



All Saints Catholic School

Behold I make all things new.

United and nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist, our culturally diverse Catholic school inspires learning within a nurturing and dynamic environment of academic excellence and Gospel values.

The Sentinel Newsletter

February 14, 2024

Principal's Message

Today, Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten journey. Again this year, our school community will participate in Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl initiative, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter anew ourselves, our neighbors, and our God.

Each of the students has received a cardboard rice bowl into which they can place their donations during Lent. All of the funds will benefit CRS Rice Bowl, which is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Catholic Relief Services is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion, or nationality.

While the act of sacrificial giving is an important part of our Lenten tradition, the experience takes on even greater meaning when our students understand the plight of those less fortunate and recognize the difference that they can make to alleviate suffering. So that the children may develop this appreciation of the needs of those around the world, each week of Lent the teachers will lead discussions and lessons using the materials made available by Catholic Relief Services. It is our hope that these conversations will inspire sacrificial giving among our students as they place their contributions into their Rice Bowls. At the end of Lent, families will be asked to convert the contributions from their children into a check to be submitted to All Saints after which our school will forward all of the funds to the diocese.

Here are some strategies that you may wish to consider in shaping your family's Lenten plan.

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
- As a family, read the online *Stories of Hope* and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey and guide your Lenten almsgiving.

- Prepare simple meatless meals on Fridays throughout Lent, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Recipes for simple meals can be found on the CRS website.

For more information, including spiritual reflections, short video presentations on the topic of Lent, and virtual Stations of the Cross, please see the link below.

<https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

This year, we are also inviting our students to participate in the **Lenten Cross of Mercy** in support of the mission of the House of Mercy in Manassas to provide food and clothing for those in need.

The Lenten Cross of Mercy, found in the gym lobby, provides students yet another opportunity to take part in prayer and almsgiving during Lent. It contains a variety of tags, for either Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy. Students are invited to select one or more tags and help make Christ's mercy visible for those in need in our community. Students may return material items to the foot of the cross and monetary items can be mailed to the House of Mercy in the envelopes found at the foot of the cross.

The House of Mercy thanks you for your donations that make it possible to share God's love.

Once again, we will introduce our students to the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*, another devotion of our Church. With this in mind, we will pray the modified prayer found below at the close of the day in place of the *Hail Mary* on Fridays during Lent.

Helpful resources and the history of the Divine Mercy Chaplet can be found at the following link.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

Wishing you and your family Lenten blessings!

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Divine Mercy Prayer

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Jesus, I trust in you.

Employment Opportunity – Instructional Assistant (Kindergarten)

All Saints Catholic School is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Instructional Assistant in a kindergarten classroom with employment beginning mid-March 2024. Primary responsibilities include providing support to students in the learning process, assisting with the coordination of classroom materials, and supervising students in the cafeteria. For more information about this position or to apply, please contact the principal at dconroy@allsaintsva.org.

Lenten Soup Suppers

All Saints Catholic Church will be offering its annual Lenten Supper! Several Parish organizations will host the Supper each week and provide a simple meal of soup and/or sandwiches. As in the past, we will not have the Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday or Holy Week.

There is no cost for the soup and/or sandwich. All are encouraged to make a free will donation to the charity selected by the host organization. The schedule of dates for the soup supper is as follows:

February 21 from 5-7pm: Knights of Columbus charity: KOVAR

February 28 from 5-7pm: All Saints Trail Life & American Heritage Girls Troops VA-1188
Charity: St. Lucy Project

March 06 from 5-7pm: All Saints Catholic School PTO
Charity: Bethany Food Pantry

March 13 from 5-7pm: St Vincent DePaul Society
Charity: St. Vincent DePaul Society Ministries

March 20 from 5-7pm: Squire Roses
Charity: Mother of Mercy Free Clinic

Important Reminders

- **Continuous Enrollment Program Fee**

The Continuous Enrollment Fee, formerly known as the Re-Registration Fee, will automatically be billed through FACTS accounts on **March 1, 2023**.

The completion of the *Continuous Enrollment Contract*, for first year families, and payment of the fee will confirm enrollment for your child/ren for the upcoming school year.

- **PTO General Assembly Meeting – February 22 (7:00 p.m.)**

Plan to join us for what will be an informative presentation for all parents on the evening of February 22. Representatives from the Manassas City Police Department will be speaking on the topic of ***Substance Awareness and Prevention***. They will highlight three specific concerns affecting young people in our region: Fentanyl, vapes, and THC/marijuana. We hope that you will be able to attend and hear this important message that will increase our awareness of these dangers in our society and what we can do to continue to safeguard our children.

- **Open House – March 7 (9:00 AM)**

All Saints Catholic School will host an *Open House* for prospective parents on Thursday, March 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. All parishioners and members of the community interested in learning more about our school are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please contact Mrs. Mary Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant, at (571) 516-3170 or mrodriguez@allsaintsva.org.

- **From Inclusion to Belonging Conference**

Porto Charities is sponsoring an upcoming conference entitled *From Inclusion to Belonging* on February 17 at St. John Paul the Great High School. During the keynote presentation and breakout sessions, families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will learn practical ways to identify and utilize support systems within the local community to help them overcome mental health struggles. For more information and details regarding registration, please see the link below.

<https://www.portocharities.org/conference>

- **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 high schools
March 13, 2024	Financial aid application due date for diocesan K-8 schools

- **Race for Education Raffle**

Students are invited to participate in a raffle to win a prize bundle featuring a Squishmallow plush toy. Raffle tickets will be sold for 50 cents each. The raffle will continue through February 22nd, and the winning name will be drawn on February 23rd. Proceeds will benefit the 2024 Race for Education. See flyer for details.



- **Order Your Yearbook**

One of the best ways to commemorate the school year is by purchasing an All Saints Yearbook. Our 2023-2024 school yearbook is now available to order.

Personalization is also available for an additional fee of \$5.00.

All orders must be placed online through the link below:

- Please visit the Lifetouch website to order online: ybpay.com.
 - The All Saints school code is 13273524.
 - For questions regarding the All Saints Catholic School Yearbook, please contact Mrs. Janis DeVore (jdevore@allsaintsva.org)
- **All Saints Spirit Wear**
Are you still looking for All Saints Spirit Wear? Well look no further. Visit the link below to find the perfect item for you and the entire family from our assorted selections.

Order Your Squadlocker Spirit Wear

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday School Mass (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, February 15

PTO Helping Hands (PAC/8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

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

Friday, February 16

Professional Development Day (No School or Extended Day)

Monday, February 19

Holiday – Presidents' Day

Thursday, February 22

Stations of the Cross – Grades K-2 (2:15 p.m.)

PTO General Assembly Meeting & Manassas City Police Presentation – *Substance Awareness & Prevention* (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 27

Band Concert – Tentative (2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 29

Dress Down Day to Benefit the Band Trip (\$2.00)

Stations of the Cross – Grades 3-5 (2:15 p.m.)

Friday, March 1

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Payment Due Date: Continuous Enrollment Fee via FACTS Tuition

Monday, March 4

Bread of Life Kick-Off Assembly (8:30 a.m.)

Lenten Confessions – Grades 3-5 (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

Adoration & Benediction (2:15 p.m.)

PTO Sponsored Lenten Soup Supper (PAC/5:00-7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, March 7

School Mass – Memorial of Saints Perpetua & Felicity (8:30 a.m.)

Open House (PAC/9:00 a.m.)

Stations of the Cross – Grades 6-8 (2:15 p.m.)

Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

End of Trimester II (PowerSchool Parent Portal Closes)

Friday, March 8

Professional Development Day – Teacher Work Day (No Classes or Extended Day)

Saturday, March 9

Diocesan Job Fair (St. Bernadette School/9:00-11:00 a.m.)

Monday, March 11

Bread of Life Food Drive Begins

Lenten Confessions – Grades 6-8 (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 12

Seniors Luncheon (Hosted by Grade 7)

Wednesday, March 13

4th Grade Virginia Presentation (PAC/1:30 p.m.)

Deadline: FACTS Tuition Assistance Applications for Elementary Schools

Thursday, March 14

Spirit Wear Day

Stations of the Cross – Grades K-8 (2:15 p.m.)

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

Friday, March 15

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Trimester II Report Cards Sent Home