

Dear Friends in Christ,

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, THE FEAST OF CHRIST the King, Bishop Burbidge will inaugurate the second year of preparation for the Diocese of Arlington's Golden Jubilee. The theme of this next year is *Rejoice!* As we look at how our Lord is currently blessing our Diocese, we unite ourselves with the Blessed Virgin Mary and say with her, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!" (Lk 1:47)

It seems odd at first to hear "Rejoice!" as a command. Rejoicing seems like something that should come naturally, not be commanded. But there is so much in our world that might distract us from the goodness of God that every so often we need to be reminded – even commanded – to rejoice. God's goodness is not a mere idea or a vain wish but a present reality. It's something we should recognize and rejoice in always.

You may have seen the reports the other week about the devastating effects of the pandemic on learning and student achievement. A notable exception – and a cause of rejoicing – were Catholic schools. So at Saint James, the faculty and staff made the sacrifices and efforts necessary to return as soon as possible to in person learning, to the benefit of the students. Now, after several years of remote learning and all the various covid restrictions, we're back to normal. Our school is full again this year, with all the opportunities and challenges that brings.

A particular cause for rejoicing in the coming year are the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. 2023 will mark the centenary of their presence and work of the IHM Sisters at Saint James School. The Sisters strive to be "Joyful Bearers of God's Redeeming Love." We know that they have faithfully fulfilled that mission here for almost a century.

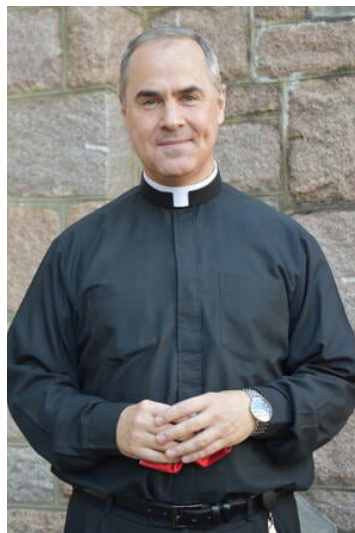
Perhaps you've heard the proverb, "Shared joy is a double joy." Well, we'd like to involve more children and more families in the joy and goodness of the school. So, I appeal to you for this year's Annual Appeal. Please help us bring the message *Rejoice!*

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





FUN HISTORIC FACTS

- On September 17th, 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.
- They also began teaching 8 students at Villa Maria High School.
- The IHM Sisters quickly earned a reputation for being strong and innovative educators. The high school included a library, a science lab and facilities for teaching music.
- They also opened a 2-year business program with 15 typewriters and adding machines.
- In addition to running two schools, the IHM Sisters provided catechetical instruction to most of the Catholic children in Northern Virginia, including parish missions (i.e., Front Royal).
- These significant accomplishments prompted Saint James Pastor, Father van Ingelgem, called them "the most efficient and best Sisters in this country."
- Today, our school is at capacity with a waitlist. There are 514 students, including 54 in our preschool.

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

Dear Friends of Saint James Catholic School,

WE BEGAN THIS YEAR WITH GREAT HOPE AND enthusiasm. Through the generosity of our PTO, we were able to purchase new desks for the entire school! As the summer months rolled in and were soon to roll out, the words "supply chain" filled my head often. One of the virtues of our IHM congregation is trust in Divine Providence, however, and our loving God did take care of us. Our desks were delivered just in time! Many volunteers came from all over and helped us unpack, attach legs and deliver desks to the classrooms. It was a challenge but one well worth it.

At Saint James Catholic School, we begin each day with prayer. We remember in our prayers all those who support our school and those who need our prayers. Our spiritual formation continues throughout the day, including the Angelus in the afternoon and a decade of the Rosary for peace. Academically, faculty and students are all putting forth their best efforts. The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools implemented a new testing program this year. The NWEA MAP test is very similar to our previous program in that it tests the growth of each student in addition to their achievement. Although it is difficult to compare scores from two different tests, I am pleased to report that our grade percentile scores continue to be well above average and are at the same level or above the scores from last year. We attribute this success to in-person learning during the pandemic.

As I look back on the past two years, I am filled with awe and gratitude for all God has done for our school. Our parents, teachers, students and administrative staff all faced the challenge of COVID together and the results have been inspiring. For almost 100 years, our goal has been "*to educate the whole child within the Catholic faith tradition*" and thanks to your faithful and generous support, we have been able to achieve this goal.

In closing, thank you for your past financial support and for any sacrificial gift you can extend this year. Please know that you are remembered daily in the prayers of our students, teachers, and staff. **May God bless you in abundance for your wonderful and generous hearts!**

Blessings,

Sister Mary Sue Carwile, IHM

Sister Mary Sue Carwile, IHM



The 2022-2023 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 are joyful, intelligent and engaged individuals who understand the importance of Christian leadership, service and gratitude.

PURPOSE

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

\$20,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!

For the third year in a row, we have been blessed with a challenge match. A generous couple has offered to kick off this year’s Annual Appeal with a \$20,000 matching gift. ***Every dollar you donate will be matched up to \$20,000!*** 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.

Thank you!

HOW CAN I GIVE?

You can give a one-time gift or monthly gift via the donate button on our website or scan 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.



Igniting the Potential in Each Child





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!



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Stay tuned for more information on our special centennial celebration in honor of our IHM Sisters.



GREAT NEWS!

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) just released its report showing that Catholic school students outperformed public school students in key academic categories (reading & math). The key to success was in-person learning during the pandemic. To learn more: ncea.org/



Igniting the potential in each child for over a century

