



# All Saints Catholic School

*Lord, I thank you, for your merciful love and your faithfulness.*

## The Sentinel Newsletter

September 29, 2021

### Principal's Message

It was great to see so many parents participating in the PTO sponsored Helping Hands project last week. The teachers greatly appreciate the assistance that these volunteers provided in organizing classroom materials, preparing learning activities, and leveling books for our reading program. All of these efforts have lightened the workload for our faculty and provided them even more time to focus on instructional planning and student learning. In addition to providing support to the teachers, those in attendance had the opportunity to meet other school parents and to experience a wonderful sense of community.

I wish to specifically thank Mrs. Holly Crocker for organizing and coordinating the Helping Hands initiative and the many volunteers who generously gave of their time on Thursday and Friday. It was yet another example of the commitment that we all share for the success of the mission of All Saints and the students we serve.

The next Helping Hands event will take place in the Parish Activities Center on Thursday, October 14 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The primary focus for the day will be the sorting and reorganization of materials and equipment used in our Robotics Program.

As announced on Monday, beginning next week we are pleased to invite parents on a limited basis to volunteer in the school building. As in prior years, there will be opportunities for parents to volunteer in the primary grade classrooms. Additionally, we will identify other key roles by which parents can support our program. Look for more details regarding these volunteer positions in upcoming classroom communications and school newsletters.

As a reminder, it is a requirement that all volunteers in the school building be fully VIRTUS compliant, i.e., completion of the required diocesan background check and safe environment training. (Note: VIRTUS training must occur within 45 days of initiating the background check.)

**Additionally, in accordance with our *COVID-19 Reopening Plan*, all visitors and volunteers will be required to complete a health screening prior to arrival at All Saints. All adults who visit or volunteer in the building are required to wear masks and maintain six-foot physical distance if not fully vaccinated.**

Should you have any questions about volunteering in the school or ways that you can support our mission, please do not hesitate to let us know.

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### ***Virtues in Practice – October***

Virtue of the Month: Friendship

Definition: Sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other.

Saints: Saints Benedict & Scholastica (PK-2), Saints Basil & Gregory (3-5), Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (6-8)

### ***Pilgrim Virgin Statue Program***

Beginning in October, the month devoted to the Holy Rosary, All Saints Catholic School families are once again invited to renew their devotion to Jesus through Mary in a special way. On Friday, October 8, two statues of Our Lady of Fatima will begin traveling to the homes of school families for week-long visits.

Families who wish to participate in this program this year may sign up online at the following link:

[Pilgrim Virgin Statue Program](#)

Pick up time for the Statues at the front office is before 2:30 p.m. on Friday with a return time of before 9:00 a.m. the following Friday. Please be sure to sign in and out for the Statue in the Visitor Binder at the front desk.

While the statue of the Blessed Mother is in the home, families are encouraged to pray together either part of or the entire five-decade rosary for the intentions of our school as well as for their private intentions.

Should you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the rotation coordinator, Mrs. Maricel Pascua at [gmpascua@outlook.com](mailto:gmpascua@outlook.com) or 571-393-0942.

### ***Blessing of Animals (October 4)***

October 4th is the memorial of 13th century St. Francis of Assisi, a deacon, who founded the many religious communities known as the Franciscans that follow his approach to prayer, penance, and poverty. He is known as a lover of nature and animals. All Saints Catholic Church will be providing a special Blessing of Animals (and their owners) on Monday, October 4, at 4:00 PM, in the courtyard by the St. Francis statue, weather permitting.

Students from All Saints Catholic School, public schools, other private schools, and home-schools are invited, along with other parishioners who may want to join us. Pets, such as dogs, must be on a leash. All pets must be under the control of the owner. Please, no animals which are dangerous or could be harmful to others. Bring your pet and gather in the courtyard. This blessing is to help us remember the goodness that comes to us through God's creation.

### ***Running With the Saints 5K is back!***

We need your help to make the Saints 5K a success. You don't need to be a runner to be involved! If you are interested in being part of the 5K team, please contact Joan Coleman at [jcoleman02@comcast.net](mailto:jcoleman02@comcast.net) or 703-895-9031.

### ***Family Bingo night***

The PTO is excited to be hosting a Family Bingo night on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the PAC. Cost is \$5 per person for ten bingo games. Small prizes will be offered for each of the ten games. Please use the flyer below to pre-order your Bingo cards and daubers. Pre-Orders are strongly encouraged and are due by Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>. See the order form below.

<https://allsaintsvaschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Bingo-Flyer-2021.pdf>

# Important Reminders

## ***Background Checks – Policies for School Parent Volunteers***

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, all volunteers in the school are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training within 45 days of submitting the background check application.

In accordance with diocesan policy, full compliance for an adult parent volunteer is not required for *open* events. (An open event is one that is open to the public, infrequent and publicized, such as Field Day, concerts and special events/assemblies.) However, full compliance is required for adult parent volunteers who wish to participate in closed events. (A closed event is one that is not entirely open to the general public such as classroom activities, parties, field trips, etc.) For this reason, all parents who wish to attend field trips or volunteer in support of classroom activities are required to complete the background check process and attend VIRTUS training.

The online application for the diocesan background check can be found at the following link:

[https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP\\_application](https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP_application)

To register for VIRTUS training which is hosted at parishes and schools throughout our diocese, please follow the link below.

[www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

## ***Diocesan Pilgrimage (October 30)***

Bishop Burbidge invites you to join him to mark this “Year of St. Joseph” at the Diocesan Marian Pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, October 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for this year’s pilgrimage is “St. Joseph, Guardian of the Body of Christ.” All are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event! For complete details and a schedule for the event, please see the following link.

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/2021/marian-pilgrimage](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2021/marian-pilgrimage)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Thursday, September 30**

Faculty Meeting (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

### **Monday, October 4**

Blessing of Animals (4:00 p.m.)

### **Tuesday, October 5**

St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit (10:00 a.m.)

PTO Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Join Zoom Meeting

PTO Executive Committee Meeting

### **Thursday, October 7**

School Mass – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary (8:30 a.m.)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to The Edge – Tentative

### **Friday, October 8**

Trimester I – Interim Reports

Noon Dismissal (DFE Meeting)

### **Saturday, October 9**

VIRTUS Training (FKH/9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

### **Monday, October 11**

Holiday – Columbus Day

### **Thursday, October 14**

Enrollment Management Team Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

### **Friday, October 15**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

### **Saturday, October 16**

PTO Family Bingo Night (PAC/6:00 – 9:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, October 19**

PTO General Assembly Meeting – To Be Rescheduled

**Friday, October 22**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Coffee with the Principal (Zoom/9:30 a.m.)

**Monday, October 25**

Picture Day

**Thursday, October 28**

School Mass – Feast of Saints Simon and Jude

Penny Bazaar (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.)

Middle School Glow Party (PAC/7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

**Friday, October 29**

Diocesan Professional Development Day (No Classes)

**Saturday, October 30**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception