet for the Christmas Musical

## Miracle At Midnight

The Christmas Performance is **December 14th @ 7:00 pm.**

**Grades K-3:** Please bring your child to their room **NO EARLIER** than 6:15 pm,  
**NO LATER** than **6:30 pm.**

**Grade 4:** Please bring your child to their room **NO EARLIER** than 6:00 pm,  
**NO LATER** than **6:15 pm.**

The show begins promptly at **7:00 pm.** Doors **DO NOT** open until **6:30pm.**

### Kindergarten - "Sheep"

The Kindergarteners will wear their PE uniform sweatpants and sweatshirts inside out, with white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with floppy sheep ears.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - "Angels"

The 1<sup>st</sup> Graders will wear their PE uniform sweatpants inside out, with a long sleeve white T-shirt, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with halos.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - "Camels"

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will wear brown or khaki pants and brown or tan long sleeve T-shirts, with white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with camel visors!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - "Townsperson"

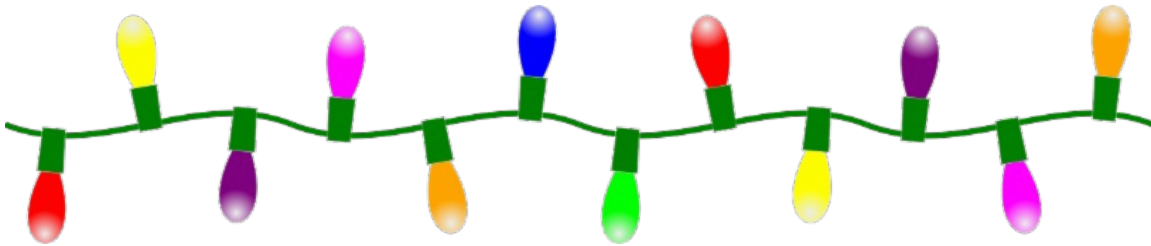
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will wear long sleeve T-shirts in any shade of blue and khaki pants, white socks and black uniform shoes. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking Biblical!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Main Cast

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


If you have any **questions or concerns**, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Sanborn at [CSanborn@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:CSanborn@holyspiritflames.org).

**Thank you so much** for your cooperation in making this year's Christmas Musical a beautiful experience for us all!



## Partners in Faith December Newsletter and Family Advent Calendar **NEW!!**

Holy Spirit School

 **2023 Family Advent Calendar**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <b>3</b> We are made on Monday Lift the water outside your child's work.	4 <b>4</b> Angels "Adorn Angels" Decorate outside and message your child's work.	5 <b>5</b> No car for today No car for today. Add a message about the Holy Spirit to your child's work.	6 <b>6</b> St. Nicholas of Myra Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	7 <b>7</b> Do His Holy Day Do His Holy Day. Add a message about the Holy Spirit to your child's work.	8 <b>8</b> The Immovable Company of Mary Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	9 <b>9</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.
10 <b>10</b> Light the water outside your child's work.	11 <b>11</b> Call or send your child's work and add a message about the Holy Spirit to your child's work.	12 <b>12</b> The Last of Good Things Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	13 <b>13</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	14 <b>14</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	15 <b>15</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	16 <b>16</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.
17 <b>17</b> Light the water outside your child's work.	18 <b>18</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	19 <b>19</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	20 <b>20</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	21 <b>21</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	22 <b>22</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	23 <b>23</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.
24 <b>24</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	25 <b>25</b> The Holy Spirit Encourage everyone to practice and do a good deed for others.	<p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all were enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)</i></p>				

**Thoughtful Moments**

**St. Edmund Campion**

St. Edmund Campion had a coveted position as lecturer at Oxford, and the admiration of his peers and Queen Elizabeth I. He renounced everything to become a Jesuit missionary. He traveled England secretly to administer the Sacraments to persecuted Catholics. He was betrayed by an informer, pretending to be Catholic, and was taken to the Tower of London. He was martyred for refusing to deny his faith.



**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

At a time of great upheaval in Mexico (1531), Jesus' Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego with messages of hope, and conversions began occurring at an astounding rate. By 1539, almost nine million had converted. Mary is Jesus' first and best disciple to bring the message of hope and salvation.

*"Let light shine out of darkness" who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).*



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**Add peace to Advent this year**

There is no denying that it may be more challenging to find peace and joy during Advent this year, given all that's happening around the world. Still, we know that the world isn't where we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year. Sleepy but, Jesus chose lowly circumstances for His birth to encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys to good condition that you don't truly need and donate them to people who do. Then limit the number and value of gifts you give. This will free up attention and affection for what really matters. Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to greet His newborn Son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time together. Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born, "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of each moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder every wonderful moment in your own heart.



**Why Do Catholics Do That?**

**Why do Catholics call Jesus "Emmanuel"?**

"... And his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God and He came, not just to save us, but also to be with us. In fact, He promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).



Jesus is invisibly but powerfully present with us now in the Church, the Scriptures, the words of the faithful, the priest celebrating the Sacraments, prayer, and most especially, in the Eucharist. God is with us.

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)

-Maureen Ashby

Principal



# Holy Spirit School PTO



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## Upcoming PTO Events

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

Christmas Tree Sales begin

See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

### **Thursday & Friday, December 7-8**

Christmas Boutique

Details sent home via backpack mail

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

Gingerbread House Decorating – Holy Spirit Cafeteria 4:30pm

See flier for more information and Volunteer opportunities below to help out

### **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner at Panera 4pm – 8pm

6230 Rolling Rd Suite V, West Springfield

### **Holy Spirit Christmas Ornament Sale**

See flier below for information on how to order

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

Sales begin on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Help is requested for setup, 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 Jounh Borja [PTOChristmasTrees@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOChristmasTrees@holyspiritflames.org)

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

Help is needed with set up/decorating on December 6<sup>th</sup> 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 [PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org)

### Gingerbread House Decorating (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

The Craft Committee is looking for some help baking gingerbread houses and constructing houses for the December 9<sup>th</sup> event. Baking will be at home, dough and pattern will be provided.


Questions? Contact Stephanie Thull [stephthull@gmail.com](mailto:stephthull@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 [jennifermichelleylcvester@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermichelleylcvester@gmail.com) or [toniquimonell@gmail.com](mailto:toniquimonell@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



THIRD ANNUAL  
**Gingerbread House  
Decorating Party**

SATURDAY, DEC 9TH, 4:30-6:30PM  
HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL  
CAFETERIA

Join us for some holiday cheer and  
decorating fun!

Gingerbread house and icing  
will be provided - one per family

Bring candy decorations to share  
(candy canes, peppermints, gumdrops, ect)

Want to help out?  
Check out Connect!

Please RSVP by Thursday,  
December 7th  
[ptocrafts@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:ptocrafts@holyspiritflames.org)

## 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 - [PTOVpDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVpDevelopment@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 invites you to  
*Eucharistic Adoration*



*"Mira una hora conmigo."*    *"Watch one Hour with Me."*    *"Xem n'đi gi'đ 'đi t'oi."*

WEEKLY	<b>Adoration Times</b>
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@holyspiritchurch.us](mailto:lisa.ciola@holyspiritchurch.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!



## FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "November 23, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

### School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Santa's Ride Toy Drive
3. Art Room supply need flyer
4. Partners in Faith (December) newsletter
5. Partners in Faith Family Advent Calendar
6. Wreaths Across America flyer
7. NJHS Christmas Dress Down Day flyer
8. Miracle At Midnight Costume list

### PTO Flyers:

1. Holy Spirit Ornament Order Form
2. Santa Boutique flyer
3. Gingerbread House Decorating flyer

### Parish Flyers:

1. Solemn Vespers flyer
2. Eucharistic Adoration flyer
3. Gabriel Project 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](#)

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