



Annunciation Press

Quarterly Newsletter

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IMPORTANT DATES

April

- 2 Field Day and early dismissal, 12pm
- 3 No School, Good Friday
- 3-12 Easter Break
- 13 ITBS Testing Begins
- 24- School Musical: Lion King Jr.
- 26
- 29 Spring Concert, 6:30pm

May

- 1 May Crowning
- 15 8th Grade Graduation
- 21 Kindergarten Promotion
- 22 Awards, Last Day

ACS Students Enter the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil



Pictured: Father Chad guiding students through this beautiful and meaningful celebration following the school Mass on March 18.

Annunciation Catholic School is excited to celebrate the baptism of 23 students and siblings at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4, at 8:00 pm.

The students have been thoughtfully prepared for their sacraments through the guidance of their classroom teachers, Mrs. Cullen, and St. Gabriel youth minister, Steven Piorkowski. We are thankful to their parents for bringing God to the center of their children's lives.

Please pray for our catechumens and their families!

The Mission of Annunciation Catholic School

Within our strong Catholic community, we develop children to their fullest God-given potential - spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially, and physically.

ACS Grade Science Fair

Our 7th grade students showed off months of hard work and preparation at the Annunciation Science Fair on February 11. The enthusiastic and talented students showcased their individual projects to the school, fellow classmates, teachers, and judges. The quality and range of the projects surpassed our expectations.



The science fair is an opportunity for students to apply the scientific method to conduct independent research on a subject of their choice. The students spent months working on their projects and conducting their experiments. We could not be more impressed by all of their projects!

Our winner was Olivia M. with Spots in the Sun testing if freckles get darker when they are exposed to the sun or if they blend in. Olivia received an honorable mention at the Diocesan science fair. 2nd place went to Griffin S., 3rd place winners were Connor C. and Kaitlyn G.



2026 Summer Programs at ACS

June 1 - 5: Theater Camp Session 1, 9am-3pm.

June 8 - 12: [Sticky Fingers Cooking Camp](#) from 9am-12pm. \$275 per student.

June 15 - 19: Play-Well TEKnologies Camps for ages 5-11. Each Class is \$140 per student

- Class 1: 9-11:30am. \$140 per student- [Register for Jurassic Engineering](#)
- Class 2: 1-3:30pm- [Register for Sports Lab Engineering](#)



June 22 - 26: Camp Invention from 9am-3pm. Kids in rising grades K-6, \$285 per child. Leaders in Training for students in rising grades 7-9. \$185 [Register now!](#)

June 29 - July 3: Theater Camp Session 2, 9am-3pm. More info to come!

July 13 - 17: Our Lady of Joy Parish Vacation Bible School. [Register now!](#)

July 20 - 24: [Summer Art Angels Camp](#), 9-3pm \$275 per student or \$70 per day. Snacks and materials included but you must pack a lunch.

Visit <https://acsphx.org/summer-camps-and-programs/> for more info

Two Annunciation 8th Graders Receive Christian Service Award

We are very happy to announce that two of our 8th grade students, Teagan Anderson and Delaney Flowers, are recipients of the 2026 Christian Service Award from the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Phoenix.

They will each receive a tuition scholarship worth \$8,000, paid out annually, \$2,000 per year. Both Delaney and Teagan will be attending Notre Dame Preparatory in the fall.

Since 1998, the mission of the **Christian Service Award (CSA) Scholarship** is to acknowledge students who demonstrate exemplary Christ-centered behavior through volunteer service to their parish, school, and community. Recipients display a love and understanding of their Catholic faith and articulate a commitment, not only to perform acts of service but to live a service-focused life. They recognize their God-given gifts and provide persuasive evidence of their maturity, humility, and leadership.

We are thankful for the Flowers and Anderson families. Through their Catholic faith, they have instilled the virtues of love and service to others in their children. Congratulations Delaney and Teagan!



High School Acceptance Results 2026

Our 27 eighth grade students submitted their applications to the Catholic high schools in January. Most students applied to more than one school. We are happy to report our 11th consecutive year with 100% acceptance into Catholic High Schools. See the results by school below.

Catholic High School	Applied	Accepted	Honors
 BROPHY <small>COLLEGIUM PREPARATORIUM</small> <i>A Catholic, Jesuit School for Young Men</i>	8	8	2 with Highest Honors 1 with Distinction
 NOTRE DAME <small>Preparatory High School</small>	26	26	5
 <i>women of faith pursuing excellence</i> Xavier College Preparatory <small>Roman Catholic High School</small>	4	4	

February Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE



Congratulations to our February Fruit of the Spirit award recipients!

Kindergarten: Elianna

1st Grade: Hailey and Addie

2nd grade: Laila , Solana & McKenzie

3rd grade: Ellie

4th grade: Dominic & Hannah

5th grade: Estelle

6th grade: Amelia

7th grade: Jayden

8th grade: Max & Sedona

The month of February we celebrate Love. Each month students are chosen by a homeroom or specials teacher for this award.

7th Grade Grace Performs Live Stations of the Cross



Thank you Mrs. Cullen and our 7th grade students for their double performance of Live Stations of the Cross. The students did a wonderful job and we very much appreciate the additional help from Mr. Les Hardie.

Lenten Retreats 2026

Each school year all students embark on a Lenten Retreat with their class to a spiritual location in the Phoenix area. Most visited other parishes, met new people, and prayed the Stations of the Cross. Our students visited many places, including St. Joan of Arc (2nd gr.), Our Lady of Joy (1st gr.), St. Bernard Clairvaux (7th gr.), Mt. Claret (5th gr.), Canaan in the Desert (3rd gr.), St. Vincent de Paul Society (6th gr.), St. Mary's Basilica and the Diocese of Phoenix offices (8th gr.). Due to the extreme heat, our 4th grade stayed on campus and prayed the Stations of the Cross and had a fun retreat in our youth center. Thank you to our homeroom Angels and parent chaperones for their time.



Right: Mrs. Cunningham's 4th grade class.



Above & right: Mrs. Pope took the 6th grade at the St. Vincent de Paul Society for a fun day of service to the poor.



Mrs. Cullen and the 7th Grade Visited St. Bernard Clairvaux in Scottsdale

Lenten Retreats 2026 & St. Patrick's Day



Above: 8th grade at St. Mary's Basilica. Above right: 3rd grade at Canaan in the Desert. Right: 1st grade at Our Lady of Joy.

Below: 5th grade visited Mt. Claret Retreat Center.



Below: Kindergarten celebrates their classroom patron saint, St. Patrick, with fun crafts and a visit from 6th grader Grace R. and 2nd grader Amira N. to share their talent of Irish Dancing!



ACS Students Shine at the Tempe Festival of the Arts

ACS art teacher, Mrs. Debbie Himmelein, is very proud of her students whose artwork received awards and honorable mention at the annual Tempe Festival of the Arts which was held in early March. Each year our students have done very well in this competition, which includes entries from young artists in grades K–12 throughout the valley. This year we congratulate the following winners and those who received Honorable Mention for their works of art.

Student	Category	Award	Title of artwork
Aniya Costa	Kinder. & 1st grade	1st place	Aniya's Love Monster
Abby Krahe	Kinder. & 1st grade	2nd place	The Snowy Weekend
Laila Balocca	Grades 2-3	3rd place	Colors of Color
Aven Flowers	Grades 6-8	3rd place	Fragments of a Holy Life

The following students received Honorable Mention. Congratulations to: Bristen S. 5th grade; Grace C., 6th grade; Jack R. 5th grade; Beckett A. 2nd grade; Ava R. 2nd grade; Troy C. 3rd grade; Paysan S. 8th grade; Charlie S. 7th grade.

Below are just some of the pieces of art from these young and talented artists.



ACS Winter Sports Teams Bring Home the Trophies!

Congratulations to the ACS girls softball team (5th –8th grade) on their win of the CYAA Small Schools Softball Championship! Congrats to Coach Flowers and his assistant coaches.



Our 8th grade boys basketball team finished 2nd at the CYAA Small Schools Basketball Championship. They were undefeated all season until the final game of the Championship. Congrats to Coach Bainum and his assistant coaches.



Educational Outfitters Spring Sale



CATHOLIC SCHOOL

April 1st - April 15th
20% Off

April 16th - April 30th
15% Off
Plus FREE SHIPPING

All of May
15% Off

June 1st - June 10th
10% Off

ORDER YOUR ACS UNIFORMS FOR NEXT YEAR!

NEW FABRIC OPTION FOR BOYS SHORTS AND PANTS!

Visit <https://denver.educationaloutfitters.com/annunciation-arizona/>

Alumni News

Shaan Iyer, Class of 2025



Shaan Iyer, ACS class of 2025, and current Brophy College Prep freshman, has had a strong start to high school and is actively engaged both academically and within the school community.

Shaan participated in the Summer Honors Enrichment Program for Biology, where he earned an A, and he is currently maintaining straight As in his coursework. He also auditioned for and was accepted into Honors Choir.

In addition, Shaan was selected for the Mock Trial Team. He has especially enjoyed Mock Trial, where he has developed an interest in law, learned courtroom strategy, and gained experience presenting arguments in the role of an attorney. His experience as a lector at ACS helped develop his public speaking skills, which have carried over into Mock Trial. He was also selected to serve as a lector at Brophy, including on Ash Wednesday. He is involved in the Pickleball Club.

Through Brophy, Shaan has volunteered at a local soup kitchen and participated in additional service opportunities within the community. Shaan has really enjoyed his experience at Brophy and appreciates the opportunity to both deepen his strengths and explore new interests.

Looking ahead, Shaan will be volunteering this summer through Brophy's Loyola Project, supporting a summer camp for elementary school students. Congratulations to Shaan and his wonderful parents, Vivek and Megan.





VIBRANT VINNIES



24 VINNIES
5-8 GRADE

2025 - 2026



"I want all young people with both head and heart to assemble for some charitable work."
- Frédéric Ozanam

ONE HUNDRED
veteran's day cards made



Thirty-Three SERVICE PROJECTS

371lbs
Collected from Food Drive



134
Turkeys Contributed

Easter Baskets Assembled



350
VOLUNTEER HOURS



Conference Founded **2017**

200
STOCKINGS DONATED

PRAYER



DONATED FOOD, TREATS, AND TOYS FOR 43 COMPANION ANIMALS

Who are we?

We are young members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul changing the world through our spirituality, friendship, and service through an international network of charity.

We are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.



Prepped 100 Cups of Snowman Soup

50
Flowers donated to the Homeless Shelter





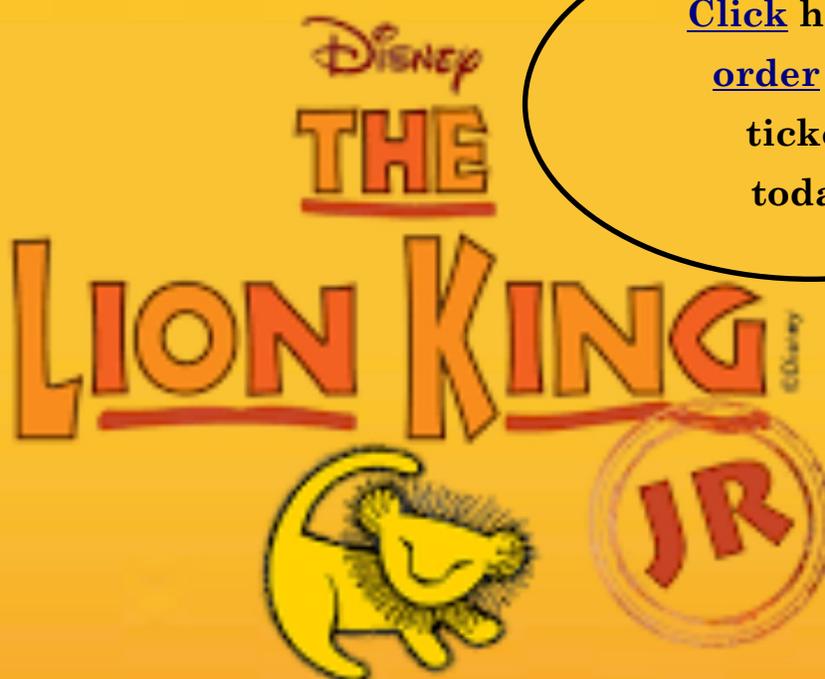
**Thank you to all
who attended
and supported
our fundraiser!
Gala de Joie
2026**



Annunciation Catholic School
proudly presents...

In association with
natco.productions

[Click here to
order your
tickets
today!](#)



4 Shows

April 24th - April 26th

Directed by Nathalie Velasquez & Wendy Pike
Music Director, Kent Campbell
Set Designer, Kar Merlin

Tickets go on sale TOMORROW 3/20

School Administration

Pastor

Fr. Chad King
frchad@stgacc.org

Principal

Dr. Sharon Pristash
spristash@acsphx.org

Vice Principal

Mr. Matt Raiff
mraiff@acsphx.org

Dean of Students

Ms. Lynne O'Keeffe
lokeeffe@acsphx.org

Director of Operations/Facilities

Mrs. Lynn Schwartz
lschwartz@acsphx.org

Development/Marketing

Mrs. Christy Brown
cbrown@acsphx.org

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Maria Garcia
office@acsphx.org

School Nurses: nurse@acsphx.org

For the complete staff directory visit

[http://acsphx.org/about us/staff directory](http://acsphx.org/about_us/staff_directory)

ANNUNCIATION



CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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School Hours 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Regina Caeli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who have been pleased to gladden the world
by the Resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant, we pray,
that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may receive the joys of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Catholic Church

Easter Week Calendar

Palm Sunday March 29

Regular weekend Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 2

8:15am Daily Mass
6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until Midnight in the parish hall

Good Friday, April 3

8:00am Outside Living Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Confession & Private Prayer
6:30pm Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 4

9am & 3pm Confession
12pm Blessing of Easter Food
8pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 5

Mass Times: 7am, 9am, 11am

