



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School The Crusader Connection



April 11, 2017
Volume 5 issue 32

Principal's News

Sister Kateri Rose, O.P.
Principal

Calendar Items

- 4/11 Spirit Night @ Subway
- 4/13 Holy Thursday
Noon Dismissal
Extended Day closes at 3pm
Living Stations
- 4/14 Good Friday
No School
- 4/17-4/21 Easter Break
No School
- 4/24 Return to School
- 4/27 Spelling Bee
- 4/28 Race for Education
Spirit Wear
Scripture Sharing 1:30
- 5/5 Grandparents Day
PNATS game
- 5/9 Spirit Night @ Cicis
- 5/15 Band/Choir Concert
- 8/28 First Day of School
2017-2018 school year

"Nor did demons crucify Him; it is you who have crucified Him and crucify Him still, when you delight in your vices and sins." ~St. Francis of Assisi

Dear Aquinas Parents,

Here we are in the final week of Lent. The holiest and most sacred days of the entire year are upon us. This is the week wherein we walk most closely with Our Blessed Lord; His journey to Jerusalem, to His suffering, His crucifixion, and His death on the Cross. Just two days ago, during the Palm Sunday liturgy, the words of the fickle crowd were forced upon our own lips: "Crucify Him!" Every year, when this reading comes along, I find it so difficult to pronounce these words. Then I reflect upon them and the truth they hold. How often do I, by my words, actions, or omissions, crucify my Lord? Sure, I'd like to think that I would be among the faithful few who remained with the Lord at the foot of the Cross mourning the injustice, but when I examine my life, my sins more likely number me among the crowd outside of the Praetorium calling for His death.

This week, we are invited to walk with the Lord in His journey to Calvary. It is an opportunity to reflect on our own sinfulness that has caused the Lord so much suffering. It is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the Lord for His merciful love for us, a love so deep that it embraced the cross. It is an opportunity to choose anew to take up our own crosses each day, freely and joyfully, knowing that He led the way and that He carries us when we can go no further.

This week, I will be praying in a particular way that each of you receives the grace "to follow Jesus faithfully, not in words but in deeds" (Pope Francis, Palm Sunday message), that you may rejoice most fully in the glory of the Easter Resurrection.

With prayers and wishes for a blessed Easter,
Sr. Kateri Rose, O.P.

Aquinas Library
[Amazon book wish list](#)

[This Week's Planner](#)



Home and School Connection
[April Issue](#)



STARS website Parent Login
User name: STARSparent
Password: sta1977-2017

Math Help for 5-8 grade:

WED's 3-4pm- email Mrs. Glascock permission at jglascock@aquinastars.org and indicate whether your child will be picked up or is registered at extended day



School Announcements

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!!

Tickets Only
\$10

Join us at Pfitzner Stadium

on
Friday, May 5th
at 7:05 PM

to watch the Potomac Nationals play Lynchburg

STARS Kindergarten students will perform
the pre-game National Anthem



CLICK HERE to buy tickets online - sales close at Noon on April 28th
Tickets will be sent home on May 2nd



5-8th grade will not wear
blue polo shirts

NEW UNIFORM SHIRT FOR GRADES 5-8

Students in grades 5-8 will **not** wear a blue polo shirt next year (2017-2018) but instead will wear a blue oxford shirt or the current white polo (which is being phased out by the end of the 2017-2018 school year and may only be worn during the Fall/Spring season). Blue OxforDs worn for the Fall/Spring uniform can be short sleeved but will have Aquinas embroidered above the pocket. Since the long sleeved oxford is worn under the sweater or vest, Aquinas is not embroidered above the pocket. If you mistakenly purchased a blue polo shirt for your student in grades 5-8, please email Ms. Cardinale at kcardinale@aquinastars.org. We have made arrangements with Flynn O'Hara to swap them out for the blue oxfords.



5-8th grade will wear
blue oxford shirts

OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aquinas will be hosting an Open House on April 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the school hall. Volunteers are needed to assist as tour guides for prospective parents. If you are available and would like to help or would like additional information, please email Ms. Cardinale at kcardinale@aquinastars.org.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Please join us on Friday, May 5th as our school celebrates Grandparents' Day! Our celebration will begin with Mass at 10:00 AM followed by a special program performed by our pre-K through 5th Grade students and our Aquinas band. Please arrive **NO EARLIER** than 9:30 AM to allow for the dismissal of the regular parish Mass.

As a part of this celebration, please consider sending a "Love Line" to your child/grandchild. This message of one to three lines will be printed in the Grandparents' Day program which is given to all guests on the day of the celebration. [Donate online](#) and email your "Love Line" to lovelines@aquinastars.org. For questions, you may contact Pamela Howser at: 703.491.4447 ext. 220 or

8TH GRADE DOUGHNUT SALE

There will be an 8th grade doughnut sale on Thursday May 11th. Doughnuts will be \$1.00 each or \$8.00 for a dozen. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. See the attached [doughnut flyer](#) to preorder your doughnuts today. Please support our fundraiser to get to New York.



YEARBOOKS

STARS 2016-2017 Yearbook on sale now! Go to: ybpay.lifetouch.com. Enter school code: 8740317. Follow prompts and pay with your credit card. We encourage everyone to pay online even though flyers had been sent home for students who wish to send cash or check to school. If you have questions, please contact: YB Customer Care: 800-453 9764 email: ybpay@lifetouch.com

FINAL SALES DEADLINE: April 12, 2017
Softcover yearbook: \$22 Pre K – Grade 7
Hardcover yearbook: \$25 -8th Grade only



AQUINAS MOMS SCRIPTURE SHARING

Aquinas moms meet once a month at 1:30 in the school library for fellowship and Scripture sharing. Simply bring a Bible and an open heart. Dates for all future meetings are as follows: April 28th; May 19th; June 9th.

Sports



AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER ACADEMY

Practice this week will take place on Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 at Aquinas. All students must be picked at 1:30 promptly. There will be a **\$15** per hour or fraction of an hour per child **late pick up fee** charged for pickups after 1:30.



SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS:

Spring Sports: Our communication for outdoor sports will usually be an email from the team parent, but you can also check the [athletics page](#) on the school website. We are still in need of a track parent for communication between the coach and the athletes.

Prince William County field conditions are updated daily at 3:00. Please check the website or call 703-792-3285 to hear all field closures.

Please continue to check [the school website](#), middle school bulletin board and have your son/daughter listen to announcements about upcoming practices.

PTO Announcements

RACE FOR EDUCATION

We are looking for a few good volunteers to come out and support the Race for Education on Friday, April 28th. [Sign up](#) to help make this a fun and successful event.

More families are joining our new Crowdfunding option for Race for Education. These 18 crowdfunding families have raised over \$2300! If you are interested in trying crowdfunding, please contact Pamela Howser at <mailto:development@aquinastars.org> and she will get you set up. Just for signing up, your child will get to select either one out of uniform pass or one treasure chest gift card.



The Crusader Connection (Continued)

MONTHLY ROSARY COMMITMENT

See the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to support Aquinas with a monthly rosary.

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE

See the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to have the statue visit your home.

PARENTS IN PRAYER

Let Us Pray:

For **Pope Francis**, that God will continue to bless him, as he leads the Church.

For **Bishop Burbidge**, that God will bless him as he leads his flock.

For the special intentions of **St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School**.

For the safety and well-being of our Armed Forces serving throughout the world

For the repose of the souls of **relatives of two Aquinas faculty** members.

For **the people of Peru** who have been affected by the natural disaster from which they are suffering during these weeks, that God will give them the strength to rise again as a beautiful country.

For **Mrs. Decowski-Brown**, extended day staff, that God will watch over her as she undergoes medical tests.

For **Aidan McNulty**, brother to Faith, Maeve and Killian McNulty, son of Mrs. McNulty, in thanksgiving to God for giving him strength and allowing him to heal.

For **Theresa Minnick** (Grandma of Eric M) for strength during treatment & a return to health.

For **Joe Pecore** (friend of the McCann family) to be restored to health & strength for him & his family during his road to recovery.

For **Josephine Paul**, grandmother of Abey and Anitha Paul, that God will grant her healing.

For **John A. Steptoe, Jr.**, grandfather of Langston Rhodes, that God will grant him strength and watch over him.

For the repose of the soul of **Sylvia Keller** grandmother of Mrs. Howser.

For **Alvaro Parada**, father of Anthony and Mariah Parada, that God will restore his health and cure him of cancer.

For an Aquinas Community member, that God may grant healing and strength.

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

For the repose of the soul of **Melanie Nocera**, mother of Elon and Anthony.

For **Cisco Brink, Major**, US Army, father of Liliana (2nd grade) and Sophia (Pre-K) Brink, who is deployed to Afghanistan this school year, that God will watch over him and bring him home safely to his family.

For **Daniel Powell USMC**, friend of Audrey Davis, who is being deployed to the Middle East, that God will watch over him and return him safely to his family.

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

Young People:

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.



We are blessed to have such wonderful families in our Aquinas community and one of the many spiritual gifts we give each other is praying for the intentions listed. Email your prayer intentions to mdsa72@gmail.com

Lenten Resources

40DAYS40WAYS WITH POPE FRANCIS

Looking for a new Lenten exercise? Try the Office of Family Life's **40Days40Ways with Pope Francis**. **Simply text "Ways" to 84576** to sign up for free daily reflections and practical challenges based on chapter 4 of *Amoris Laetitia*. To receive these messages by email rather than text, [use this link](#). And don't forget to sign up for [2minutes2virtue](#) if you haven't already, a great way to be inspired and challenged by one of our great priests.

FORMED

Once you have your parish or diocesan Catholic high school's access code, you can register on the site and start using it for FREE on any device with an internet connection.

New content in English and Spanish is being added to FORMED all the time, and recently several videos from Catholic Answers were posted. Take a look at *The Problem of Evil* by Jimmy Akin, *How to Win an Argument Without Losing a Soul* by Matt Fradd, *The Three Secrets to Sharing the Faith* by Trent Horn, *How to Talk About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions* by Trent Horn, and more.

There are also several new documentary films, produced by the Knights of Columbus, on Guadalupe, Divine Mercy, St. John Paul II, Fr. Michael McGivney, the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow.

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

Other

OLA FIRST PENANCE RESCHEDULED

Due to the "Light is On" every Wednesday night in Lent, Fr. O'Keefe canceled the 1st Confessions for Wed., March 29th 2017. First Penance will now be April 26th, Wed. at 7:00 pm.

Reminder: Retreat in English for both 1st Communion & for Confirmation will be on Sat., April 29, here from 7:00 am –(sign in) until 2:00 pm. This is for the student and the parents. The cost is \$20.00 per family.

ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT EVENTS

Events and Invitations from John Paul the Great Catholic High School! Please join us!

1. **Beauty and the Beast** produced by JP Drama and Band - May 5, 6, and 7. Tickets may be purchased here: <https://events.ticketprinting.com/event/20684>
2. **5th Annual Gala & Auction** at The Clubs at Quantico – Saturday, May 20. 'Diamonds and Denim' promises to be a fun-filled night! Tickets and sponsorship info may be found here: <http://www.jpthegreat.org/about-us/the-family-association/annual-gala/>
3. **Emerald Raffle:** Win the grand prize of up to \$15,000, or many smaller cash prizes along the way! For ticket information, visit <http://www.jpthegreat.org/support-jp/emerald-raffle/>
4. **Applications for Admission and Financial Aid** are still being accepted! Join our growing community! Rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders are encouraged to apply today! Please visit: <http://www.jpthegreat.org/admissions/>

If you have other questions about JP, please visit www.jpthegreat.org or call 703.445.0300.

BISHOP O'CONNELL EVENTS

Pre-HSPT- May 13 or May 20, 9AM to noon, at Bishop O'Connell High School. This is a chance to take a practice HSPT exam. The cost is \$40 and students will receive a copy of the score report in June. These two dates are the only opportunities to take the practice test. Click here for more information and to register

Spring Drama Production- April 6-9 at Bishop O'Connell High School. The O'Connell Drama Department presents: *Into the Woods*. Click here for more information or to purchase tickets.

Summer Camps-We are now accepting registrations for our sports camps. We will have multiple camps throughout the summer. Click here for more information about our various summer camps.

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

JR. HIGH BASH

Sat. April 29th, 6-8th graders come join the largest gathering of middle school students every year for faith, fellowship and fun; including music, games, speakers, confessions and Vigil Mass for Sunday from 3:30 -9:30pm. [Click here for more information and the registration form](#) for this wildly popular gathering of students from across the Diocese of Arlington at St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School. [Spanish registration forms](#) are also available. Interested students need to go through their home parish religious Education/Youth Ministry Office. OLA parishioners should contact the Office of Youth Ministry listed on the flyer above.

SUMMER MATH CAMP

Location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
12805 Valleywood Drive Lake Ridge, VA 22192

Dates: July 17 – 28, 2017

Please see the following flyers to help you determine which level to enroll your child.

[Bean Counting 101](#): 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$420)

[Bean Counting 201](#): 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$420)

[Multiplication Matters](#): 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$465)

[MathTree Roots](#): 1 – 4:30 PM (\$465)

[Roots-to-Leaves](#): 1 – 4:30 PM (\$465)

A full-day experience is available by adding MathTree Hands-On Math to any of the above camps. Before and After Care are also available. More information at Mathtree.com website.

THEATRE & ART DAY CAMPS

Camp in a **Catholic Environment** at Nativity!

Enroll your child in a fun and exciting camp this July dedicated to teaching excellence in the arts. Instructors are top notch in their field in topics such as visual art, dance, singing, acting, improvisation, crafts, and more. Opportunities from K through High School make Spotlight on the Arts Summer Camps perfect for the whole family. For over 10 years, Rob Tessier has offered these camps within the Arlington Diocese... and this month registration is offered at a discounted rate. Go to <http://www.spotlightsummercamps.com> to learn more!

