



# All Saints Catholic School

*Behold I make all things new.*

## The Sentinel Newsletter

December 6, 2023

### Principal's Message

Last evening families gathered in the church for the Evening with St. Nicholas Prayer Service, an annual tradition for our school community. As always, it was a joyful occasion during which the children learned more about the life of St. Nicholas and the call for each of us to live lives of generosity, sharing our gifts and treasure with those in need.

At the conclusion of the prayer service, the students placed more than eighty pairs of new shoes on the steps of the sanctuary. All of the shoes collected at the event have been donated to House of Mercy, a local non-profit dedicated to "making God's love visible to those in need." We are so pleased to have partnered with House of Mercy through this event for more than ten years and look forward to continuing to support their ministry in the future. Thank you to all those who attended the prayer service and who, through their generosity, helped to brighten the lives of those less fortunate.

An Evening with St. Nicholas would not have been possible without the efforts of Mrs. Sarah Roccograndi. I wish to thank her as well as members of the PTO for all that they did to once again organize this beautiful event for our community. I also want to thank the members of the Schola who led the music under the direction of Mrs. Scott and the members of our Student Council Association who served as greeters and lectors. And thanks to the support of parent volunteers, everyone was able to enjoy a lovely reception in the Parish Activities Center. Both festive and prayerful, it was an evening that captured the spirit of Advent.

On Friday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our students will join schools across the diocese in praying the Rosary as we begin the third year of preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Arlington. Throughout the course of the school day, homeroom teachers will lead their students in this Marian devotion, providing the children yet another opportunity to enter into the Season of Advent.

Looking ahead to next week, on Tuesday we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning with a Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the church. Immediately following the liturgy, the students will gather around the Statue of Mary in the courtyard where they will enjoy a musical presentation by the parish Guadalupe Choir followed by the distribution of traditional Mexican bread in the Parish Activities Center.

We look forward to this joyful celebration of Our Lady and hope that many of you will be able to join us for the Mass and celebration.

*Wishing you and your family Advent blessings!*

***Behold I make all things new.***



### **A Prayer for the First Week of Advent**

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

### **All Saints Christmas Pageant**

Students in grades **K, 1, 4, 5, and 6** will be participating in the annual Christmas Pageant, *The Living Crèche*.

There are several changes from last year's details.

- Date: **Monday, December 18th, 2023**
- Time: **7pm** (**6th graders** report to the PAC Atrium at **6:25pm**; **all other grades** report to the *narthex of the Church* at **6:45pm**.)
- Parents/ family members who are unable to attend the evening performance are more than welcome to attend the **daytime performance**, which is at **1:45pm** in the Church.
- Place: **All Saints Catholic Church**
- Attire: Festive, "**Sunday best**" attire (except for costumed 6th graders). See the dress code below.

#### **Dress code:**

**Girls:** dresses, skirts, or nice dress pants (no bare shoulders or sleeveless dresses; the length may not be shorter than two inches above the knee), blouses or sweaters that are not form-fitting, with a neckline that is an appropriate length (i.e. just below the collar bone); Jeans, jeggings, leggings, or tights used as pants are not permitted. Sweaters should not have words or characters pictured on the front.

**Boys:** shirts and/ or sweaters (no sleeveless; sweaters should not have words or characters pictured on the front) and dress pants that are appropriate for church (i.e. navy blue, black, gray colored) and appropriate socks (dress socks).

#### **Penny Bazaar Donation**

All of the pennies, assorted coins, and dollar bills have been counted! Thanks to the generous participation of our students, the SCA collected \$470.87 through the Penny Bazaar event. All of the proceeds this year will be donated to St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School to benefit their Options Program.

## Important Reminders

- **Employment Opportunity – Extended Day Assistant**

All Saints Catholic School is seeking applicants for the position of Extended Day Assistant with employment beginning mid-January and extending through mid-March. The hours are approximately 2:30 – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to apply, please contact the principal at [dconroy@allsaintsva.org](mailto:dconroy@allsaintsva.org).

- **Christmas Joy Toy Drive**

Families may choose to donate new unwrapped toys and to bring Christmas Joy to a child this Advent season. The NJHS sponsored toy drive will benefit the children of the Saint Gabriel Mission. Donations will take place between December 4 – December 15. Toys may be dropped off in the breezeway entrance or the front office and will then be delivered to the Saint Gabriel Mission. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

- **Gift of Human Sexuality Program – Middle School Parent Meeting (December 11)**

For more than ten years, All Saints Catholic School has implemented a middle school curriculum entitled *The Gift of Human Sexuality Program* that supports our goal of educating the whole child. The program is coordinated by the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, Mr. Kevin Bohli, and is tailored to the specific needs of each school community. The program consists of a parent presentation during which Mr. Bohli provides an outline of the curriculum as well as resources for parents. Following this presentation, he and an associate, Ms. Carmen Briceno, will meet with the students for three one hour lessons designed to provide them with an understanding of the Church's teachings on the topic of human sexuality.

One of the advantages of this program is the involvement of outside professionals. In addition to bringing a high level of expertise as presenters, Mr. Bohli and Ms. Briceno are unfamiliar to the students, which may put the students at greater ease in asking questions and discussing this topic. A second advantage of this program is that it is designed to take place in a single-sex setting; Mr. Bohli will address the boys and Ms. Briceno will speak with the girls.

Finally, in accordance with diocesan policy, this program is designed as an *opt-in* opportunity for parents and students. Accommodations will be made for those children whose parents prefer that they not participate in the program. All middle school parents are invited to a presentation to be held via Zoom on Monday, December 11 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

*As this is such a very important topic related to the development of your child, at least one parent from each family new to the middle school is asked to attend the online meeting.*

- **Zoom Authorization Form**

Over the course of the past several years, our school community has successfully demonstrated the capacity to pivot when necessary in order to provide instruction in new and innovative ways for our students, specifically through online learning. It is important that we maintain a process as well as procedures that will allow us to transition to online learning if necessary, such as in the event of multi-day closures due to inclement weather.

Recently we sent a digital copy of the *Zoom Authorization Form* to parents of all students. With this form on file, we will be ready to provide instruction via Zoom should this ever become necessary during the school year. If you have not yet returned your signed form, please do so as soon as possible.

- **VIRTUS Training Session -\_December\_16**

The diocese will host an in-person VIRTUS training session in English at All Saints on Saturday, December 16. The session will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. For more information about the program and to register to attend, please see the link below.

[https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg\\_list2.cfm?theOrgID=18408](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=18408)

- **New Student Applications & Continuous Enrollment for 2024-2025**

Applications for new students for academic year 2024-2025 are now available online.

**All current families who wish to enroll a *new student* in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eight for the upcoming year may access the application at the link below.**

[Application 2024-2025 Link](#)

In January, we will provide a copy of the *Continuous Enrollment Contract* to parents of students completing their first year of enrollment at All Saints. Through completion of this form, parents may continuously enroll their child/ren through 8<sup>th</sup> grade from All Saints or, if necessary, until such time that they complete the withdrawal process. With submission of this contract, there is no need for future completion of an annual re-registration form.

The Continuous Enrollment Fee, formerly known as the Re-Registration Fee, will automatically be billed through FACTS accounts on March 1, 2024. The completion of the contract and payment of the fee will confirm enrollment for your child/ren for the upcoming school year.

- **Tuition Assistance Program (2024-2025)**

Important information regarding Diocesan Tuition Assistance for the upcoming academic year is now available. For details about the program, please see the flyer found at the link below.

[2024-2025 Tuition Assistance Program](#)

Details about the program can also be found on the diocesan website.

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/tuition-assistance/>

The key financial aid dates for 2024-2025 are as follows:

October 31, 2023	FACTS financial aid application closes for 2023-2024
November 1, 2023	FACTS financial aid application opens for 2024-2025
January 5, 2024	Financial aid application due date for diocesan <b>high schools</b>
March 13, 2024	Financial aid application due date for diocesan <b>K-8 schools</b>

- **All Saints Spirit Wear**

All Saints Spirit Wear is now available! Through November 15th, you can take advantage of a special discount on all purchases. There is no better day than today, All Saints Day, to begin your purchase. You can grab your new spirit wear apparel from All Saints' SquadLocker using the discount code: ALLSAINTSSPIRIT15.

[Order Your Squadlocker Spirit Wear](#)

- **Harris Teeter Together in Education Program**

Did you know All Saints participates in Harris Teeter's Together in Education program? Simply register your Harris Teeter store loyalty card (VIC card) online, and our school will receive a donation from Harris Teeter based on a percentage of your purchases of Harris Teeter brand items. There is no extra cost to you.

Click [here](#) to link your VIC card (or use the Harris Teeter app). Our school code is 6623. If you have any questions or need assistance linking your card, please contact our program coordinator, Laura Burroughs, at [Laura.Burroughs@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.Burroughs@gmail.com).

- **Science Fair**

We are excited to announce that the All Saints Catholic School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 8th, 2024 for the 7th grade students! We are looking for judges and would like to invite anyone who is interested in being involved. On behalf of Mrs. Starrs, we greatly appreciate any and all help! If you are interested, please fill out the form at this [link](#). For any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Tran ([mtran@allsaintsva.org](mailto:mtran@allsaintsva.org)).

- ***Boys Wrestling Clinics for Elementary and Middle School Students at Saint John Paul the Great!***

JP's Boys Wrestling Head Coach Jacob Kingett invites your students to participate in and spread the word about our Boys Wrestling Clinics now through February 1st! For more information about clinic dates and registration, please see the clinic flyer below for more details!

[Wrestling Flyer](#)

[Click here to register today!](#)

For any questions, please email Coach Kingett at [jacob.kingett@jpthegreat.org](mailto:jacob.kingett@jpthegreat.org).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Wednesday, December 6**

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

### **Thursday, December 7**

Faculty Meeting (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Virtual Band Concert (4:30 – 8:00 p.m.)

### **Friday, December 8**

School Mass – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)

School-Wide Rosary

### **Monday, December 11**

Advent Wreath Prayer Services (8:15 a.m.)

Gift of Human Sexuality Presentation for Middle School Parents (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

### **Tuesday, December 12**

School Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (10:00 a.m.)

### **Wednesday, December 13**

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

### **Saturday, December 16**

VIRTUS Training Session (PAC/9:00 a.m.)

### **Monday, December 18**

Advent Wreath Prayer Services (8:15 a.m.)

Pre-Kindergarten Christmas Pageant & Reception (10:00 a.m.)

Final Day of Pre-Kindergarten Prior to Christmas

Christmas Pageant (7:00 p.m.)

### **Thursday, December 21**

School Mass – Memorial of St. Peter Canisius (8:30 a.m.)

Santa Hat Day, Sponsored by the SCA

Classroom Christmas Parties (10:30 a.m.)

Noon Dismissal



**Friday, December 22**

Christmas Holiday Begins

**Wednesday, January 3**

Classes Resume

**Thursday, January 4**

Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

**Friday, January 5**

School Mass – Memorial of St. John Neumann (8:30 a.m.)

FACTS Tuition Assistance Application Deadline for High Schools

High School Application Deadline

**Tuesday, January 9**

Seniors Luncheon (Hosted by Grade 4)

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

**Thursday, January 11**

Gift of Human Sexuality Presentation #1 (Middle School Students)

Open House for Prospective Parents (PAC Atrium/7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, January 12**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Picture Day – Clubs & Candid