



Saint James

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2023-24
SJS ANNUAL APPEAL



Dear Friends in Christ,

THIS YEAR, WE'RE IN THE midst of two important celebrations.

On Sunday, November 26th, the feast of Christ the King, Bishop Burbidge will commence our Diocese's Golden Jubilee with Solemn Vespers and Eucharistic Adoration. The theme of this final year of preparation is *Renew*. That one word speaks of our continued need to strengthen and share our faith through works of evangelization and mercy – which in turn requires us to be well formed in our Catholic Faith.

At the same time, this year we continue to celebrate the centenary of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Saint James was the beginning of the IHM's Virginia mission and their presence here for the past hundred years has born much fruit. Thousands have been educated and formed in the faith because of the missionary zeal of the IHM Sisters. As we give thanks for the century of their faithful witness, we also rejoice in the continued strength of their work.

In honor of our IHM centenary and our Diocesan Golden Jubilee, I appeal to your generosity for this year's Annual Appeal. By your financial support, we can continue to *renew* the good work of the IHM Sisters at Saint James School.

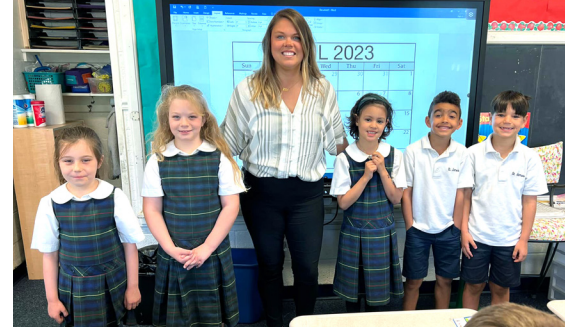
Through the intercession of our Lady, Saint Joseph, and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Paul Scalia
Fr. Scalia



WINTER 2023





FUN HISTORIC FACTS

- On September 17, 1923, under the leadership of Mother Josepha Clarke, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) began teaching 92 students at Saint James Catholic school.
- This date also marks the beginning of the IHM's "Virginia Mission"—a legacy that continues today.
- The IHM Sisters quickly earned a reputation for being strong and innovative educators. The high school included a 1000 book library, a science lab and facilities for teaching music.
- They also opened a 2-year business program with 15 typewriters and adding machines.
- The IHM Sisters provided catechetical instruction to most of the Catholic children in Northern Virginia, including parish missions (i.e., Front Royal).
- Father A.J. van Ingelgem, Pastor from 1910 to 1931, called them "the most efficient and best Sisters in this country."
- Today, our school is at capacity with a waitlist. There are 496 students, including 49 preschoolers.
- We are the first and only Catholic school in the Arlington Diocese to receive three Blue Ribbon awards for academic excellence.

All cited IHM history is from Carol Jone's book *Doers of the Word*.

Dear Friends in Christ,

O N SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, SAINT JAMES Catholic School celebrated the 100th anniversary of the IHM Sisters' presence. As the principal, I stand on the shoulders of the sisters who have come before me. They have left a lasting legacy of exceptional Catholic education that I feel privileged to continue. When I see our students in their Saint James uniforms my heart swells with pride because our students continue that century's long tradition of academic excellence and service.

Here at Saint James Catholic School we strive to *inspire, lead and challenge* our students to fully develop their God-given abilities. One way we do that is through our **Virtue of the Month** program. A virtue is a habit of doing the right thing for the right reasons. Virtues give us the strength to do amazing things for our God who created us. Each month we focus on a virtue that helps our students to grow in character and holiness. Our R.O.C.K.E.T.S. virtues are: *Respect, Obedience, Compassion, Kindness, Empathy, Truthfulness, and Self-Control*.

Throughout the year, we grow in these virtues as we pray, learn, and play together. We pray together at our school masses, the living rosary, Christmas pageants, and Living Stations of the Cross. We learn together as we read closely, write expressively, and solve problems creatively. We play together at Family Fun Night, the Nun Fun Run, the Bazaar, and Field Day. As we grow as a community, we build up God's kingdom in Falls Church, VA.

I cannot forget the many hearts and hands that have contributed to our school's success over these past 100 years. Saint James Catholic School continues to thrive because of the generosity of our families and alumni who faithfully give their *time, talent, and treasure*. Together, we proclaim that we are one body, the Body of Christ. When we bring our gifts together, Christ's light shines brightly for all the world to see! In gratitude, I hold each of you in prayer and ask our Blessed Mother to lead you to her Son.

Peace and Blessings,

Sister Kathryn Teresa Clemmer, IHM

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Go Rockets, ignite the world with God's love!



The 2023-2024 Saint James School Annual Appeal: **\$100,000 GOAL!**



HISTORY

For over a 100+ years, Saint James Catholic School has provided our students with academic excellence in a virtue-based environment where “*Jesus is the Center and Mary is the Model.*” Our students understand the importance of authentic Christian leadership, service, and gratitude.

PURPOSE

The Annual Appeal makes up the “financial gap” between the school’s annual tuition and what it costs to educate each student. We offer outstanding enrichment programs in *science, advanced math, music, art, technology, and robotics* that keep our school competitive with other private schools but require yearly financial support.



WHY GIVE

Our 100+ year old school is an extension of our parish. As a unified community, we desire to make Catholic education a reality for all who desire it. To do this, we need to make Catholic education “**affordable and accessible to all and develop sustainable funding models**” (Bishop Burbidge, Diocesan Strategic Plan).



\$30,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!

A generous couple has offered to kick off this year’s Annual Appeal with a \$30,000 matching gift. **Every dollar you donate will be matched up to \$30,000!** This couple has a particular affection for our award-winning parish school – the teachers, the students and the community it fosters. By providing this matching gift, they hope to inspire many donations to help us reach our \$100,000 goal in record time.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

You can give a one-time gift or monthly gift via the donation link on our website <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA50/53940> or by scanning the QR code.

Or you can mail a check to:
Saint James Catholic Church
Attn: *Kathleen Anderson,*
Director of Development
905 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

*Include “Annual Appeal”
in the memo line.*



Welcome Sister Alexis, our new fourth grade teacher!

Thank you!





905 PARK AVENUE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22046

Our mission is to educate the whole child within the Catholic faith tradition by promoting academic excellence, spiritual formation and Christian service. Imbued with the IHM Charism, where Jesus is the Center and Mary is the Model, we strive to inspire, lead, and challenge our students to fully develop their God-given abilities.

*May God bless you all for your generosity and goodness.
Saint James, pray for us!*



Igniting the potential in each child for over a century

