

October 19, 2023



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

A Strong Showing So Far!

Thank you to all who have engaged with the Booster platform in the past few days and to those who have so generously donated to this year's PTO fundraiser.

As of this morning, 85% of the students were registered and 63% of those students have some sort of donation attached to them. We are off to a great start!

We are looking forward to the Fun Run next Tuesday! Please note the times of the runs for each group - parents are certainly welcome!

Prekindergarten - Grade 2 - 9:00 - 10:00 am
Grades 3-5 - 10:30 - 11:30 am
Grades 6-8 - 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Hope to see you there!

The Student Council's two biggest events of the year are upon us! Thank you to those who have already donated to the Ton of Love food drive. For those new to our community, the goal each year is to donate a literal TON of food to the St. Lucy Food Project. Spirit Week kicks off on Monday with Decades Day - we can't wait to see what everyone has pulled together throughout the week. I really encourage you to put the themes for the different days of Spirit Week on your calendar and let your kiddos start planning now.

Friday, October 27th is a no school day for students as it is a Diocesan professional development day for the teachers. But don't stray far from home as that evening is the PTO's annual Trunk or Treat event! This is a terrific evening of fun for everyone and I

encourage you to sign up for a slot and come out and show off your decorated car.

The students will officially move into the Winter uniform on Monday, October 30th. Please be sure you are ready for that. I would also encourage you to look at your student's uniform with a critical eye - there are already a number of girls with skorts, skirts, and jumpers which are too short.

We will attend Mass on Wednesday, November 1st for All Saints Day (as opposed to our usual Friday Mass).

Retakes of yearbook pictures will be on November 2nd - watch for more information on that.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 9 and Friday, November 10. All parents are asked to plan for a conference with your child's HOMEROOM teacher. In the next couple of weeks a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out to families in order to reserve your timeslot. Parents may choose an in-person conference or one via Zoom.

Thursday, November 9th will be an early dismissal day (Extended Day is open) and Friday, November 10th is a no school day for students so that we can hold these conferences.

Formation in Christian Chastity

Each year, we are required by the Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Child Protection and Safety for the Diocese to present to students in Grades 1-8 the Formation in Christian Chastity program. This year, this will take place during the week of November 6th.

I encourage all parents to review the materials that will be used for the lessons by accessing them at the link below.

This is an OPT-OUT program meaning that all students will receive the information unless a parent specifically opts their child out via the below form.

Again, I encourage you to take time to review the materials, before making that decision. Please note that for Grades 1-4 the information is repetitive from year to year.

[Formation in Christian Chastity Lesson Information](#)

[Formation in Christian Chastity OPT-OUT Form](#)



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you intentionally thank someone for a kindness that they extended to you? Not a perfunctory "Thanks" thrown towards the cashier at the store or our spouse when he or she put dinner on the table or walked the dog, but a genuine look someone in the eyes "Thank you"...

It can mean so very much and truly change the receiver's day.

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.



ARE YOU READY????!!!!

Holy Spirit School

Spirit Week

Monday 23rd-Thursday 26th

Monday- DECADES DAY!
PreK-2nd = 1960's
3rd-5th = 1970's
6th-8th = 1980's

Tuesday- BOOSTERTHON Spirit Run!
PE Uniform and CRAZY accessories

Wednesday- WACKY WEDNESDAY!
WACKY clothing, hairstyles, and accessories

Thursday- CIRCUS DAY!
Dress as your favorite part of the circus
(e.g., a ringmaster, clown, animal, etc.)

Friday -TRUNK-OR-TREAT
(no school for students)

Thank you to those who have already donated!

All donations are due by next Tuesday, October 24th.

There is a genuine need for food assistance to so many who live in the Northern Virginia area, please consider helping.



♥ Ton of Love 2023 ♥

It's time for the annual St. Lucy's Ton of Love Food Drive! Please consider donating to the St. Lucy Project to help those in need. The blue bags to carry the food will go home on Friday, October 13th, along with the food list.

All donations are appreciated, though below we included a list for you to know which items are most needed. All donations must be made by October 24th.

- Pre-Kindergarten- Mac & Cheese
- Kindergarten-Mac & Cheese
- First Grade-Mac & Cheese
- Second Grade-Cereal
- Third Grade-Cereal
- Fourth Grade-Jelly/ Jam (No glass jars)
- Fifth Grade-Jelly/Jam (No glass jars)
- Sixth Grade-Canned Pasta
- Seventh Grade-Canned Corn/Green Beans
- Eighth Grade-Canned Meat

The NJHS honors the active, retired and deceased members of our Armed Forces in advance of Veterans Day.

See the complete document and instructions via the "button below" to see how your family can help with our Wall of Heroes.

MY HERO IS:

WHO served the United States of America
in: _____

Place a picture here. Please not an original but a copy.

CALLING ALL HEROES:

1. People who have served our country as a member of the Armed Forces. This includes active, retired or deceased members of the Armed Forces.
2. People who have served our country in first responders. This includes active, retired or deceased.
3. We will accept pictures now and all the way through **November**.

PLEASE SEND A PICTURE OF YOUR HERO SO THAT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAN PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

Please write a short biography of your hero.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Wall of Heroes information



The Art Room is in need of cardboard tubes.

Donations can be sent directly to the Art Room.

Thank you!

Thoughtful Moments

St. John XXIII
Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born to a poor farming family in Bergamo, Italy. His ordination as a priest in 1904 began a lifetime serving the Church as: the bishop's secretary, a military chaplain, cardinal-patriarch of Venice, and finally as "Good Pope John." He often visited the poor, the sick and prisoners. He worked to uphold their dignity and improved relations with the Eastern Church. He is remembered for opening the Second Vatican Council. He died in 1963.

The Guardian Angels
Guardian angels are "angels assigned to protect and intercede for each person" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 435). The intervention of the angels on our behalf is one way God takes care of us. Pray the Guardian Angel prayer with children often.

"Jesus reveals the nature of God in that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy." Pope Francis



Fall saints for a good school year

The saints in heaven help us on Earth with their prayers. We can also follow their examples to heaven. Through the autumn months, these saints can be beacons of light for children.

St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron of students. Brilliant but humble, he became one of the greatest minds of the Church studying, teaching, and defending the Faith. He began study with a prayer: "Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in completion. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."

St. Sebastian, named patron of athletes, bravely endured suffering for the Faith. Young athletes can ask him to inspire their strength, good sportsmanship, and self-discipline in

their faith and on the field. St. John Paul II, patron of World Youth Day and Catholic Sports, was born Karol Wojtyla in Poland. He lost his mother, father, and older brother before his 21st birthday. His promising academic career was cut short by the outbreak of World War II. After enrolling in a secret seminary in Krakow, he was ordained a priest in 1946 and eventually became one of the longest serving popes in Church history.

St. Philip Neri is patron of holy friendships. A valuable part of our school experience is learning to make friends. Call on the intercession of St. Philip Neri when navigating friendship challenges and to find holy friends.

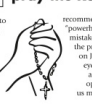


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Traditionally attributed to the Dominican Order, the Rosary is a set of prayers that focuses on the mysterious events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Several Marian apparitions and countless saints and popes have

Why do Catholics pray the Rosary?

recommended the Rosary as the "powerhouse" of devotions. Many mistake it as Marian devotion, but the prayer is actually a meditation on Jesus' life through Mary's eyes. Meditating on the prayers and mysteries of our Faith opens us to graces that make us more Christ-like.



-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming PTO Events

Friday, October 27th

Trunk or Treat 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Upper Parking Lot
See Volunteer opportunities and flier below for more details.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Trunk or Treat Volunteers (2-8 PSSC points)

Join the Holy Spirit community on Friday, October 27th and volunteer by decorating your trunk and handing out candy or helping the event run smoothly! See the flier below for more information and sign up on [Connect1](#)

Questions? Contact Abby Dagne and Jennika Frith PTOTrunkorTreat@holyspiritflames.org

November PTO Meeting (1 PSSC point for attending)

Join us via [Zoom](#) on November 14th 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 events? This is a great opportunity for new, as well as returning 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 Boutique Co-Chair (40 PSSC points) Kick off the Christmas season by assisting with Holy Spirit's Christmas Boutique! Work with Erika Garrett as the co-chair and plan the two-day event.

Christmas Boutique Volunteer (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

Help is needed with set up/decorating as well as 'running the show' during the two-day event. Feel free to dress in fun holiday attire!

Questions? Contact Lauren Schmidt PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org

or Toni O'Neill PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Spring Fundraiser Chair and Co-Chair (40 PSSC points each) Virtus Certification is NOT required

Do you love Spring and organizing fun events? Would you like to plan and execute our Spring fundraising activities during this year's Talent Show? This Chair/Co Chair role includes coordinating with classroom parents to develop class baskets and identification of fun "perks", and raffle ideas. It requires at least 3 months of support to ensure a smooth but exciting series of activities to raise money for the school and new ideas are always welcome!

Questions? Contact Lauren Schmidt PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org

or Toni O'Neill PTOVDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

Connect1

If you haven't set up your account, please register [here](#) and follow the instructions in the flier below.

Questions? Contact Tom Fields ptopssc@holyspiritflames.org

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.



The competition is fierce!

Currently our top participating classes are:

**Mrs. d'Alelio's 3rd Grade
Mrs. Epperly's 2nd Grade
Mr. Ferguson's 6th Grade**

Well done! Thank you to everyone!

Our Boosterthon Fundraiser is well underway and we are close to meeting our goal of \$40,000. Thank you to all of the families who have already donated. There is still time to register and ask for donations. 85% of students have registered. If 95% of students register, we will have a dress down day on Halloween!

Parents are welcome to come and cheer on their students at the fun runs next Tuesday. The schedule is as follows:

- PreK-2nd @ 9:00-10:00a
- 3-5th @ 10:30-11:30a
- 6-8th @ 1:30-2:30p (Color Run)

There are still a few sign ups left for helping with water stations. Sign up is <https://app.connect1.io/volunteers/NE1DjjSrD> on Connect1.

GET READY!!!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Decorate your booth and fill it with candy!

Admission:
Bag of Halloween
candy



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:30 - 8:30 PM

On the School Grounds

Limited spaces available. For info and to reserve a spot, check out

Connect1! Questions? Email

PTOtrunkortreat@holyspiritflames.org

(More than one family can share a spot.)



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 jennifermichellesylvester@gmail.com or toniquinnoneill@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



We know it isn't even Halloween yet, but....



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

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 - PTOVPPDevelopment@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!



YOUTH
MINISTRY

CYO BASKETBALL

REGISTER ONLINE

Teams are forming now

Register online at
www.holyspiritchurch.us/youth

Holy Spirit CYO Basketball is a winter sport, and is open to boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 registered in Holy Spirit School or in Holy Spirit's Religious Education Program. Basketball practice begins October 1.

For more information contact
youthministry@holyspiritchurch.us

The poster features a dark blue background with a pattern of light blue dots. At the top, the 'YOUTH MINISTRY' logo is displayed. Below it, the text 'CYO BASKETBALL' is written in large, bold, blue letters. A white banner with an orange border contains the words 'REGISTER' and 'ONLINE' in orange. The text 'Teams are forming now' is in white. The registration website is listed below. A paragraph of text describes the program, and contact information is provided at the bottom. A stylized orange and black basketball is shown at the very bottom.



Choose Life

October is Respect Life Month!
Celebrate the gift of life today and every day.

1. **DONATE** to help moms and unborn children in need.
2. **REMEMBER** our veterans and military personnel.
3. **SUPPORT** those who are disabled.
4. **CARE** for those who are sick, needy, and older than you.
5. **LEARN** more about Catholic moral and social teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.



"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."
— Deuteronomy 30:19

"Jesus, said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'"
— John 10:10-11

For more information, contact the Respect Life group:
respectlife@holyspiritchurch.us

HOLY SPIRIT WOMEN'S COUNCIL
PRESENTS THE

2023 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



Honoring President Gerald Ford's
Handcrafted Christmas ornaments
Price \$21.00



To Pre-Order

Contact Candie Poumade
703-425-8769
cpoumade@prodigy.net
Delivery dates: Oct. 28 -29, Nov.4-5 and 11-12
Outside all church entrances



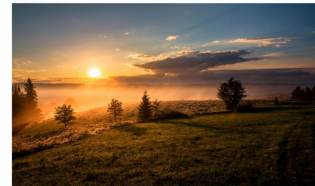
World Mission Sunday 2023 October 22nd

Were not our hearts burning within us?
Luke 24:13-35

26M | 18,140 | 8,750 | 12,000 | 944,000 | 258,540

BE THE SPARK THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES. GIVE NOW.

WWW.ONEFAMILYMISSION.ORG



Seasons of Hope Grief Support Group New Session Starts November 4, 10 AM

Seasons of Hope, the Grief Support Group at Holy Spirit Church, will be starting a new session on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10 AM in the Annunciation in the Narthex. The Grief Support Group is for anyone in our parish who has lost a loved one and runs for 6 Saturdays. The program we use is Catholic and Biblically based. If you or a family member or friend might benefit from some grief support, please join us for the first session on November 4 or contact Chris and Gary at griefsupport@holyspiritchurch.us



CBA CATHOLIC BAR ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference and General Assembly
George Mason University Arlington Campus (Virginia)
October 26-28, 2023

catholicbar.org/CBA2023

Confirmed Speakers

	Judge Justin R. Walker, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit	
	Rev. Robert Sirico, The Acton Institute	
	Helen Alvaré, Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University	
	Erika Bachiochi, Ethics and Public Policy Center	
	Nicole Stelle Garnett, University of Notre Dame Law School	
	Heather Lachenauer, University of Dallas	
	Mark Rienzi, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and Columbus School of Law	
	Mattias Caro, Caro Law PLLC and Dominion Law Group	
	Michael Mazza, Canonical Advocacy.com	

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Basilica of Saint Mary in Old Town Alexandria

Red Mass

	Principal Celebrant and Homilist Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington	
	Banquet Keynote Speaker Chief Judge William H. Pryor, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals, 11 th Circuit	

catholicbar.org/CBA2023



HOW TO BE A SAINT

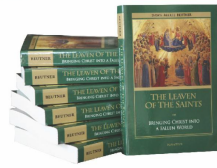
*Real examples of holy men and women
and what they teach us*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

*Holy Spirit Church
McGivney Hall, 7 PM*



Presentation by Parishioner
Dawn Marie Beutner
*Author of *The Leaven of the Saints**



**Do you like to sing?
Do you play an instrument?**

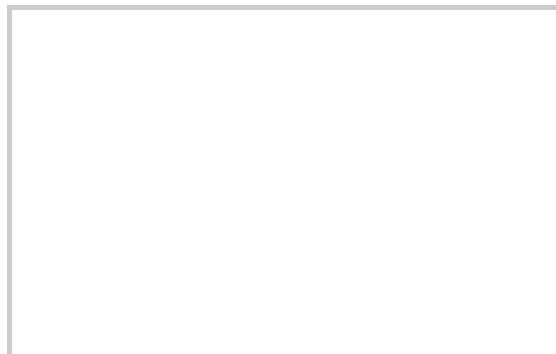
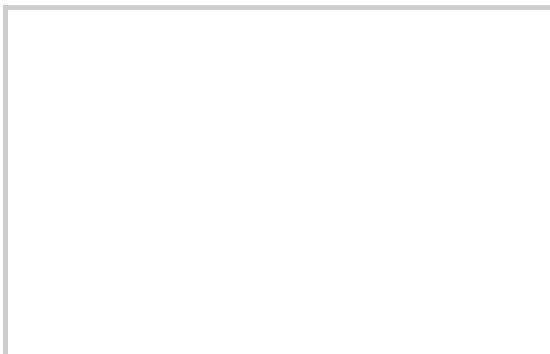
**We invite you to join our new
Contemporary Choir providing music at
the Sunday 6 pm Masses**

**No experience needed
Just a joy in singing to the Lord.**



Email our Parish Music Director, Alberto Gonzalez
at agonzalez@holyspiritchurch.us

Community Happenings!



SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2023
1:00-4:00 PM

Register Here!



17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, VA 22026
jpthegreat.org • 703.445.0246



Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School

Upcoming Events

Open House

Sunday, Nov. 5

You're Invited! JP will host an Open House on Sunday,
November 5th from 1:00-4:00pm. Meet students,
teachers, and coaches and learn what makes JP great!
RSVP to the right!



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 1-3

Experience the classic Shakespeare play brought to
life by John Paul students this fall! Tickets available
soon!



How to High School

Saturday, Jan. 6

Our hit high school readiness and skills
workshop! Open to all 7th and 8th graders.
RSVP to the right!



Volleyball Middle School Night

Friday, Oct. 27 at 5:30pm



Calling all middle schoolers!

Help cheer on JP's Varsity Girls Volleyball Team
at our Volleyball Middle School Night!
No RSVP required!



Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School
17700 Dominican Drive
Potomac Shores, VA 22026



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "October 19, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Formation in Christian Chastity Opt-Out form
2. Spirit Week flyer
3. Ton of Love food drive flyer
4. Wall of Heroes information
5. Partners in Faith (October) newsletter

PTO Flyers:

1. Trunk or Treat flyer
2. Ledo Pizza fundraiser flyer
3. Holy Spirit Ornament Order Form
4. Santa Boutique flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. CYO Basketball Registration flyer
2. Respect Life flyer
3. Christmas White House ornaments presale
4. World Mission Sunday flyer
5. Seasons of Hope flyer
6. How to Be A Saint flyer
7. Catholic Bar Association Annual Conference
8. Parish Choir flyer

Community Flyers:

1. St. John Paul the Great HS Open House
2. St. John Paul the Great Upcoming Events

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

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

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Notice](#)

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