

Spartan Press

Holy Spirit School's mission is to empower a diverse community by providing academic excellence in a Catholic environment.

December 8, 2023

Dear Families,

Students celebrated the first week of Advent with lots of activities! Saint Nicholas stopped by on Tuesday, December 6th to celebrate part of his special day with us! Students put one of their shoes out into the hall to receive a special Christmastime treat! Students also were read the story of how this saint became known as Santa Claus.

As we head into the second week of Advent and toward our last few days of school, I have reminded students to continue to do a good job when completing their work and to maintain good behavior, including controlling their talking in class. This time of the year can be hectic with all the additional activities and fun. However, we must still use our time for good listening and learning.

Next week, students will attend Mass on Tuesday for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Students should wear their dress uniforms. If they usually have gym on Tuesday, they may wear their tennis shoes with their dress uniform.

On Thursday, many students who have received the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will attend an Advent Penance Service during the afternoon hours. Students who are attending the penance service may wear their regular uniform of the day to the service.

Next Friday, December 15th, students may wear a favorite Christmas sweater or top with their gym uniform pants for a \$1.00 donation to the BETA Club. BETA Club is raising funds to help lower their fees for their convention in February. Please help support this club for \$1.00 next Friday!

As a reminder, Bishop Hartley is hosting a Christmas celebration for grades K-8. Join them for crafts, games, and some refreshments before the Bishop Hartley Christmas band concert on Wednesday, December 13th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Check out the attached information to RSVP that you will be attending.

Please remember that students who are eating breakfast in the morning must be in the gym between 7:30AM and 7:45AM to receive breakfast.

Our **Elf Shelf Holiday Store opens on Monday, December 11th**. Please look in this week's red Friday folder for the shopping information and gift guide envelope. Cash, checks (made out to Holy Spirit School), or the "Elf Wallet" prepaid gift certificate with authorization code will be accepted. We still have openings for parent helpers to work in the store next week. Please use this link to sign up and help! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044AA4A622ABF85-45414776-elfshelf#/>

Lastly, your student's Second Quarter progress report of grades will be available for you to view as an interim checkpoint through the family portal this evening through Monday, December 18th.

That's it for this week! Enjoy your weekend ahead!

Sincerely,

Miss Kathy Costello



Calendar:

Sun., December 10th:
Second Sunday of Advent

Mon., December 11th
through Fri., December 15th
Elf Shelf Holiday Store

Mon., December 11th:
Middle School Youth Group
2:45PM to 4:20PM
Gymnasium
Permission Slip Required to Join

Tues., December 12th:
All School Mass
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Grades K-8
1:15PM/ Church
Dress Uniform

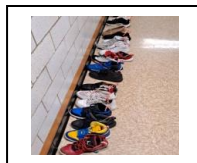
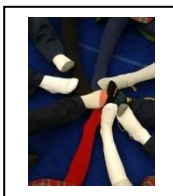
Thurs., December 14th:
Advent Penance Service
Grades 3-8
10:00AM/ Church

Thurs., December 14th:
Christmas Concert
Grades K, 1, and 2
Church/7:00PM

Fri., December 15th:
BETA Club Sponsored
[Wear Your Favorite Christmas Sweater or Top for \\$1.00](#)
Proceeds go to the BETA Club to help with their convention expenses.

Fri., December 15th:
Morning Preschool Christmas Program
10:40AM-11:00AM in the Gym

Check out what's happening at H.S.!



Saint Nicholas came for a visit to Holy Spirit on December 6th!



BETA Club helped out at a recent St. Vincent de Paul event at Holy Spirit Church!



Our St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive was a grand success! Thank you for your support!



The Holy Spirit Christmas Ornament is back! The cost is \$5.00! Profits will go toward our library book fund.

We welcome Father Veevin Richard as the new pastor of Holy Spirit School and Church!



Check our website for more information:
www.holy-spirit-school.org



Lunch Calendar:

Monday, 12/11:
Beef Hot Dogs on Whole Wheat Bun

Tuesday, 12/12:
Beef Fiestada Pizza with Toppings

Wednesday, 12/13:
Sliced Turkey

Thursday, 12/14:
Orange Chicken

Friday, 12/15:
Smuckers® Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

Monday, 12/18:
Grilled Chicken Sandwich on a Whole Grain Bun

Tuesday, 12/19:
Beef Soft Tacos

Wednesday, 12/20:
French Toast Sticks

****All meals are served with vegetables, fruit, and fat free or 2% white or flavored milk.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**



December 2023

Dear Families,

The holidays are here, and it is the perfect time of year to focus on the character trait of kindness. Showing kindness towards others makes them feel good inside. When we give and do nice things for others, we receive a gift that isn't tangible. Acts of Kindness get easier if we practice every day. December is a time of giving but kindness is a trait we can share throughout the year.

Gratitude and kindness go together but are very different concepts. Gratitude is a personal feeling of being thankful or grateful. Ultimately you express gratitude for things and people in your life.

Kindness and gratitude increase feelings of compassion, empathy and build self-esteem.

Here are some resources to help promote kindness and gratitude:

The Giving Snowman

By: Julia Zheng

A Children's Bedtime Story about Gratitude Christmas

Read Aloud – [Click here](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9hvvzJCwZt8>

A Little Spot Of Kindness

By: Diane Alber

Read Aloud – [Click here](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kTsQKccuyY>

Gratitude

By: Mental Health Center Kids – [Click here](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KcXHO4v7Fo>

3 Important Things About Gratitude

1. What Is Gratitude?
2. Why Practice Gratitude?
3. 9 Ways to Develop the Attitude of Gratitude

8 Ways To Teach Kids About Giving and Sharing During the Holidays

By: On Our Sleeves Behavioral Health Experts

To inspire Kids to be more giving:

1. Model generosity year-round, and talk about your reasons for donating time, money or items.
2. Make giving sound appealing but voluntary, so that kids don't feel forced to participate.
3. Help your kids understand some of the reasons why a group may need their support.
4. Consider setting aside a percentage of money each week if they get an allowance so they can get in the habit of giving to a cause that's important to them.

If your kids want to contribute to meaningful causes during the holidays but aren't sure how:

5. Suggest that for every new toy they receive, they might want to donate an older toy to someone in need.
6. Donate outgrown clothing or warm coats and talk about why it's helpful.
7. Gather food for a food bank or personal hygiene items for a homeless shelter.
8. Have them personalize their efforts with hand-drawn pictures or notes.

Acts of Kindness for December

Children

- Share
- Give a compliment
- Ask a new friend to play
- Listen to a friend
- Volunteer
- Help clean up
- Smile
- Say thank you
- Forgive others

Adults

- Write a nice note to someone
- Write child a positive note
- Compliment others
- Become a mentor
- Exercise patience
- Adopt or foster a pet
- Buy a gift for a coworker
- Prepare a meal with child
- Bake cookies for neighbors
- Write cards to soldiers

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Merry Christmas!

Matthew Knox, MS, LPC

-matthew@sopcc.org

Shawna Blunt, MS, LPC

-shawna@sopcc.org



BISHOP
HARTLEY

Hawks2Be and Bishop Hartley's
Performing Arts Department invite you to a



Christmas *Celebration*



DECEMBER

13

6 - 8 PM

Students and families are invited to join us at
Bishop Hartley for a Christmas Celebration.

Doors open at 6 PM for games, crafts, refreshments,
and a visit from Santa prior to the
Performing Arts Christmas Concert at 7 PM.



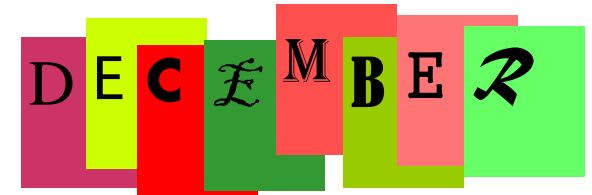
RSVP REQUIRED

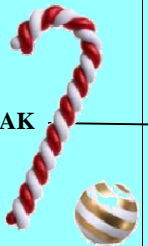



HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

LUNCH MENU

DECEMBER 2023



Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast and lunch are served with fat free or 1% white milk or fat free chocolate milk. Fees for Breakfast and lunch are \$1.50 and \$2.80. Extra entrees are \$1.00; a la carte milk (ordered with a school meal) is \$.40. Breakfast is served from 7:30am to 7:45am. HSCS provides free and reduced-price meals to qualifying families. All meals are payable in advance. Please send your payment (cash, check or money order) to the school office in an envelope marked with your child's name and grade. In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.						1 MAKE YOUR OWN "PIZZA MUNCHABLES" with Naan Bread and Marinara Mozzarella Cheese Beef Pepperoni Fruit Milk
3	4 MINI CHICKEN CORN DOGS Potatoes Peas Fruit Milk	5 STUFFED CRUST TURKEY PEPPERONI PIZZA WITH MARINARA Green Beans Fruit Milk	6 DOUBLE HAMBURGER ON A WHOLE GRAIN BUN Choice of toppings Potatoes Salad with Mixed Greens Fruit Milk	7 CHICKEN TENDER and WAFFLES Hash Brown Orange Juice Milk	8 <i>EARLY DISMISSAL 1:00pm</i> TATER TOT BAR with choice of Vegetarian <u>or</u> Beef and Bean Chili Choice of toppings Salad with mixed greens Fruit Milk	9
10	11 BEEF HOT DOGS ON WHOLE WHEAT BUN Cowboy Beans Potatoes Fruit Milk <i>**NO EXTRAS TODAY</i>	12 BEEF FIESTADA PIZZA WITH TOPPINGS Corn Salad with mixed greens Fruit Milk	13 SLICED TURKEY Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Fruit Milk	14 ORANGE CHICKEN Stir Fry Vegetables Fried Rice Fruit Milk	15 Smuckers® PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH Carrots and Dip Lays® Reduced Fat Chips Fruit Milk	16
17	18 GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH ON WG BUN Potatoes Green Beans Fruit Milk	19 BEEF SOFT TACOS with toppings Salad with Greens Corn Fruit Milk	20 FRENCH TOAST STICKS Hash Brown Turkey Bacon Orange Juice Milk	21 <div>← NO SCHOOL →</div>	22 <div>← CHRISTMAS BREAK →</div> 	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 2024	2	3 <i>SCHOOL RESUMES</i> Turkey Pepperoni Pizza	4 Build Your Own Nachos	5 Penne Pasta with Marinara	6



Don't want to send your child to school with cash?
Be safe and purchase a gift certificate today!

Follow these easy steps:

1. Visit www.elfpaynow.com or scan the QR code with your phone.
2. Select your child's school
3. Enter your child's information
4. Purchase your child's gift certificate with your debit/credit card. A receipt will be emailed to you.
5. Complete the information below and send the gift certificate with your child to school.

Your child's school will also have records of your purchase

Please make sure your child spends all of the money you uploaded for them on their gift certificate.

All sales are final and no refunds will be given.



All sales are final and no
refunds will be given.

Gift Certificate

For use in our school's Elf Shelf store only.

Store Volunteer Use Only

Date Redeemed: _____

Student's Name: _____

Fill this out after you purchase your gift certificate on-line. REMEMBER to include the Authorization Code from your receipt.

Payment From: _____

Amount Purchased: \$

Auth Code: _____

Parents/Guardians; transactions can be looked up by the chairperson if gift certificate is lost or destroyed.

Put completed Gift Certificate in the Gift Guide Envelope!

¡Aceptamos tarjetas de débito/crédito!



1) Pagar ahora en:

www.elfpaynow.com

2) Seleccione la escuela de su hijo y
indicación completa.

3) Cupón completo

4) Envíe un cupón con su
student el día de compras.

certificado de regalo

Para uso en la tienda elfos shelf de nuestra escuela solamente.

Nombre del estudiante: _____

Pago de: _____

Cantidad: \$

CODIGO de autorizacion: _____





GIFT GUIDE ENVELOPES

Please indicate the maximum amount you wish your child to spend on each member of your family in the column marked "Budgeted Amount" and enclose cash or a check for the total amount. We will enter the amount spent in the column marked "Actually Spent" and place your change back in this envelope.

Please make check payable to the school group running the sale.

PLEASE!!!

EACH CHILD must have their **OWN ENVELOPE** with their **OWN MONEY**.

For example, if you have two children and a \$20 bill for them to share, **PLEASE** get change **BEFORE** you put the money in the envelope.

The Gift Guide Envelope is the only way your child's teacher will know your child has **YOUR PERMISSION** to shop!

CHILD'S NAME:		
TEACHER or ROOM:		
A GIFT FOR . . .		BUDGETED AMOUNT
MOM		
DAD		
BROTHERS & SISTERS	AGE	
GRANDPARENTS		
TEACHER		
SELF		
AMOUNT ENCLOSED		
AMOUNT OF CHANGE ENCLOSED		

MOST IMPORTANT!!

How much should they spend on each person?

70% of Gifts cost **UNDER \$6.00**

Name(s) for the Gift Tag on the present

If no amount is entered here, your child will **NOT** be able to purchase anything for themselves.

Envelope with any change will be returned with your child's wrapped gifts.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

The Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 7, 2023

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the season of Advent begins, we journey with the Blessed Virgin Mary, an expectant mother who faced many challenges, toward the celebration of her only begotten Son. Although many in our Diocese were discouraged by the vote this past November, our commitment to accompanying women and their children continues. In these days that have followed the ballot initiative, some women have contemplated terminating their pregnancies. With renewed effort, we need to make abortion unthinkable, and the birth of a child not to be seen as a burden but a blessing.

Outside the realm of politics, the true victory will come by winning hearts through our unconditional and relentless love for women and their children. Following the November issue, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Archdiocese of Cincinnati stated that the result was a sign that our society needed deeper conversion. Sharing the sentiments of Archbishop Schnurr, I began to think of what the Diocese of Columbus could do to continue to build a culture of life and a civilization of love.

First, I encourage all the faithful to a deeper life of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I was grateful and moved by how many people committed themselves to prayer, the Rosary and Adoration, and Mass during the lead-up to the ballot initiative. It is not that your prayers were ineffective or in vain; rather, God was trying to teach us something according to His time and His plan. Nevertheless, we must not lose our commitment, but rather renew and strengthen it.

To that end, I wish to encourage all pastors, priests, and deacons to make a serious commitment to offering a Holy Hour in the parish church(es), especially on the Thursday before First Friday (or on the First Friday itself) in reparation for sins against human life and dignity, praying also for the building of a civilization of love. The People of God in the Diocese of Columbus, which has been consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, can console the Heart of Jesus and can be inspired to love more generously through this sacred time. The upcoming Jubilee Year, in honor of the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, is a fitting occasion to begin this initiative.

I also want to encourage all Catholics in the Diocese, at the conclusion of the Christmas Season, to resume the traditional practice of abstinence from meat on Fridays. Catholics are already obliged to either abstain from meat or do some other form of penance every Friday throughout the year. In 2009, the Diocese of Steubenville encouraged the faithful there to abstain from meat on Fridays and to donate what was saved on meals to pro-life charities.

Almsgiving could be tied to this practice. The need to support organizations like the Women's Care Center, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, Heartbeat International, Birthright, Bottoms Up, and Mommies Matter, has never been greater. Our support of these and like organizations demonstrates our commitment to the good of human life and the care of the least of our brothers and sisters.

The idea behind abstinence from meat on Fridays is not merely external, that is, to keep a rule; rather, it is a form of Christian asceticism. Simply trying to circumvent the discipline by having an extravagant shrimp dinner, for example, defeats the purpose. We ought to do penance as means of encountering Christ in the hope of deeper conversion to Him. We can be intentional in our abstinence and penitential practices, mindful of unborn children, their mothers and fathers, and the men and women in the trenches working to support them. Our Catholic institutions in the Diocese can and should take this discipline into account. What is demanded is not the external rule but a conversion of our mindset and our culture with the hope that we will be more mindful of the child in the womb. In 2011, the Bishops of England and Wales resumed the practice of Friday abstinence from meat; this resumed practice has shown that abstinence from meat is not only beneficial to an individual's health but also is environmentally more friendly. If we abstained from meat on Fridays, we could also raise awareness of our need to care for our "common home".

In addition to these spiritual practices (prayer, abstinence, and almsgiving), the Diocese of Columbus, in the coming year, will be more intentional in its support of a pro-life apostolate. Building upon the good works of the Office for Social Concerns, which cares for a wide spectrum of issues to advance the social mission of the Church, a new Respect Life Office will be dedicated to helping build the culture of life in a sustainable and lasting way, including through formational conferences for pro-life leaders and healthcare workers.

In the coming year, a summit of Respect Life leaders will convene to discover what the many organizations are presently doing, what the true needs are, and how the Diocese can respond to those needs in support of structures that are currently in place. The Holy Father continues to call us to be a Church that listens, and the Diocese of Columbus wants to listen to the experiences of those who work with mothers in need and their families, and to collaborate with Catholic Social Services and other like-minded organizations in meeting the practical needs of families. The Church must also listen to women, particularly those who have experienced the pain of abortion and who need healing. Beginning an apostolate like Project Rachel for healing and reconciliation can help remind people of the Pope's call for us to be a Church of Mercy.

The call to put our faith into action also falls within the realm of evangelization. To proclaim the Good News of salvation is also to proclaim the Gospel of Life. The Office of Evangelization will seek out means to proclaim boldly the entirety of the Gospel message, and the Office of Catholic Schools will continue to promote and foster Catholic academic integration – weaving the Truths of our Faith into all content areas throughout the school program to build a strong culture of life and to form in each student the spirit of radical solidarity that our times demand. For example, in science classes, our students will come to a greater appreciation for the gift of human life at conception and the development of life as a gift in the image and likeness of God. The Diocese of Columbus will organize a pilgrimage to Washington, DC, for the Annual

March for Life in January and will engage our young people in the Vigil for Life and in pro-life events to form them as missionaries, advancing the culture of life, students from all of the Catholic high schools in the Diocese will participate.

God has called us to be a People of Life. The need to build a Culture of Life will take time and patience. It will encounter resistance; nevertheless, we cannot abandon unborn children and their mothers. Law may refuse to recognize the dignity and right to life of the child in the womb, but we cannot be indifferent to the reality. When Mary visited Elizabeth, the child in her womb recognized the Presence of the Savior and leaped for joy. The Church wishes to acknowledge and defend the rights of the unborn child, while accompanying mothers in their time of need and during what should be a joyful time of their lives. May we rise to meet our responsibility, grateful for the gift of life we have received.

Entrusting all of you and these efforts to the intercession of the Mother of God, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus