



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**February 21, 2025
School Newsletter**

Important Dates:

~Living Stations of the Cross - To assist your Lenten journey, we would like to invite you to our 7th and 8th grade students' **Living Stations of the Cross**. This moving presentation and Lenten reflection will be presented on Friday, March 28th, at 7:00 pm in the church.

~Roasted Give Back Night - Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 11th, for The Roasted restaurant give back night. More details to come!

~Beauty and the Beast, Jr. - Coming Soon! - Come see our students perform the Beauty and the Beast, Jr. Musical on Saturday, March 22nd, with shows at 2:30 and 7:00. Use the attached ticket form to reserve your spots and see our students act, sing, dance, and entertain you!

~Paper Gator Color Day - Families who bring in a large grocery size paper bag filled with items for the Paper Gator on Thurs., March 27th, will have a Paper Gator color day. Acceptable items include school/office paper, newspaper, junk mail, hard/soft cover books, magazines, shredded paper (bagged in clear plastic), paperboard, and cardboard (12"x12" or smaller). Students will assist you as you arrive in the morning. Let's care for the environment, raise funds for the PTA, and fill the Paper Gator!

~Enrollment and Registration for 2025-26 - We are currently working with the Diocese to update the Finals site enrollment website. When complete, all current families will receive an email notification that the 25-26 Enrollment is open. This will include instructions to login, complete any checklist items, and upload any outstanding forms and requirements. You'll be prompted to sign the enrollment agreement and contract, and pay the registration fee, which will confirm your enrollment for the fall. If you have a new student to add to Finals site, you will be instructed on how to select the "+ Add New Student" option on the main page and complete any outstanding information for them. New contracts will be generated and opened for your review and signature. If you are waiting on financial aid results or Scrip earnings, those items will be added and your Tuition Contract revised accordingly. Feel free to contact Terri Kelly with any questions.

~2025-26 School Calendar - We have had a number of requests for the 2025-26 School Calendar. The finalized calendar will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, here are a few of the dates you may need for next year:

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Aug. 20 | First Day of School | Dec. 22-Jan. 3 | Christmas Vacation |
| Feb. 16-17 | Mid-Winter Break | April 3 | Good Friday-No School |
| April 6-10 | Spring Break | June 4 | Last Day of School |

Wed., March 5th

~Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30

Fri., March 7th

~ Prof. Dev. Day – No School
CDC Open

Mon., March 10th

~Early Childhood Screening
No School for Y5/KDG

Tues., March 11th

~Roasted Give Back Night

Wed., March 12th

~Early Childhood Screening

Thurs., March 13th

~4th Grade Songfest
7pm at West Catholic

Mon., March 17th

~Green St. Patrick's Color Day
w/Uniform Bottoms
~Titan Toddler Time 10:15-10:45

Fri., March 21st

~3rd Qtr. Ends
~Mass 8:30
~Newsletter/Calendar

Sat., March 22nd

~Beauty and the Beast, the Musical
2:30 & 7pm

Tues., March 25th

~PTA Mtg. 7pm

Thurs., March 27th

~Paper Gator Color Day

Fri., March 28th

~Mass 8:30
~Living Stations of the Cross 7pm



~Parish Wide Easter Food Drive – As we strive to serve others throughout the year, one thing we can do as a community is to come together to provide Easter food for those less fortunate. Students are encouraged to donate something from the list below:

- Canned Fruit** – In its own juice or in 100% Juice **Boxed Potatoes**
Canned Vegetables (Low Sodium or No Salt Added) **Boxed/Bagged Stuffing**
Canned Tomato Products (Low Sodium or No Salt Added)
Whole Wheat Pasta
Rice (White/Brown/Wild)
Canned Tuna/Chicken (Low Sodium)

2nd Quarter Bring Up Grades

(BUG) Awards



Gr. 4: Maddie H., Anabelle P.

Gr. 5: Michael G., Blake G., Luci L.

Gr. 8: Liam A.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

We love to read! During the month of March, we put an extra emphasis on celebrating the importance of reading. To help celebrate Reading Month, and in your efforts to build a culture of reading at home, we thought you might like this [article](#) and this [list of vetted books](#). Stay tuned for information coming home soon with more details about March is Reading Month!

Awesome Authors Club!

Congratulations to the following HS published authors for the months of January/February.

KDG: Tatum D., Teague D., Hunter B., Stella B., Hayes N., Hope P., Josephine B.

1ST: Henryk K., Ruby C., Miles B., Lucy H., Jameson R., Sophia W., Cate S., Rio R., Iris S., Jude G., Henry G., Christian D., Meredith P.

2ND: Jack R., Finley M., Hazel B., Natalie W., Sutton B., Todd R., Hailey Y., Finley D., Vinson A., Addy W., Shai D., Isabelle Z., Emma W.

3RD: Kane B., Jack P., Theo B., Danica G., Abigail P., Nola A., Tucker J., Ellenor S., Monica L., Declan M., Amelia B., JJ J.

4TH: Evelyn R., Brooklyn K., Anastasia S., Maddie H., Liberty P., Calvin G., Hunter N., Crosby W., Callan G., Hanna B., Max S., Charlotte K., Nathan S., Landon B., Zavyer H., Cora P., Ava D., Quinn H., Amalia D., Charlotte T.

Birthday Book Club

Thank you to Sherlock L., our newest February Birthday Book Club member. His donation to the school library is greatly appreciated!

In return for his generosity, he will receive a color day pass.

In Sympathy



Please keep in your prayers, *the **Martin Family** on the loss of their Great-Grandfather, and the **Jermstad Family** on the passing of their Great-Grandmother.* May the memories of their loved ones live on in their hearts and bring them peace.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!



Hailey Y.
Addison B.
Keira G.
Jackson P.
Josiah J.
Nick J.
Grace G.
Isla C.
Mrs. DiGiovanna
Mrs. DeBruyn

Henry G.
Soumya H.
Brycen P.
Iris S.
Max V.
Henrik S.
Nolan L.
Madelyn B.
Mrs. Sweedyk
Mrs. Kalahar

Jared B.
Amalia D.
Harrison H.
Wesley D.
Mia P.
Liam S.
Ellenor S.
Alaine G.
Mrs. Hoadley
Mrs. Berndt

Brooklyn P.
Case O.
Charlotte K.
Henryk K.
Vera M.
Cassius Z.
Emilio M.
Ms. Reynolds
Mrs. Kelly
Mr. Thompson

Religious Education News

First Communion Commemorative Platemaking will be on Saturday, March 15th, at 9:00 am in the cafeteria. One adult needs to accompany each child. Please return your platemaking envelopes either with the payment to indicate that your child will be participating, or marking it that your child will not be participating. We need to know how many plates to order.

Virtus Reminder: Now is the time to be sure your volunteer requirements are complete if you would like to participate in field trips with your child. Go to **Virtus.org** to register for the online class and complete the required paperwork. Don't wait until the last minute or your background checks may not get processed in time!

Becoming Catholic: If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, contact the Religious Education Office now. All those who are not baptized need to be in the Catechumenate for a complete liturgical year before being baptized at the Easter Vigil next year. Those who have been baptized in another Christian church whose baptisms are accepted by the Catholic Church do not need to be re-baptized so you would not need to be in the catechumenate. Contact us with any questions or to begin the journey: dschoof@hsparish.org 616-453-1591.

SCRIP UPDATE

We are turning off the "ship to coordinator" option within the online ordering process. This means you will no longer see the dentist and doctor's offices when searching. However, you are still able to purchase SCRIP for them. Simply email April Alt at scrip@hsparish.org with the name of the doctor and amount of SCRIP and the order will be placed for you. You may email April at any time, knowing the order will process on the 1st Monday of each month. ALSO, please let April know if you have purchased products through Nawara Brothers using SCRIP in the past few months so we can make sure your rebates are being earned and received. Thank you for your patience with the SCRIP changes this year.

LINK BOX

[Blackbaud Financial Aid Application](#)
[NW Youth Soccer Assoc.](#)
[Future Falcon News - WC](#)

Holy Spirit Mission Statement
Our mission at Holy Spirit School is to learn, live, and share the message and teachings of Jesus Christ.



Titan Sports Update – 2-21-25

If you haven't paid your Sports Fee of \$125 for this year, please do so ASAP. Check is to be made out to Holy Spirit Athletics. If you want this fee added to your tuition, please call the school office and ask for Terri Kelly to set it up.

Spring Sports Registration is now closed.

Spring Athletes

Please make sure you are signed up for teamsnap. This is where practices, meets, and games will be listed.

Sports Physicals for the 2025-2026 school year

All students participating in sports for the upcoming school year, in grades 1st thru 8th, must have a **MHSAA sports** physical on file in order to participate, this includes practicing.

Fall registration will open up sometime in May.

Fall participants must have a sports physical turned in by August 1st, 2025.

- 5/6 and 7/8 boys soccer
- 5th-8th girls volleyball,
- 3rd-8th boys and girls cross country
- 5th thru 8th football
- Kindergarten thru 8th sideline cheer (Kdg may use their school health appraisal)

Sports Physicals for 25-26 will take place here at Holy Spirit with Dr. App on the following dates:

- Students currently in grades 5th thru 8th – Wednesday, April 16th in the afternoon.
- Students currently in grades Kdg thru 4th– Wednesday, April 30th in the afternoon.

Sports physical forms must be completed on each student. Cost is \$20.00 per student. Please submit a check, made out to Holy Spirit Athletics, or cash, and the MHSAA sports physical form, found [HERE](#), or on the website under the parent information tab, by **April 10th**.

If your child is not getting a sports physical here at Holy Spirit, please make sure the MHSAA form is still turned in on time to the school office.

Go Titans!

Rosemary Sweedyk

Athletic Director

athletics@hsparish.org

Spanish Class News at Holy Spirit: February 2025

KDG- Students continue to learn about winter clothing (hat-gorra, scarf-bufanda, gloves-guantes, coat-chaqueta, abrigo, pants-pantalones, boots-botas). We learned the phrase for snowman (hombre de nieve) and are learning a song about Winter (Invierno).

1st- We are in the new unit called, "Yo puedo" (I can). We are learning about animals/people who can do some amazing things, in Spanish! We recently learned the song, "La Cucaracha", see if your child can tell you about it!

2nd-3rd- We are in the new unit called, "Yo puedo" (I can). We are learning about animals/people who can do some amazing things, in Spanish! We learned about Suda, el Elefante, Sean Lomax, el silbador profesional and He Yide, un piloto. Ask your child about them! We are practicing "puede" which means he/she can. We are understanding Spanish in context and starting to produce some of the language we are acquiring.

4th- We wrapped up Unit 1! We've been learning about countries, continents and oceans in Spanish and also some facts about the country of Mexico. We read a text together in Spanish and completed sentences about it. In our next unit, we will continue to add new vocabulary and eventually learn about a tradition that takes place in Costa Rica.

5th-6th grades- We are in the middle of Unit 3. We've been practicing the verb "hay" and making sentences in Spanish by describing people/animals/things in writing and speaking. We describe the date in Spanish. We are learning about the country of Peru currently. The new movie Paddington in Peru highlights some of the things we are learning about the country!

7th grade 2nd hour- We've been practicing the verb "hay" and making sentences in Spanish by describing people/animals/things in writing and speaking. We've been doing well in describing the date in Spanish. We are practicing asking and answering basic questions in Spanish about February and Valentine's Day.

We will be learning about the country of Peru. The new movie Paddington in Peru highlights some of the things we will be learning about the country!

7th grade 3rd hour- We've been using vocabulary on describing animals and where they live. We are just now learning about Guatemala and will soon be learning about a special event that happens there in November. We are practicing asking and answering basic questions in Spanish about February and Valentine's Day.

8th grade- We also have been asking and answering basic questions in Spanish about February and Valentine's Day. We recently took a writing quiz over Unit 3 in which students looked at a scene and had to write basic sentences about it in Spanish. We described the date in Spanish and learned about Peru. The new movie Paddington in Peru highlights some of the things we learned about the country! Coming up in Unit 4, we will learn about the country of Guatemala and a special tradition that happens around All Saint's Day.

Sra. Loreal Long, K-8 Spanish at HS



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA
January 28, 2025

- **ATTENDANCE SHEET**
- **CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER:** Emily Bouma @ 7:02pm
- **BOARD IDENTIFICATION:** Individually
 - Emily Bouma - PRESIDENT | ebouma1205@gmail.com
 - Kelsey- 9th WC, Alex- 6th, Hanna- 4th
 - Melissa Radlinski- VICE- PRESIDENT | melissaradlinski@gmail.com
 - Jaxson- 7th , Mya- 5th, Ellory- 4th, Isaac-Y5
 - Philip Alt - TREASURER | Philip.alt@altcc.biz
 - Marcus- 7th, Owen- 6th, Nola- 3rd
 - Tanya Kooistra - SECRETARY | tlkooistra@gmail.com
 - Charlotte-4th, Lucy- 2nd

- **STAFF RECOGNITION:** Melissa Radlinski
 - Paula Ryan
 - Lisa Digiovanna
 - Tanya Kooistra
 - Erin Gottleber

- **ROLE CALL:** Individual Parents: Parent Name(s), Student Name(s) and Grade(s)
- **READING OF GOALS** (see goals at the bottom of agenda): Melissa Radlinski
- **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Pat Kalahar
 - Christmas Present and Elf gifts- thank you from teachers
 - PTA mailbox is overflowing with thank you notes

 - Lunch Program- 2 audits
 - Food- so happy since this is the first year for the new crew
 - Financial- quite intense process- should be completed February 3rd

 - Sky Zone
 - Thank you PTA for the funding
 - Great feedback from teachers and students
 - A little further, but kids do not complain about being out of school
 - Sky Zone was very impressed with our students- they offered us another very fair rate for the 2025-2026 School Year

 - Conference
 - Meet the Teacher used to be \$600/year- went up to \$1000/year
 - Switched to Sign up Genius- not as user friendly
 - Hopefully we will find another avenue or get a better deal from Meet the Teacher

- Retirements
 - Dan Wood- tremendous loss- he is a wealth of knowledge
 - 2 candidates interviews on Friday, 1/31/25
 - Diane Schoof- she does so much behind the scenes stuff that will be truly missed
 - Asking PTA for financial support to gift them a retirement present

- Wednesday, January 19, 2025- Rosary Making- World Mission with superfriends

- Wednesday, January 19, 2025- Adoration and a Miracle in Adoration Guest Speaker- Pat's former co worker- separated by grade levels

- **TREASURER'S REPORT: Phil Alt**
 - Revenue
 - Increase from paper gator/ box tops
 - Increase from Titan givebacks
 - Net negative on Santa's Elves 2024 year giving- but covered from a 2023 surplus to make an equitable gift for teachers
 - Expenses
 - Continue to roll in throughout the year and increase as some budget items are designated for later in the school year
 - Catholic Schools' Week
 - Grade level field trips
 - Teacher Appreciation

- **PTA BOARD REPORT:**
 - Santa's Elves
 - 1 gift card was compromised- something to look into next year
 - Disputed and it was resolved last week
 - Huge Thank you to everyone that gave!
 - Continually reviewing this giving opportunity and evaluating changes
 - Would like a public teacher "favorites" list
 - Like anonymous aspect
 - More of a digital aspect

 - PTA Board Member Positions
 - Open at the end of the year:
 - Vice President and Secretary

 - Quarterly Speakers/ Educational Videos
 - Discussed at the Diocesan level as well
 - Possibility of finding grant money to bring in speakers
 - Monday, February 10, 2025 at Cathedral Square (flier in the newsletter)
 - Do we have any grant money?
 - Currently mental health
 - Could we start quarterly speakers- funded by PTA or grant money?
 - If we know better we can do better.
 - Do we have anyone in our community who has written grants or has a skill set for writing grants?

 - Wish List- https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1HMILLYIWYF0K?ref=wl_share
 - Librarians and teachers have been adding to make this a complete list

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Apparel - Chair: **Melissa Radlinski**
 - Spring Apparel order coming
 - Any logo ideas- send to PTA@hsparish.org
 - On Demand site is 99% complete- sending it over Pat for final approval
 - Prices may be a little higher because it is only single items instead of bulk order
 - Will be sent out in the newsletter
- Birthday Board - Chair: **Stephanie Kozlowski**
 - Always so cute!
 - Add birthday board to the parent participation form for the 2025-2026 year
- Hospitality / Staff Conference Meals - Chair: **Mercedes Barnum**
 - No chair present/ Report given
 - Teachers love the lasagna and the mexican night
 - Sign up genius will be send out on 1/29/25 with items due 2/4/25
 - Willing to Chair again for the 2025-2026 school year; however that will be her last
 - Should look at finding a co-chair to shadow to be able to step in seamlessly into this large undertaking
- Parent Ambassador- Chair: **Julie Brown**
 - 6 new students joined at the semester
 - Julie will be the contact with the new families
 - Want to make an effort anytime someone new joins our school to pair them up with an ambassador and make them feel welcome
- Publishing Center - Chair: **April Alt**
 - No chair present
 - No report
- Room Parent Coordinator - Chair: **Amanda Sekelsky**
 - No chair present
 - No report
- School Family Outreach- Chair: **Melissa Jaszczyszyn**
 - Meal Train- Folberth Family
 - Thank you so much for all of the support
 - Wanted to keep that in the email blast- she is updating her treatment/process
- Social Committee- Chair: **Katie Bouwhuis**
 - No chair present
 - No report
- Teacher Appreciation Week - Chair: **Emily Bouma**
 - May 3- 7, 2025
 - Sign up Genius- coming soon...

- Titan Givebacks- Chair: **Katie Johnson**
 - Chick Fil A- \$354
 - Uccello's- \$171
 - Adobe- check sent out on 1/28/25
 - Feb- Chipotle
 - March- Chick Fil A
 - April- Roasted
 - Sky Zone- willing to do a give back (\$26.00/person admission fee- 20% give back)

- Variety Show- Chair: **Erin Gottleber**
 - New stage
 - Fresh Painting- Week before and during spring break
 - New Lights- before Spring break

- Community Day - Chair: **Andrea Berndt**
 - No chair present
 - No report

- Walking with the Spirit - Chair: **Kelly Toland**
 - No chair present/ Report Given
 - Still trying to finalize the incentive prize- everything is so costly
 - New suggestion given: Soar and Bounce
- **CALENDAR EVENTS:**
 - Feb. 6th - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Feb. 10th - New Family Parent Information Night with our Early Childhood/Preschool
 - Feb. 11th - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Feb. 17 & 18th - No School, Mid-Winter Break
 - March 22nd – School Musical: Beauty and the Beast 2:30 and 7:00 shows
 - March 25th – PTA Meeting
 - March 28th – Living Stations of the Cross
 - April 7th – 11th No school- Spring Break
 - April 18th – No school- Good Friday
 - April 21st – No school- Easter Monday/Pat’s Birthday
 - May 5th – 9th - Teacher Appreciation Week

- **COLOR DAY DRAWING:**
 - Flora Peralta
 - Erin Gottleber
- **MOTION FOR DISMISSAL @ 8:16pm**

Featured Author of the Month

Congratulations to Shai D., in 2J, for being the Featured Author of the Month. She has won a special treat, and her story is featured below.

The Mysterious

This book is dedicated to my sister Finley

One day a boy was getting ready for school, when he saw the basement door open by itself.

Then he walked slowly by the door, then woosh he got sucked in. When he saw where he was, he was shocked!

He was in the arctic. He screamed, "HELP!" as loud as he could. But, no one answered.

Then he saw an arctic fox and he followed him. He was so scared. So he built a shelter.

Then he saw something glowing, so he ran and ran as fast as he could. Then he saw a jewel. He picked it up. Everything was shaking and then he was back home.

Now he knows what it's like being sucked back in time. He went back to packing his backpack and then the bus arrived.

His mom said, "school time." So he went downstairs and hopped on the bus.

The End

About the Author

Shai is 8 years old. She likes to draw and make crafts. Her favorite food is strawberries. Her favorite holiday is Christmas. Her favorite subject in school is math.



Holy Spirit School Calendar, March, 2025

Lenten Outreach: Haiti Water Filter Collection & Parish Food Drive

Lunch Supervision, Grade 3 / For updated information go to www.holyspiritschoolgr.org

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Gospel Lk 6:39-45 | 3 Musical Practice 3:15-4:45 | 4 Burning of the Palms <u>2:50</u> Choir 3:15-4:15 | 5 Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30 | 6 Musical Practice 3:15-4:45 | 7 <u>No School</u> Professional Development <u>Day</u> Child Care Open | 8 Student Choir 5:00 Mass |
| 9 Gospel Lk 4:1-13 | 10 Early Childhood <u>Screening</u> No school for Y5 & K Musical Practice <u>3:15-4:45</u> Spanish Club 3:15-4:15 | 11 Choir <u>3:15-4:15</u> Roasted Giveback Night | 12 Early Childhood Screening | 13 4 th Grade Songfest 7:00 at WC | 14 <u>Mass 8:30</u> Musical Practice 3:15-7:00 | 15 First Communion Plate Making 9:00 |
| 16 Gospel Lk 9:28-36 | 17 Green St. Patrick's <u>Color Day</u> Titan Toddler Time <u>10:15-10:45</u> Musical Practice 3:15-4:45 | 18 Musical Practice 3:15-4:45 | 19 Musical Practice <u>3:15-5:00</u> Board Mtg 6:30 | 20 Musical Practice 3:15-5:00 | 21 <u>Mass 8:30</u> 3 rd Quarter <u>Ends</u> Newsletter/ Calendar | 22 Musical 2:30 & 7:00 |
| 23 Gospel Lk 13:1-9 | 24 Spanish Club 3:15-4:15 | 25 Choir <u>3:15-4:15</u> PTA Meeting 7:00 | 26 | 27 Paper Gator Color Day | 28 <u>Mass 8:30</u> Living Stations of the Cross 7:00pm | 29 |
| 30 Gospel Lk 15:1-32 | 31 | | | | | |

1, 2, 3, 4

We declare a

P E N N Y W A R !

Wednesday, March 12th - Wednesday, April 2nd

RULES:

Each grade has their own bucket for collecting money. Add points to your grades' total by adding pennies and bills. Subtract from other grades' totals by adding silver coins to their buckets.

Pennies & Bills

All pennies and bills ADD points to the grades' totals

Silver Coins

All silver coins SUBTRACT points from the grades' totals

GOAL:

• RAISE MONEY FOR HAITI WATER FILTERS •

Points:

| Adding: | | Subtracting: | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Penny | + 1 point | Nickel | - 5 points |
| \$1 bill | + 100 points | Dime | - 10 points |
| \$5 bill | + 500 points | Quarter | - 25 points |
| \$10 bill | + 1,000 points | | |
| \$20 bill | + 2,000 points | | |

WINNERS:

The grade with the highest number of points!



"Beauty and the Beast Jr." Ticket Order Form

When ordering tickets make sure that you order for the times you need. Since we are doing two shows, we will be printing tickets specific for each performance time.

Tickets will be sent home on Friday, March 21 with your student.

Please feel free to order tickets for your family and friends.

All orders must be turned in by Monday, March 17.

Ticket prices are \$6/adult and \$4/student.

Show Dates are Saturday, March 22 (2:30 & 7:00 PM)



"Beauty and the Beast Jr." Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Saturday, March 22 @ 2:30 PM Show: _____ Adults _____ Students

Saturday, March 22 @ 7:00 PM Show: _____ Adults _____ Students

Total Adults _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

Total Students _____ x \$4.00 = \$ _____

Total.....\$ _____

Please make checks payable to Holy Spirit School.

Turn this form in on or before Monday, March 17





THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM IN CHURCH
ALL ARE WELCOME | CHILDCARE PROVIDED



DIGITAL DISCERNMENT: THE 5 HABITS OF A TECH-READY HOME IN AN UNFILTERED WORLD

Presenter: Chris McKenna
Founder of Protect Young Eyes

It is impossible to create a home that removes all risk of digital harm. It IS possible to create one that is confident and prepared for today's digital spaces. We call it the Tech-Ready Home Framework. This presentation with founder Chris McKenna breaks down 5 foundational habits. Do you know what's better than any parental control? Do you know why your router is the most important digital device in your home? Do you understand the toxic trio? Do you know why Tik Tok is so compelling to young brains? Get ready for a ton of practical tips, solutions, and ideas you can implement with your families at home. You don't want to miss this timely presentation!



Stay afterward for a special half-hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We can't wait to see you there!

SCAN TO REGISTER

THE OLC FAMILY SERIES IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION (OLCEF)



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2025

CONTACT - Sarah Toepfer
director of marketing & admissions
stoepfer@grcatholicschools.org
616-475-1240 | 616-826-9808 cell

Diocesan Superintendent to Receive National Award for Advancing Catholic Education

Grand Rapids, Mich. – The Diocese of Grand Rapids is excited to share that David Faber, superintendent of Catholic schools, has been honored with the prestigious Dr. Karen M. Ristau Innovations Award by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). This esteemed award recognizes individuals, schools, or programs that have significantly advanced the mission of Catholic education through innovative programs or approaches. The award is extra special as Dr. Ristau was the president of NCEA when Faber became superintendent. Dr. Ristau served as a mentor for him.

Faber, who has dedicated nearly 32 years to the ministry of Catholic education in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, has been a transformative leader in the area's Catholic schools. His extensive experience spans roles as both a certified K-12 administrator and a K-8 teacher.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Dr. Karen M. Ristau Innovations Award," said Faber. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire community within the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Together, we continue to innovate and strengthen our Catholic schools, ensuring that we provide a high-quality education rooted in faith for generations to come."

During his tenure as superintendent, Faber focused on building an alliance of Catholic schools through shared services, collaboration, and ongoing leadership training. During his leadership, two new Catholic schools have been created in the diocese and three others reimaged with a new name and mission focus. Faber also helped design and implement the Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative in 2014. The three-year, three-part initiative sparked a renewal of Catholic schools in the diocese.

Faber is especially proud of three innovative practices that have been developed under his leadership. The first is the implementation of what has become known as the TIP Strategy. TIP is an acronym for Timely Invitations and a Phone call. Through a partnership with 52 Catholic churches in West Michigan, more than 6,000 households receive regular and timely personal outreach to consider enrolling in their parish's Catholic school or faith formation program. The second is the bi-annual school board summits which routinely gather 100+ local Catholic school leaders (board members, principals, pastors, etc.) for training and best practice sharing. The



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third is the Catholic school faculty formation program which includes weekly lessons and transformational faith sharing on the topics of the Theology of the Body and the holy Eucharist.

These innovations have yielded remarkable results, including seven years of enrollment growth across the diocese and record numbers of preschool and kindergarten enrollments. Faber's strategic focus on these early grade levels has positioned the Diocese of Grand Rapids for long-term enrollment growth, ensuring the continued success of Catholic education.

Faber will receive the award at the annual NCEA Convention in Orlando, Florida, on April 21.

Biographical information about David Faber

Dave, 58, holds a master of education in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University and a bachelor of science in elementary education from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. He began his teaching career at Lincoln Elementary School in Zeeland, Michigan, before becoming principal of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School in Grand Rapids. He served as principal of the school for 17 years, until July 2010 when he became Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. He has served as superintendent since that time.

About Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are an alliance of 31 vibrant learning communities serving more than 6,400 elementary and high school students throughout West Michigan. Our schools inspire young people to grow in Catholic faith and grace, achieve more in school and in life, develop creativity and character, and feel welcomed and cherished for their unique gifts. We partner with parents to awaken the whole child to a world of light and life—that grows better and brighter when children reach their potential.

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Into the Desert

Lenten Schedule 2025

Ash Wednesday | March 5

All services include Distribution of Ashes

8:30 am Mass

12:00 pm Liturgy of the Word

6:30 pm Mass

Evening of Worship | March 29

6:00 pm Dinner by the Knights of Columbus

6:45 pm Evening of Worship with Penance*

**Six priests will be available*

Soup Suppers & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent, through April 11

6:00 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

The Light is ON for You | April 3

An Evening of Lenten Penance

5:00-8:00 pm

Living Stations | March 28

6:00 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross

Lenten Penance | April 8

6:30-7:30 pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 12 | 5:00 pm

April 13 | 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

April 17 | 6:30 pm

Friday of the Passion of the Lord | April 18

12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

1:00 pm Passion Reading & Veneration

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

April 19 | 9:15 pm

Easter Sunday

April 20 | 8:30 am & 10:30 am