



# Saint James

CATHOLIC CHURCH

20-21  
SJS ANNUAL APPEAL



Dear Friends in Christ,

**O**NE AFTERNOON THIS PAST SEPTEMBER, we priests sat down to lunch and were greeted by a wonderful new sound: children playing, running, laughing, yelling. There were Saint James students at recess, on the lawn right outside our window. We had not seen them since last March. Now they're back, thanks be to God.

The story of their departure and return speaks to the strengths of Saint James School.

First, we are proud to say that Saint James didn't miss a beat when education suddenly went from in-person to remote. Saint James School faculty and staff had virtual learning up and running within days. Thanks to their efforts, the children didn't lose a step.

Second, Saint James opened this fall with in-person classes five days a week. Our ability to do so is another tribute to the faculty and staff, who somehow navigated all the various Covid-related details and requirements. That effort led to some creative solutions, like having extra spaces for recess – on the rectory lawn!

Needless to say, the accomplishments of last spring and this fall have taken a lot of energy, sacrifice, and patience on the part of our faculty and staff. They also reflect the devotion they have to the children and Catholic education. So, it was a great blessing and encouragement to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award (for the third time; a hat trick, threeppeat) in the midst of all the chaos that Covid has brought us. What a great recognition of all that the school has done! To celebrate that honor Bishop Burbidge came to offer Mass for some students and to visit with the entire school on a beautiful fall day.

Of course, all of this comes at a cost – and a greater cost this year than others. As a result of the Covid restrictions and requirements, we lost a major fundraiser (the Fall Bazaar) and incurred additional expenses (masks, shields, cleaning supplies, etc.). So, your support for this year's Annual Appeal is more important than ever to help us meet our additional costs and cover our reduced revenue.

Our school is now at Covid-capacity (i.e. as many as restrictions will allow) and we have a waiting list. Thank God that we have been able to continue this mission of bringing Catholic education to so many. And thank you in advance for your generosity to this year's Annual Appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Father Paul Scalia*

Fr. Scalia



# *Igniting the Potential in Each Child*



Dear Friends of Saint James Catholic School,

**A** **S THIS SEASON OF HOPE AND THANKSGIVING** surrounds us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the ones whose continued support makes all of our hopes for our students come true. The commitment that I see from every area of our parish and school community is my daily boost as we navigate these uncertain days of Covid classes!

Last year on Friday, March 13, we closed our doors for a two-week session that turned into months. We never suspected that while planning to have classes up and running a few days that this would be the norm until we opened our doors anew the next August. Our teachers never missed a beat in providing quality education. Our enrichment teachers continued to provide art, music, a fine arts night, a talent show and even field day all virtually. We met plenty of challenges and worked through them. The students and parents at home were the priority that we never lost sight of. During the early summer months, the decision to have full time classes was made after serious consideration that led to hours of cooperative planning and preparations. When the students arrived and the school was full of their vibrant energy, the joy was palpable and enlivening!

Each day we follow protocols that are still new and somewhat challenging for many of us! But the joy is still very much alive and the enthusiasm for learning remains high. While very restricted, we still have a functioning student government and our National Junior Honor Society. Activities are scaled back yet continue. Our older students are anxious to move into activities that provide them with opportunities for service. Our younger students are enjoying outside recess with new delight, inventing games such as “Air Tag” to keep everyone safe. Our dedicated teachers continue to provide excellent lesson and learning activities for their students, as indicated by our third National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award.

The brightest jewel in our crown this year is our brand new Preschool! We are so blessed to have these little ones with us each day, along with their wonderful Director, Mrs. Toman, and the teachers and aides, who are establishing a phenomenal program that will enrich and add so much to our Saint James School legacy.

Thank you for your generous support in the past. As Father Scalia noted, this year’s situation has brought with it many expensive and needed supplies and equipment to keep a safe and healthy atmosphere. I am so grateful for any support you may be able to extend this year.

May God bless you in abundance for your wonderful and generous hearts!

Blessings,

*Sister Mary Sue, IHM*

Sister Mary Sue, IHM

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## **OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE**

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- *Founded in 1906 by the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Tuition was \$1 a month!*
  - *The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) arrived in 1923, educating their first class of 92 students.*
  - *Today, there are 467 students, including 44 in our new preschool!*
  - *Three-time U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence winner for 1998-1999, 2014 and 2020.*
  - *Nationwide, one of 50 private schools named.*
  - *Statewide, one of 8 private schools named.*
  - *First Catholic school in the Arlington Diocese to receive three Blue Ribbon awards.*
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# THE 2020-2021 SAINT JAMES SCHOOL *Annual Appeal*

## HISTORY

For over a hundred 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 service and gratitude. Established in 2012, the SJS Annual Appeal keeps our 100+ year old school competitive and affordable to all who desire an authentic Catholic education.

## IMPACT

The SJS Annual Appeal funds the unique enrichment programs we provide in advanced math, music, art, technology, and robotics that set us apart from other private schools. These amazing programs require yearly financial support and play a significant role in why Saint James School was awarded its third National Blue Ribbon of Excellence! In 2020, we were one of only eight Virginia schools to receive this distinction.

## WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

The school is an extension of the parish and as a unified community we are very proud of these accomplishments. In a spirit of gratitude, please consider a gift to assist us in covering the rising costs associated with running our school, particularly during COVID, and continuing the vital mission of providing our students with an outstanding Catholic education – an investment in the future of our Society and Church.

## **\$20,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!**

*A generous parishioner has offered to kick off this year's Annual Appeal with a challenge match. For every dollar you donate above the gift amount you gave last year, the challenge gift will be matched up to \$20,000. If you are donating for the first time, your entire gift will be matched! It is our hope that this generous matching gift will help us achieve our \$75,000 goal in record time.*

**GOAL: \$ 75,000**



## HOW CAN I GIVE?

You can give a one-time gift or monthly gift via the Faith Direct link on our website: [church.faithdirect.net/org/appeals/50/22645](https://church.faithdirect.net/org/appeals/50/22645)

Or you can mail a check to:

**Saint James Catholic Church**

Attn: Kathleen Anderson

905 Park Avenue

Falls Church, VA 22046

Include “Annual Appeal” in the memo line.



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!*



In 2020, we were one of only eight Virginia schools to receive this distinction. Nationwide, we are in the top 50 of outstanding private schools. In terms of Catholic schools, we are the first in our Diocese to be named three times as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

