



Saint James

CATHOLIC CHURCH

24-25
SJS ANNUAL APPEAL



Dear Friends in Christ,

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, IN A solemn ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis will inaugurate the Jubilee Year of 2025. The last such Jubilee was the year 2000. The theme of this universal jubilee is *Pilgrims of Hope*. Our Holy Father, well aware of the turmoil, suffering, and division throughout the world, wisely turns our attention to that beautiful theological virtue. In the midst of difficulties, we find strength and perseverance in the hope that God himself bestows.

Hope provides a good way of understanding the work of Saint James School. Like any Catholic endeavor, the School exists because of God's promises and divine assistance. We Catholics undertake such projects because we are confident that the Lord will accompany us in our work. The School exists in turn to build up hope (and all other virtues!) within its students. And that's the difference of Catholic education. We don't provide education and formation for this world only. Rather, with hope in divine life, we provide students the means of formation in Christ and the ability to receive what Christ has promised to give.

So, in light of the coming Jubilee Year of hope, I appeal to your generosity for this year's Annual Appeal. By your financial support, we can continue to bring the children in our school the essential message and grace of the hope Christ gives us.

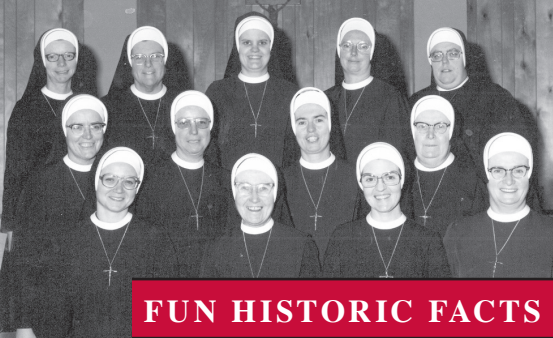
Through the intercession of our Lady, Saint Joseph, and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Paul Scalia

Very Reverend Paul D. Scalia
Pastor





FUN HISTORIC FACTS

- Saint James School opened its doors in 1906 for \$1.00 per month in tuition.
- The school was initially administered by the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who were known for their love and devotion to the Eucharist.
- On September 17, 1923 the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) took over the administration of our school; they were known as strong and innovative educators.
- We are the first and only Catholic school in the Arlington Diocese to receive three Blue Ribbon awards for academic excellence.
- We renovated our library to foster a love of reading for all students.
- Our virtue program helps our students live the Gospel in word and deed.
- Our goal is to be known as a “school for all learners.” To that end, we have created a peer mentor program for our students with cognitive disabilities.



Dear Friends in Christ,

THE THEME FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR is “Walking with Saint James.” As the patron of our parish and school, Saint James is a faithful companion on life’s journey. *The Way of Saint James is a pilgrimage* that concludes in the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela at the tomb of Saint James. The idea of pilgrimage is a beautiful metaphor for our journey as a school community. On “The Way” each pilgrim bears signs of pilgrimage: their backpack, their walking stick, and the shell marked with the Cross of Saint James.

Like the pilgrim, our students carry backpacks but theirs are full of books and they weigh on students. Likewise, learning requires effort and perseverance. When our students are stretched, they grow in knowledge and grace, and this is how they become Saints! Our backpacks get heavy at times, which makes us weary and sore. But this also strengthens our trust in God’s Divine Providence.

Like the pilgrim, we carry a walking stick, though ours does not come from a tree--we lean on our Catholic faith to give us the strength we need to carry on when things get difficult. The sacraments serve as a walking stick. When students fail, the sacrament of reconciliation gets them back on their feet again. When students are hungry, they are fed by the Eucharist, which gives them strength for the journey. They know to look to Jesus Christ as their guide.

Like the pilgrim, we carry the Cross of Saint James. Our school logo presents this red cross as our identity. It preaches Christ’s death and resurrection, and is a sword that symbolizes the defense of our faith in Christ.

A casual observer might think these pilgrims are identical because they carry the same instruments and wear the same uniforms. But this could not be further from the truth. *Each pilgrim is beautifully and wonderfully made by God!* We share the common bonds of suffering, the threads of adventure, and a search for deeper meaning. As a fellow pilgrim, I say to you, “*Buen Camino!*” as we walk this road of life, love, and faith together.

Peace and Blessings,

Sister Kathryn Teresa Clemmer, IHM

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The 2024-2025 Saint James School Annual Appeal: **\$120,000 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.*”

WHY GIVE

Our 100+ year old school is an extension of our parish. As a unified community, we desire to make Catholic education “affordable and accessible to all” (Bishop Burbidge, Diocesan Strategic Plan).

\$15,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!

A generous couple has offered to kick off this year’s Annual Appeal with a \$15,000 matching gift. **Every dollar you donate will be matched up to \$15,000!** This couple loves our award-winning parish school – the teachers, the students and the community it fosters. They hope this matching gift will inspire others to help us reach our \$120,000 goal.



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/VA50/22645> or by scanning the QR code:

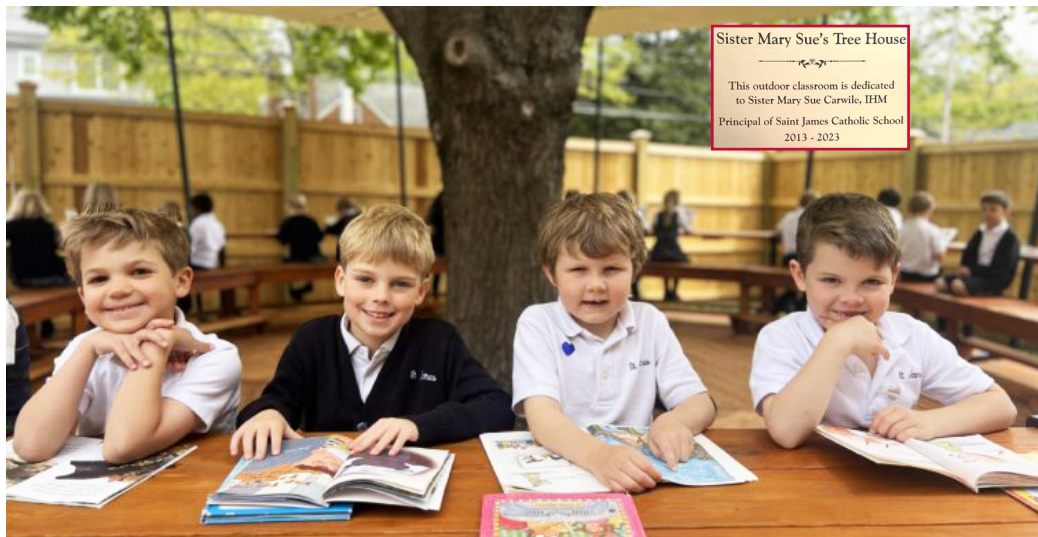


Or you can mail a check to:

Saint James Catholic Church

Attn: *Kathleen Anderson, Director of Development*
905 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

Thank you!





Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

905 PARK AVENUE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22046

Saint James Catholic School is rooted in the IHM charism, where Jesus is the center and Mary is the model. We are committed to educating the whole child through virtue formation, service, and academic excellence.

*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

