From the Principal's Desk



October 26, 2023



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

Boosterthon...Spirit Week...Ton of Love In The Books!

Before I go any further in this week's message, please note that Pope Francis has declared tomorrow, Friday, October 27th a day of prayer, fasting, and penance for peace.

In his general audience on October 18, Pope Francis said:

"Lay down weapons and heed the cries for peace from the poor, the people, and the innocent children. War solves no problems," he said. "It only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future, it erases the future."



Wow! Wow! Wow!

Thank you to the entire Holy Spirit School community who participated in this year's Booster program and helped the PTO raise over \$55,000.00!

We also had over 95% of the student population register on the Booster site!

As a result of reaching **BOTH** goals, we will have Monday, February 12, 2024 (the day after the Super Bowl) **AND**

We will have a dress down day next Tuesday, October 31st. Students are welcome to add their Halloween accessories for the day, but, please no full costumes, no masks, and no "weapons".

A HUGE "Thank you!" to Mrs. Schaad and Mrs. Nicholson for all of the work they did behind the scenes to help pull of this off!



"Thank you!" to and from The Student Council!

Spirit Week and the Ton of Love Food Drive were both smashing successes!

Our community donated over 1800 food items to the St. Lucy Food Project. As blessed as we all are in our lives, it is good to help our children grow in charity and to understand that there are many in our area who do live with the reality of food insecurity.

The week saw lots and lots of fun costumes and smiles as we embraced each day's Spirit challenge!

In particular, today's Circus Day was incredible! We do love our Three Ring Circus around here!









Annual Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, November 9 and Friday, November 10th.

November 9th is an early dismissal day and conferences begin at 1:00 pm (Extended Day is open).

November 10th is a no school day for students and conferences will take place across the normal school day hours.

All parents are asked to sign up for a conference with your child's HOMEROOM teacher. You may indicate in your sign-up if you would prefer a meeting via Zoom as opposed to inperson. Conferences are 15 minutes and it is asked that you please be respectful of the time knowing that there are folks before and after.

Please use the link below to access the sign-up.

The access code is: HS23Conferences

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

Congratulations to the 8th grade students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last night; may you continue to grow in grace and wisdom and open yourself to being truly led by the Holy Spirit in all that you say and do each and every day.

*The November lunch calendar is open for ordering.

Monday, October 30th is the day we switch over to the Winter Uniform. Please be sure you have noted that on your calendar.

We will attend Mass on All Saints Day at 10:15 am.

Yearbook picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd.

On Thursday, November 9th, we invite all the retired and active duty military in our school community, as well as 1st Responders to join us for our flag raising ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day.

If you would like to join us, please drop off your student(s) and then park in the upper parking lot and come down to join us at the flagpole.

For all parents - we will stop in the incoming car line at 8:00 am while the ceremony takes place.

Information is below for the NJHS Wall of Heroes. Please take a look at that as we would love to recognize as many people as we can for their service to our Country.

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 1st Trimester comes to a close on Tuesday, November 21st. Report cards for stduents 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.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did you ask God for the grace to forgive someone? We seem to live in a world anymore where everyone feels "wronged" all the time; I think if we can find it in our own hearts to forgive those we feel have been unkind or unjust in any way to us, we can help to start to repair some of the factures we see and feel in our world.

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.



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

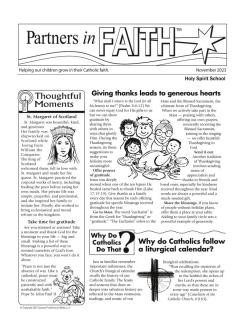
See the complete document and instructions via the "button below" to see how your family can help with our Wall of Heroes.

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 as first responders. This includes active, retired or deceased. 3. We will accopit pictures now and all the way through November 3. PLEASE SEND APICTURE OF YOUR HERO SOTHATOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAN PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE. Please write a short biography of your hero.

MY HERO IS:

Wall of Heroes information

NEW! November Newsletter!



-Maureen Ashby



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

<u>Trunk or Treat Volunteers</u> (2-8 PSSC points)

Join the Holy Spirit community tomorrow 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/family for attending)

Join us via <u>Zoom</u> 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 <u>Connect1</u> for meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending.

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

<u>Christmas Boutique Co-Chair</u> (40 PSSC points) Kick off the Christmas season by assisting with Holy Spirit's Christmas Boutique! Work with Erika Garett as the co-chair and plan the two-day event.

<u>Christmas Boutique Volunteer</u> (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 <u>PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org</u> or Toni O'Neill PTOVPDevelopment@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 PTOVPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

Connect1

If you haven't set up your account, please register <u>here</u> and follow the instructions in the flier below. Questions? Contact Tom Fields <u>ptopssc@holyspiritflames.org</u>

In order to volunteer with any youth in the Arlington Diocese, you must be **Child Protection Compliant**.

<u>Recess Duty</u> 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.

TOMORROW IS TRUNK OR TREAT AND WE COULD STILL USE SOME VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO DECORATE THEIR TRUNK!





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....



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

PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - <u>PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Vice President - Rob Wu - <u>PTOVP@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Treasurer - Karin Floyd - <u>PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - <u>PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org</u>

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt -<u>PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill -<u>PTOVPDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org</u>
Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet -<u>PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org</u>

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!



Bishop Burbidge offers statement following declaration of war by Israel

I ask the faithful in the Diocese of Arlington and all people of good will to join in prayer for peace following a terrorist attack in Israel.

Our hearts are shocked and saddened by the death of hundreds of people, and thousands more who are wounded or dispersed already.

It is my hope and prayer that the international community will work together to help ensure a peaceful and just resolution for the good of all.











They have answered the call Help Educate Our Future Priests

The Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF) is a permanent fund established to ensure continual resources for educating and training seminarians to serve as the future Priests of the Diocese of Arlington.





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.

itself, in a state of grace, with the intention of making reparation as above.

Meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary

for 15 minutes: this is not difficult, e.g.

mysteries, or use a booklet on the Rosar

More information may be found on the tables by the exit









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.



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



Special Religious Development (SPRED) is a program designed to support and serve children and adults with developmental disabilities and will be offered again at Holy Spirit Parish for the

- We have need for catechists to work one-on- one with our "friends with disabilities." In addition to meeting for the 12 Satuday integrated sessions a year, the catechists also meet the prior Monday or Tuesday evening for about one hour. No experience is required to be a catechist.
- 2. We have one age group, adults 22 and over, and have been at Holy spirit for 30 plus years. Persons with Down Syndrome, Autism, and Learning Disabilities are welcome to join this group! The ability to read is not a requirement as all projects and activities are designed to meet the needs of our "friends" at various levels of achievement. The program meets for 12 sessions on Saturday mornings throughout the

If you are interested working with our "friends" as a catechist or would like to enroll a friend or relative in our adult SPRED group please contact Dick Cecka at (racecka@aol.com) or 703-978-8435. Thank you





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



HOLY SPIRIT WOMEN'S COUNCIL PRESENTS THE



2023WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT





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

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

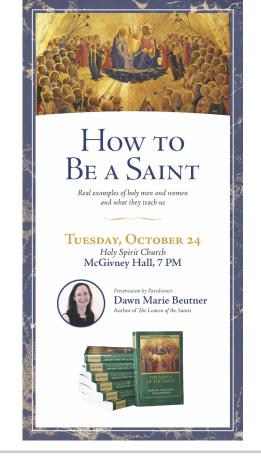
We invite you to join our new Contemporary Choir providing music at the Sunday 6 pm Masses

No experience needed

Just a joy in singing to the Lord.

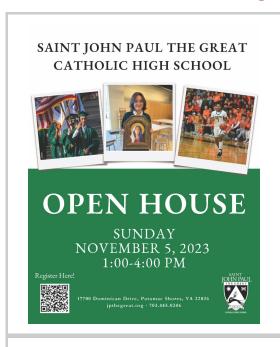


Email our Parish Music Director, Alberto Gonzalez at agonzalez@holyspiritchurch.us



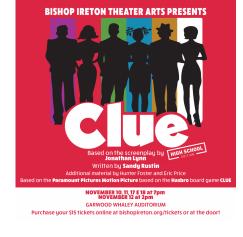


Community Happenings!





Basketball \$150 First Time \$75 K- 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini*First Time" basketball players Dec, 2023 thru March 2043. The	Commissioner: Juan Colon jeachticky E. Monday they Triday 3 - TPM, Star EMAIL: abge@abge.org IER ONLINE AND SAVE SS @ WV Wrestling \$160 Ages 5 - 14	turday 9 – 12 Noon
*REGIS! Basketball \$150 First Time \$75 K - 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini *First Time" basketball players Dec, 2023 thru March 2024. T	EMAIL: abreeiabse are IER ONLINE AND SAVE 55 @ WW Wrestling \$160 Ages 5 – 14	WWABGC.ORG Boxing Ages 7 – Adult
Basketball \$150 First Time \$75 K - 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini "First Time" basketball players Dec, 2023 thru March 2024. T	TER ONLINE AND SAVE \$5 ⊕ WV Wrestling \$160 Ages 5 − 14	Boxing Ages 7 – Adult
Basketball \$150 First Time \$75 K - 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini "First Time" basketball players Dec, 2023 thru March 2024. T	Wrestling \$160 Ages 5 – 14	Boxing Ages 7 – Adult
First Time \$75 K - 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini "First Time" basketball players Dec., 2023 thru March 2024. T	Ages 5 – 14	Ages 7 - Adult
K - 12th Grade The basketball fee includes clini "First Time" basketball players Dec., 2023 thru March 2024. T		Ages 7 - Adult
The basketball fee includes clini "First Time" basketball players Dec., 2023 thru March 2024. T	ics for 4th thru 8th grade. The r	571-436-5983
"First Time" basketball players Dec., 2023 thru March 2024. T	ics for 4th thru 8th arade. The r	
	with the Annandale Boys' & C	registration fee of \$75 is only for Girls' Club. Basketball season is fro
	he wrestling program will beg	in in November and run through
		med with a neighborhood concept by
		d by the Fairfax County School Boar
the Superintendent, or this school	d.	
REQUESTED COACH		
REQUESTED COACH		
SPECIAL REQUESTS		
MAIL OR DELIVER FORM	I AND FEE TO: ABGC, 4216 Annan	ndale Rd., ANNANDALE, VA 22003
Player's First Name (Type or Print)	Last Name	
BoyGirl Date of Birth	School	
Address	City	Zip
Grade in NowE-mail		
Telephone (H)	(C)	
WE RELY ON VOLU	NTEERS, PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN C	ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
	S10.00 Refund Assistant Coach	No Refund Will be a spectator
League Commissioner	Assistan Cokh	wat to a spectator
I hereby give permission for my child to play	y(sport). I h	have insurance to cover all risks of injury or
	ept all responsibility for my child's safety at	t practice and at games.
doctor's bills that might be incurred and acce		
I also understand that there are	no refunds. In the event I cannot ge	ег те тект ор ту сполсе, I will ассере ан азхіднт
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I also understand that there are made by ABGC. IF YOU ARE NOT A FAIRFAX COUNT	Y RESIDENT, THERE IS A \$30 FEE	Amt. Paid
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FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "October 26, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

- 1. Formation in Christian Chastity Opt-Out form
- 2. Wall of Heroes information
- 3. Partners in Faith (November) 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. Bishop Burbidge's Statement on Israel
- 2. Parish Spaghetti Dinner flyer
- 3. BINGO flyer
- 4. Seminarians' Education Endowment Fund flyer
- 5. CYO Basketball Registration flyer
- 6. First Saturday Devotions
- 7. ACCA flyer
- 8. SPRED flyer
- 9. Respect Life flyer
- 10. Christmas White House ornaments presale
- 11. Seasons of Hope flyer
- 12. How to Be A Saint flyer
- 13. Catholic Bar Association Annual Conference
- 14. Parish Choir flyer

Community Flyers:

- 1. St. John Paul the Great HS Open House
- 2. St. John Paul the Great Upcoming Events
- 3. Annandale Boys and Girls Club Winter Registration
- 4. Bishop Ireton's Production of CLUE

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

Unsubscribe pto@holyspiritflames.org

<u>Update Profile</u> | Constant Contact Data <u>Notice</u>

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