

From the Principal's Desk



November 9, 2023



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

Thank you to all who serve!



To all those in our Holy Spirit community who have served or are currently serving in the military or as a First Responder, thank you.

We were grateful that some of our parents were able to be with us this morning for our flag raising; know that all of you were on our hearts and in our minds this morning whether you were present or not. Our community is grateful for how you give wholly of yourselves to our Country. You are role models for our students

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 in order to register.

On Wednesday, November 15th we will have an Open House for prospective families at 6:00 pm. If you know of folks considering a Catholic education for their children, please invite them to come!

The first PTO Spirit Gear day of the year is next week, Thursday, November 16th. Students are welcome to dress down IF they are wearing Spirit Gear purchased via the PTO either this year or in past years. CYO gear or 5K Spirit Run shirts are not considered PTO Spirit Gear. Please be mindful of the guidelines for dress down days that are included in the handbook.

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.

Information is below for our annual "Turkey Shootout" benefitting Catholic Charities! We are in need of parent volunteers during PE classes to assist us with the preliminary rounds; sign-ups are in Connect 1. We welcome parents to attend the finals on Wednesday, November 21st at 10:30 am in the gym (just be prepared for some noise!).

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 release. Extended Day is NOT open that afternoon. The school is closed the remainder of the week.

When we return from the Thanksgiving break we will launch right into our annual Toy Drive benefitting Santa's Ride; watch for more information.

And, of course Advent begins on December 3rd and with that comes all of the excitement of December - hold on tight!

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.factsmgt.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

Questions regarding application

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

Award decisions

Please contact your school.

Diocesan Tuition Assistance

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



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you do something you love but normally don't do? Remembering and participating in the things that have brought joy to our lives is important. Taking time to recharge and maybe "get back" to some of the more simple things that have been a part of our lives helps to grow our gratitude and appreciation for others. Thanking God for the fond memories created with those who have been important in our lives actually allows us to be more present and intentional with those in our here and now.

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.



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

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 an 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

Tuesday, November 14th

PTO Meeting 6:30 – 7:30pm via [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 895 9844 5225 Passcode: 268985
See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

Wednesday, November 15th

Ledo Pizza Fundraiser 5:00 – 9:00pm 8324 Old Keene Mill Rd, West Springfield, VA 22152
See flier below for more details.

Thursday, November 16th

First Spirit Gear Day of the school year! Break in that new Holy Spirit swag and show your school spirit!

Sunday, November 26th

Christmas Tree Sales begin

See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information

Volunteer Opportunities

November PTO Meeting (1 PSSC point/family for attending)

Join us via [Zoom](#) on November 14th 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 this year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on something? This is a great opportunity for new, as well as current families, to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. Be sure to sign up in [Connect1](#) for meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending.

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Christmas Tree Sales (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

Christmas trees will be delivered Friday, November 24th and sales begin on Sunday, November 26th. We need your help for setup, tree delivery on 11/26, 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

Christmas Boutique Volunteer (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

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

Questions? Contact Lauren Schmidt PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org

or Toni O'Neill PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

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.



Enjoy a great family dinner while raising money for Holy Spirit School

November 15th 5pm – 9pm

West Springfield Ledo Pizza

8324 Old Keene Mill Road
West Springfield, Virginia 22152

The organizer receives 10% of dine-in sales for each flyer presented!

Your group also receives 10% of takeout and online orders when mentioning the fundraiser! For online orders please use the code "Fundraiser" to receive proper credit.
Call ahead for takeout! 703-451-5336

If any staff or parents order catering the entire week of the fundraiser, our organization will get 10% of the check total!

Bring a friend and tell your neighbors too!
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
Holy Spirit School

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 jennifermichelsylvester@gmail.com or 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

We know it isn't even 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

Vice President - Rob Wu - PTOVP@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 - PTOVDevelopment@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!

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	Family Maximum \$25.00
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)



"God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart"
Mary, Mother of God

What is required for the Devotion?

Each part of the devotion should be made with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the first Saturday of five (5) consecutive months.

Go to confession - this can be up to either (8) days before or after the First Saturday itself.

Receive Holy Communion on the day itself, in a state of grace, with the intention of making reparation as above.

Recite five (5) decades of the Rosary.

Meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes: this is not difficult, e.g. slowly read the Gospel account of the mysteries, or use a booklet on the Rosary.


[More information may be found on the tables by the exit](#)


Got an hour a week to help families in need?



An hour of your time is all that it takes to deliver a week's worth of groceries. Volunteers simply fill out a weekly survey to choose their preferred day and time.

ACCA needs volunteers to deliver groceries to families in need. Once you sign up, you'll receive a weekly survey to choose a preferred date and time to volunteer. An hour of your time is all that it takes. Go to accacares.org/foodpantry to find out more or email volunteers@accacares.org

 Our parish is one of 27 area churches supporting ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action). See also accacares.org




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



Monthly Infant Diaper Collection
After All Masses
All sizes are needed (large and small)
Next Weekend
 Bins are located outside the Church



The need never goes away nor goes on vacation... Please remember our important monthly diaper collection dates.

**November 11/12
December 9/10**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church invites you to
Eucharistic Adoration

"Mira una hora conmigo." *Watch one Hour with Me."* *Xem một giờ với tôi."*

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
or email: lisa.ciola@holyspiritchurch.us



Community Happenings!

ANNANDALE BOYS' & GIRLS' CLUB REGISTRATION
 4216 Annandale Rd., Annandale, VA 22003 703-941-ABGC (2242) FAX 703-941-4412
 Basketball Coordinators: Taylor Wright twright@abgc.org (girls) Jean Colon jcolon@abgc.org (boys)
 Commissioner: Juan Colon jcolon@abgc.org
 Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 5:30-7:30p, Saturday 9-12 Noon
 *REGISTER ONLINE AND SAVE \$5 @ WWW.ABGC.ORG

Basketball \$150 First Time \$75 K-12th Grade	Wrestling \$160 Ages 5-14	Boxing Ages 7-Adult \$71-436-9983
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The basketball fee includes clinics for 4th thru 8th grade. The registration fee of \$75 is only for "First Time" basketball players with the Annandale Boys' & Girls' Club. Basketball season is from Dec, 2023 thru March 2024. The wrestling program will begin in November and run through February. Registration will close Dec. 1, 2023. Teams are formed with a neighborhood concept by grade level. *These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.*

REQUESTED COACH _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS _____

MAIL OR DELIVER FORM AND FEE TO: ABGC, 4216 Annandale Rd., ANNANDALE, VA 22003

Player's First Name (Type or Print) _____ Last Name _____
 Boy _____ Girl _____ Date of Birth _____ School _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Grade in Now _____ E-mail _____
 Telephone (H) _____ (C) _____

WE RELY ON VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

NO FEES:	SHR Refund	No Refund
Coach	Assistant Coach	Will be a spectator
League Commissioner		

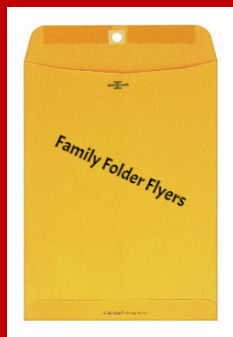
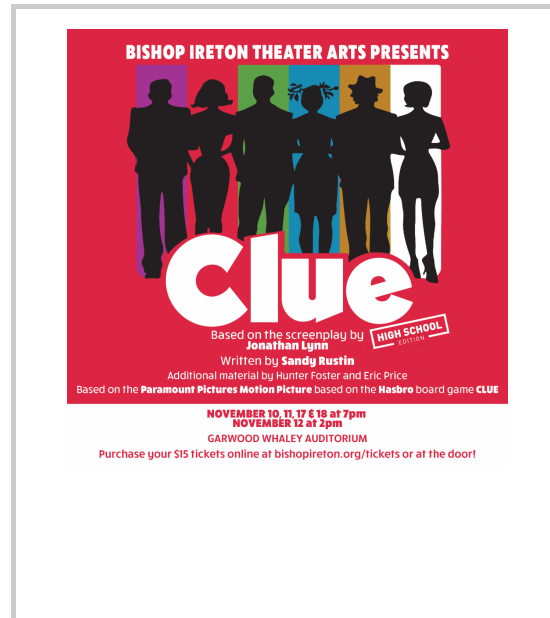
I hereby give permission for my child to play _____ (sport). I have insurance to cover all risks of injury or doctor's bills that might be incurred and accept all responsibility for my child's safety at practice and at games.

I also understand that there are no refunds: *In the event I cannot get the team of my choice, I will accept an assignment made by ABGC.*

IF YOU ARE NOT A FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENT, THERE IS A \$35 FEE Amt. Paid _____

IF YOU ARE A SCHOLARSHIP PLAYER, THERE IS A \$35 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE Amt. Paid _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Amt. Paid \$ _____ Check _____ Cr. Card _____
 Print Parents' First & Last Names _____ Date _____



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "November 9, 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. Partners in Faith (November) newsletter

PTO Flyers:

1. Ledo Pizza fundraiser flyer
2. Holy Spirit Ornament Order Form
3. Santa Boutique flyer
4. SONShine Committee flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Parish Spaghetti Dinner flyer
2. First Saturday Devotions
3. ACCA flyer
4. Solemn Vespers flyer
5. Diaper Drive flyer
6. Eucharistic Adoration flyer

Community Flyers:

1. Annandale Boys and Girls Club Winter Registration

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

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
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