



# All Saints Catholic School

*Filled with God's joy and peace, abounding in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## Mission Statement

*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

**December 4, 2024**

### Principal's Message

Through the years at All Saints we have established several Advent traditions that help to create a tone of anticipation and waiting as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Savior at Christmas. Through prayer and reflection, our students will once again have an opportunity to enter more fully into this season of hope.

#### *Advent Wreath Prayer Services*

Yesterday the students assembled in the Parish Activities Center (PAC) for a school-wide prayer service highlighting the meaning of the Advent Wreath. During the remaining weeks of Advent, each Monday morning students will gather around three separate wreaths in each of the hallways of the school where they will participate in grade level prayer services.

#### *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Students in grades three through eight will have an opportunity to encounter Christ in this beautiful Sacrament of healing and forgiveness during two Penance Services. A Penance Service for Grades 3-5 will take place on Friday, December 6 with one to follow for Grades 6-8 on Wednesday, December 11.

#### *Advent Retreat for Students*

On December 13, we will set aside the regular class schedule in order to provide our students with an immersive experience of the Catholic faith. In doing so, our goal will be to further unite our school as a faith community and to offer our students an additional opportunity to grow in their relationship with Christ during the season of Advent. Throughout the day, students will learn more about the lives of specific saints as well as the four themes of Advent.

We look forward to celebrating the Season of Advent, a time of hope and expectant joy as we anticipate the Feast of Christmas.

Finally, I wish to share with you an important staffing update. Mr. Redman, P.E. teacher, is currently on medical leave with plans to return to teaching when school resumes following the Christmas holiday. During the time of his absence, our substitute teachers and instructional assistants, as

necessary, will lead the P.E. classes. Let us remember Mr. Redman in our prayers in a particular way during this Advent Season.

Wishing you and your family blessings during this Advent Season!

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#### **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*. The Pageant is one of All Saints School's great traditions that brings together the music program as well as our theatre arts program. It is a beautiful opportunity to share the message of the Incarnation through story, song, and celebration.

- Date: **Thursday, December 19th, 2024**

- Time: **7:00 pm**  
**(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 afternoon performance 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).

**Knights of Columbus – Poster Contest**

Students in Grades K-8 are invited to participate in the *Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest* sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Entries may be forwarded to the school office. For more information, please see the links below.

**Poster Contest Details**

**Pre-Kindergarten Program – Required Lead Testing**

In accordance with new requirements established by the State of Virginia and the policies and procedures for the Diocese of Arlington, All Saints recently tested the potable water sources in the Pre-Kindergarten Program. The lead analysis report provided by the testing lab indicates that lead was not detected.

Should you have any questions regarding this requirement or the results of the testing, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

**Thanksgiving Outreach**

Thanks to the very generous response of families in our community who participated in the Thanksgiving Luncheon, we received \$1,514.00 to benefit the St. Lucy Project as part of *Catholic Charities "We Care Week"*. Thank you for your continued kindness and support of this important ministry that benefits the poor in the Manassas region.

Additionally, the students of All Saints donated 2,258.41 pounds of food during the Thanksgiving Prayer Service last week. Thanks to the hard work of students in the National Junior Honor Society, all of the food was transported to the Parish Activities Center where it was sorted in preparation for distribution to families in our community later that day. Thank you to all of our school families for so generously providing for those in need in our region!

### **Virtues in Practice**

Virtue for the Month of December: Purity

Definition: Keeping your soul free of sin

Saints of the Month: St. Dominic Savio (PreK-2), St. Agnes (3-5), St. Maria Goretti (6-8)

## **Important Reminders**

- **Substitute Teacher Opportunities**

All Saints is seeking additional substitute teachers for grades PK-8. For more information about this employment opportunity or to request an application, please contact the school office at 703-368-4400 or [schooloffice@allsaintsva.org](mailto:schooloffice@allsaintsva.org).

- **An Evening with St. Nicholas Prayer Service – Tomorrow Night!**

Plan to join us for *An Evening with Saint Nicholas* on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The event will begin with an Advent Prayer Service in the church, with music provided by the Schola. The “Procession of Shoes” will once again be led by Saint Nicholas and Mother Seton. At the conclusion of the prayer service, a reception will be held in the Parish Activities Center featuring cookies and cocoa, and a photo opportunity with Saint Nicholas and Mother Seton (please bring your own camera).

In honor of St. Nicholas, we ask that you bring a donation of a pair of new shoes for distribution through House of Mercy. (Donation guidelines: NEW plain colors of tennis shoes – white, blue, black, tan, or brown. No character tennis shoes.) Questions? Please contact Mrs. Christine Breckley at [christine.harkins@gmail.com](mailto:christine.harkins@gmail.com).

- **Online Technology Consent Form (Zoom Authorization)**

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 *Online Technology Consent Form (Zoom Authorization)* 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.

- **New Student Applications & Continuous Enrollment (2025-2026)**

Applications for new students for academic year 2025-2026 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.

[2025-2026 Application Link for New Students](#)

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 at 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 will automatically be billed through FACTS accounts on March 3, 2025. The completion of the contract, for first year families, and payment of the fee will confirm enrollment for your child/ren for the upcoming school year.

- **Tuition Assistance Program (2025-2026)**

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.

[2025-2026 Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program](#)

Information 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 2025-2026 are as follows:

October 31, 2024	FACTS financial aid application closes for 2024-2025
November 1, 2024	FACTS financial aid application opens for 2025-2026
January 10, 2025	Financial aid application due date for diocesan <b>high school students</b>
March 12, 2025	Financial aid application due date for diocesan <b>K-8 school students</b>

- **New Spiritwear Vendor**

In coordination with the PTO, the school is now offering many new styles of All Saints spiritwear through a new vendor: [1st Place Spiritwear](#). Now is a perfect time to checkout our new spiritwear website and take advantage of the following cost-savings promotions:

Sale Dates: 11/4/2024 - 12/10/2024

25% off all merchandise

Free shipping on orders over \$75

Currently guaranteed delivery by Dec. 23rd

[All Saints Spiritwear - Order Now!](#)

- **Lunch Menu**  
[Cafeteria Menu - December](#)

- **Science Fair – Seeking Judges**

On behalf of Mrs. Starrs, our Middle School Science teacher, we invite you to volunteer as a judge for the 2025 Science Fair. This is a wonderful way to support our students in their scientific exploration.

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: All Saints Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Judge Arrival: 8:00 AM (for breakfast and orientation)

Judging Begins: 9:00 AM

Lunch Break: Midday

Final Judging Ends: 1:30 PM

Awards Ceremony: 2:00 PM (optional, but you are welcome to attend)

Students will present their projects on laptop computers (no backboards) and judging will take place on iPads (or via paper forms). To maintain fairness, we ask that judges not have a middle school student participating in the fair.

We greatly appreciate your time and talent in helping us ensure a thorough and fair evaluation of the students' projects. By volunteering for the entire day, you'll be able to provide all projects with the attention they deserve. Every effort will be made to assign you to evaluate projects aligned with your field(s) of expertise.

To sign up as a judge, please complete this [volunteer form](#).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Jessica Kreitzer at [kreitzers@me.com](mailto:kreitzers@me.com). Thank you so much for your support of our students and the All Saints Science Fair!

## Upcoming Events

### **Wednesday, December 4**

Advent Penance Service – Grades 3-5 (Postponed to Friday)

PTO Executive Committee Meeting (Meeting Room 1/7:00 p.m.)

### **Thursday, December 5**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Placement Test

Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

Evening with St. Nicholas Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, December 6**

Middle School House Shirt Day

School Mass – St. Nicholas (8:30 a.m.)

Advent Penance Service – Grades 3-5 (10:00 a.m.)

Lockdown Drill

**Sunday, December 8**

Second Sunday of Advent

**Monday, December 9**

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

Advent Penance Service – Grades 6-8 (Postponed to Wednesday)

**Tuesday, December 10**

Seniors' Luncheon – Hosted by Grade 5

Report Cards sent Home

PowerSchool Parent Portal Reopens

First Day of After School Band Practice

**Wednesday, December 11**

Advent Penance Service – Grades 6-8 (10:00 a.m.)

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

**Thursday, December 12**

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

**Friday, December 13**

Student Retreat Day

Picture Make-Ups

**Sunday, December 15**

Third Sunday of Advent

**Tuesday, December 17**

Virtual Solo Band Concert (4:30-7:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, December 19**

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

Final Day of Pre-Kindergarten prior to Christmas

Christmas Pageant (1:45 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, December 20**

SCA Sponsored Santa Hat Day

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Classroom Christmas Parties (1:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 22**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Monday, December 23**

Christmas Holiday Begins

**Monday, January 6**

School Resumes

NWEA Map Testing (Through January 24)

**Tuesday, January 7**

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

**Thursday, January 9**

Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

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

**Friday, January 10**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

FACTS Tuition Aid Deadline (2025-2026) – High Schools