

From the Principal's Desk:

Taste and see how good the Lord is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy!" `Psalm 34:8

As we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the gift that was God's presence here on earth, we should pause to reflect on what the Christmas season genuinely represented for us. The personal relationship and experience with him built trust and understanding of why and how we are to show love to others. His kindness, compassion, and peace were unprecedented while he graced us with his presence. In a world today that experiences unrest, injustices, and racism, we need to take a step back and reflect on how we can embody not just his teaching but, most importantly, his actions. Hopefully, in the New Year, we can all set personal goals that might improve the lives within our community and act as he did towards others.

The month of December saw many successful events occur at St. Paul School that brought our community closer to one another. From whole school advent services to Blackfoot naming ceremonies, to a fabulously led Christmas Concert, to a highly successful 'Principal for a Day - Food Drive,' our community united to celebrate our goodwill towards others. It was a memorable month that will be cherished by all who participated. A heartfelt thanks goes out to the St. Paul Admin staff, teachers, and Parent Council, as well as Ft. Santiago, Elder Andrew Black Plume, and Ms. Packham, who played extraspecial roles in orchestrating the larger-than-life mass, naming ceremony, and concert.

Hopefully, as we venture into the New Year, our events will continue to grow in popularity, and we will see more and more people join our diverse school community.

Exciting events upcoming in January include:

- Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser
- Family Movie Night and Talent Show
- Inaugural Lunchtime Blackfoot Drum Club
- Commencement of the Girls' and Boys' 2024 St. Paul Basketball Season
- Feast of St. Paul Mass

As you can see, many memorable events are taking place this month, and I hope you and your families can find the time to support where you can and help bring our St.Paul community closer together!

God Bless, Ryan Myndio



Important Dates to Remember

Welcome Back Students

Jan 8

Jump Rope for Heart

Jan 8

Jersey Day

Jan 10

Christian Action

Jan 11

Sock & Mitt Drive

Jan 15—24

School Council Meeting

Jan 16

Hot Lunch

Feast of St. Paul Mass

Jan 25

Jan 18

Pyjama/Slipper Day

Jan 26

Associate Principal's Message

Happy New Year everyone and best wishes for a wonderfully happy and healthy 2024! January is here and with it we set new goals and begin with new, best intentions. This can be a great time to think about how we can share more joy and more love with the people in our lives. And this year we recognize the need to be peacekeepers and to promote peace throughout the world and at our school. Set a goal for treating others with kindness and respect, think about your words and actions and how to make them have a positive effect on those around you. January also marks the halfway point of the school year and so with half a year of learning completed we look forward to growth for all of our students for the remainder of the year. Have a wonderful month of January!

~Tina Delinte Associate Principal



January Faith Focus

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. The first ten days of January are included in the liturgical season of Christmas while the remaining days of January are the beginning of ordinary time.



FOR GOD
GAVE US
A SPIRIT NOT OF FEAR
BUT OF POWER & LOVE
AND
SELFCONTROL
2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Christian Action—Courage

The virtue of courage helps us to take the initiative to make changes in our lives or to accept change that comes to us. It allows us to support others in need and to take the first steps in making things happen or in standing up for justice. Courage helps to build our self confidence and strengthens our connections with others.

This month we appreciate self-control, one of the Fruits of the Spirit.



Sock and Mitt Drive

We are collecting Socks and Mitts from January 15 – 24th. We are donating them to Streets Alive and the women and children of Harbour House.

Indoor/Outdoor Recess

We know that the winter months bring unpredictable weather in Lethbridge.

We occasionally decide to keep the students inside for recess when the temperature (including wind-chill) drops below –20. Only when there is an indoor recess should students be staying inside. All students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and to have a change of footwear when entering & exiting the building. We plan for all of our students to be outside for recesses, so all of our supervisors are outside on the playground.

All students in attendance are expected to go outside for

recess.

Jump Rope For Heart

Starting Monday, January 8, St. Paul School will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart! Here's how to get involved:





with family and friends whenever to ask them to scan their code to donate.





STAYING CONNECTED

We have many ways for you to stay connected with us. Please check out our school website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca/stpaul

You will notice on our home page it is easy to stay connected with FaceBook or Twitter. Please give it a try!

Board Briefs: Each month Holy Spirit School Division Trustees publish a summary of their meetings. We have added a link on the front of our St. Paul School Home Page to allow parents quick and easy access to the Board Briefs:

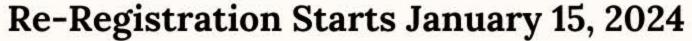
www.holyspirit.ab.ca/stpaul



Take the next step with...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2024/2025 REGISTRATION



Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 15-19, 2024 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2024/2025 school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.

New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2024

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to register online starting on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

- Through play, our Early Learning Program is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- Grade 1 registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- French Immersion is also available. Enrollment starts:
 - o in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
 - o in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.

For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.





Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Annual Education Assurance Report Summary 2022/2023

Fiscal Stewardship

Our finances must always reflect our values. To support excellence in learning and ensure that all students receive the opportunities to become the persons God created them to be, financial allocations must support a maximum allotment of dollars to the classroom and equity in the distribution of these dollars.

The 2022/2023 actual operating expenditures for the school division were \$65,412,762. Of this total, nearly 77% was focused on ECS to Grade 12 instruction:

ECS	\$3,043,467
Grades 1-12 Instruction	\$47,218,941
Operations & Maintenance	\$10,055,664
Board & System Administration	\$2,455,496
Transportation	\$2,639,194
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$65,412,762

Fall 2023 Supplemental Measures Summary

	Holy Spir	it Roman C	atholic Sep	Alberta			Measure Evaluation			
Measure	Current Result	Prev. Year Result	Prev. 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev. Year Result	Prev. 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall	
Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	17.8	n/a	60.4	3.5	n/a	56.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<u>Drop Out Rate</u>	1.5	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	
In-Service Jurisdiction Needs	82.3	85.8	85.4	82.2	83.7	84.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable	
Lifelong Learning	85.7	82.8	80.1	80.4	81.0	76.8	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent	
Program of Studies	87.6	84.3	85.5	82.9	82.9	82.6	Very High	Improved	Excellent	
Program of Studies - At Risk Students	83.7	81.8	84.6	81.2	81.9	83.4	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable	
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	86.5	86.8	82.1	71.9	70.2	68.3	Very High	Improved	Excellent	
Safe and Caring	91.2	90.8	91.4	87.5	88.8	89.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	
Satisfaction with Program Access	77.6	75.9	77.2	72.9	72.6	73.9	High	Maintained	Good	
School Improvement	80.6	78.0	82.1	75.2	74.2	77.9	Very High	Declined	Good	
Transition Rate (6 Year)	70.8	73.7	73.2	59.7	60.3	60.2	High	Maintained	Good	
Work Preparation	87.7	85.2	85.4	83.1	84.9	84.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	

Division Profile

- · 16 schools and 1 outreach centre
- 5,076 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- 225 children in Early Learning Programs
- · 498.33 FTE staff members
- Proudly serving the communities of Bow Island, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek, Taber and surrounding areas

For More Information

St. Basil Catholic Education Centre 620 12 B Street North, Lethbridge, AB TIH 2L7 Phone: 403-327-9555

Division Reports, Plan and Financial Information can be found on the division's website at: www.holyspirit.ab.ca

Follow us on social media: HolySpiritRCSD









Priorities and Successes

Priority 1: Staff and students will grow in their faith and experience the richness of Catholic Education.

In 2022/2023, the division began a new Three Year Faith Plan, "Arise! Pilgrims of Hope."

Results we are most proud of:

98.5% of staff felt the
Faith Plan theme inspired
and helped.



	Indicator (OurSchool Survey)	Elem	(4-6)	Jr./Sr. High		
ı	indicator (our school survey)	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	
	Their school is a Catholic community that helps them understand the Catholic Faith	94%	95%	88%	89%	
	They are encouraged & given the opportunity to live their faith in the school & community.	95%	95%	87%	87%	

Priority 2: First Nations, Métis and Inuit education for all.

Our Graduation Coaches, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Facilitators, administrators and staff, continue to support and build strong relationships with our Indigenous students. In 2022-2023, we continued to engage in reconciliation practices within our schools and the community by renewing and fostering relationships with Indigenous Elders, parents, families and students, both on- and off-reserve to support this priority.

Measure	Holy Spirit	Province
3-Year High School Completion	73.6%	57.0%
6-Year Transition Rate to Post- Secondary	41.9%	35.5%
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility	68.9%	43.9%

Priority 2: High quality instruction rooted in sound research and effective assessment practices to support growth for all learners.

Our staff continues to recognize the importance of foundational skills by providing multiple opportunities for real life learning. Our results show the success we've had through deep dives into the curriculum and engaging our students in relevant learning experiences.

Measure	Holy Spirit	Province
Education Quality	90.7%	88.1%
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful & Safe Learning Environment	89.3%	84.7%
Students engaged in their learning	86.9%	84.4%
Access to Supports & Services	82.3%	80.6%
3-Year High School Completion	90.4%	80.7%

Priority 4: Foster a culture of wellness that is foundational to support learning.



Fostering a holistic approach to support students' spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and academic health, we work closely with a variety of provincial and local partners to devise targeted initiatives that build student capacity in this area.

Indicator (OurSchool Survey)	Eleme	entary	Jr./Sr. High		
indicator (Ourschool survey)	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	
Students with a positive sense of belonging	74%	71%	63%	65%	
Students with positive relationships	81%	83%	79%	81%	
Students that value school outcomes	91%	91%	65%	69%	

"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"

James 2:15-16

Build!

Pilgrims of Hope



Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. His father, a Spanish nobleman, abandoned the family, and so Martin was raised by his mother, a former enslaved person from Panama. Martin grew up in poverty and eventually became an apprentice to a barbersurgeon. During this time, there was prejudice and discrimination against those of mixed racial heritage, which made Martin's life very difficult. This even extended to the religious life, as he was not allowed to become a full member of a religious order and could serve only as a lay volunteer.

Martin, however, was not deterred by this discrimination. He joined the Dominicans as a volunteer, taking on kitchen work, cleaning, and laundry in addition to his barbering so that he could live in the religious community. He considered all of this work to be holy, and during this time many miracles occurred. At the age of 34, Martin was placed in charge of the infirmary, where he cared for both the sick of the Dominicans as well as the larger community of Lima. He was known for his patience and compassion in this role. During his life he also was well known for the collection of funds to serve the poor and hungry, and he also founded a residence for orphans in Lima. He was also well known for his care for animals, and is often shown with them in his imagery. When he was canonized in 1962, he became the first black saint of the Americas.

"Building" In Our Schools

This past month, our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division joined together to celebrate the season of Advent through our Advent Blessing videos. For each week of Advent, a video was created that included a Gospel reading, reflection, artwork, and music, all provided by students within the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. The videos were a shining representation of staff and students joining together in remembrance and celebration of the arrival of Jesus, and in the hope of his return.



Corporal Works of Mercy — Give Drink to the Thirsty —

While often connected to Feed the Hungry, the Corporal Work of Giving Drink to the Thirsty is actually a separate work. If we think about the context of Christ's time, we recognize the scarcity and importance of water in the arid land He inhabited (something we know about in our area as well!). Water is often referred to in scripture, both in concrete and spiritual ways. If we think about the concrete action of giving drink to another, we can see in it a gracious act of hospitality, a thoughtful expression of love, and a desire to seek the good of the other. We all know the importance of water to our bodies, how clean water impacts health, and how access to water is limited, not just in far away places but also very close to home.

Consider one of the following practical suggestions from the USCCB:

- We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need.
- Organize a group to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families.
- Make an effort not to waste water.
 Remembering to turn off the water faucet
 when you are brushing your teeth or washing
 dishes can help, especially in regions suffering
 from drought.

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Gift of Diversity in the Church Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Social Teaching — Preferential Option for the Poor —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at participation - the belief that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives. This supports subsidiarity, the dignity of the human person, and the pursuit of the common good.

This month, we are considering the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, also known as the Preferential Option for the Poor. As Development and Peace Canada suggests,

The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable people are treated. God loves all people, but prioritizes and calls us to a unique concern for the poor.

Throughout scripture, we see constantly that God is keenly interested in those at the margins, and He calls us to live in solidarity with them, prioritizing their needs so that they can fully participate in society and have hope for a better future. Each of our recent Popes, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, have written extensively about this - and we see it constantly lived out by the saints, including St. Martin de Porres.

Learn more about the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable with one of these resources:

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (YouTube)
Preferential Option for the Poor
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (USCBC)



"Always consider others as more holy and more worthy than you, at the same time strive to be as holy as you can be." (St. Martin de Porres)

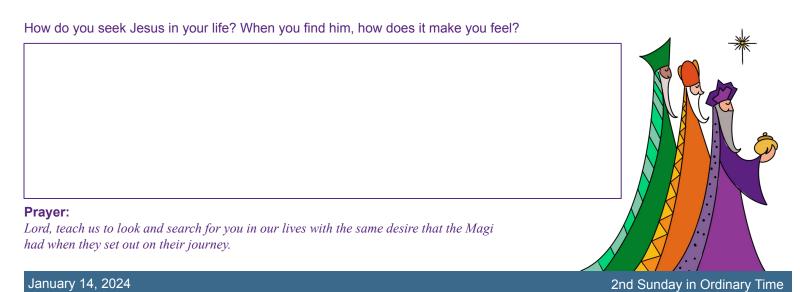
Gospel Readings

January 7, 2024 Epiphany of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star..." — Matthew 2:10

The Magi were called to find the child that had come into the world as a king. They knew that he was the chosen one. They made many sacrifices in order to find him, and most likely encountered hardships on their journey. They didn't quit. They didn't give up. They persevered. Can you imagine their joy in finally arriving at their destination, the place where the child lay in his mother's arms? It must have been the greatest blessing they'd ever known. We can have that same joy when we seek out Jesus in our lives and find him.



Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." — 1 Samuel 3:10

Many times we enter into prayer with a long list of requests—things we think God should do for us because we know what's best. But in today's scripture, God is the one calling out to Samuel. When Samuel realizes that it is the Lord speaking to him, he doesn't say what he wants. Instead, he says that he is ready to hear what God wants of him. As usual, the Bible is setting an example for how we should live our own lives to grow closer to God. The next time you feel like sitting down with your list for God in prayer, try something new. Sit and listen to what God wants to say to you.

What are some places where you like to pray? Do they help you quiet yourself enough for you to hear God speaking to you?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to quiet myself in prayer to hear what you want to say to me.

Download this month's <u>Saint Prayer Card</u> - St. Martin de Porres

January 21, 2024 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." — Mark 1:17

This is a little confusing, isn't it? The men that Jesus called to follow him were fishers of fish. What did he mean when he said he would make them fishers of men? Jesus hoped that these men he chose would set such a beautiful example of their faith in God that it would attract other people to also want to follow Jesus. This is something that we are all called to do. If we love Jesus and try to live our lives reflecting his light, then we too will become "fishers of men."

What is one thing Jesus' disciples did then that we can still do today to help people know and follow Jesus?



Prayer:

Lord, help us to love you so much that all we do, say, think, and feel will radiate the love we have for you. Please allow that light to touch those we meet each day, so that they too will want to follow you.



January 28, 2024 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

"A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." — Mark 1:27

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt the presence of evil? Maybe a TV show scared you, or you met someone who was really mean. In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us that if we ask anything in Jesus' name, especially against evil, that he can make that evil go away. What an awesome God! All we have to do is ask! So the next time you are feeling afraid or hurt, call on the name of Jesus and see what happens.

When do you feel most fearful? Remember to call on Jesus and he will help you!



Prayer

Dear Lord, your name is above all names. You are Lord, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lamb of God. We love you and praise you for your powerful presence in our lives.



Birthplace Lima, Peru

Feast Day November 3

Born December 9, 1579

Died November 3, 1639

Canonized May 6, 1962 by Pope John XXIII

Patron Saint of African Americans, Social Justice, Race Relations and more.



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St. Martir de Porres

In life's daily struggles I sometimes feel bewildered and alone. So I turn to you, St. Martin, my friend and companion, to intercede for me before God.

Please pray for (mention your intention).

Most of all, ask for the grace
that I may live the Gospel.

May God grant me your humility, Martin,
so that I always do His will.

Dearest Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, guide me as I face the challenges of life.

Give me Martin's sense of service so that I may be a blessing to all whom I meet.

Amen.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for Us!

Image: © Noah Gutierrez, 2020. St Martin de Porres Prayer: Prayer of St. Martin de Porres, Saint Martin de Porres National Shrine & Institute

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Noah Gutierrez, 2020. St Martin de Porres
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Give me Martin's sense of service so that I may be a blessing to all whom I meet.

Amen.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for Us!

Image: © Noah Gutierrez, 2020. St Martin de Porres Prayer: Prayer of St. Martin de Porres, Saint Martin de Porres National Shrine & Institute



St. Martin de Porres

Feast Day: November 3

"Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

St. Martin de Porres - Pray for us!



Holy Spirit Catholic Division Presents:

Resilency

Self-Care

January 16th, 5:30 pm Essie's Ballroom

Sandman Signature, 320 Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge Ab

Join us as Lethbridge Family Services will present for a night of learning and good (free) food!

Please RSVP at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC



Billy Woitte



ISWAG

Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

woitteb@holyspirit.ab.ca (403)635-2415

Emily Williston



SWAG

Student Wellness Access Guide
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

willistone@holyspirit.ab.ca (403)308-2445

Lethbridge Family Services

Lethbridge Family Services provides highly-accredited health and social services to over 9,000 individuals and families in more than 30 communities in southwestern Alberta. The Outreach and Education team works with individuals, caregivers and professional to facilitate insight, awareness and enhance skills.

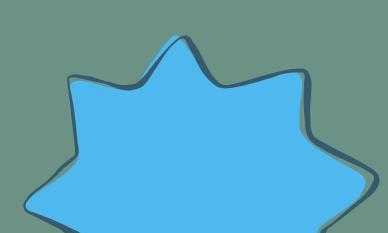
This is a FREE event.

Intended audience: parents, guardians, caregivers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, childcare providers, all school staff, bus drivers, parishioner's

Please RSVP at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC







Division Parishes

"...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25



Assumption Church Lethbridge

Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres

Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am (Live-streamed) 6:00 pm

> 2405-12th Avenue S. Lethbridge, AB T1K 0P4 Tel: 403-327-8931



St. Basil's Church Lethbridge

Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres

Mass (Saturday): 7:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 7:30 am | 11:00 am

> 604 13 Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2S7 Tel: 403-327-8931



St. Martha's Parish Lethbridge

Father William Monis

Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am | 11:00 am

> 355 Columbia Blvd. W. Lethbridge, AB T1K 5Y8 Tel: 403-381-8891



Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Lethbridge

Father Gary Sedgwick

Mass (Saturday): 8:30 am Mass (Sunday): 10:00 am

> 643 12B Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L6 Tel: 403-328-4753



St. Ambrose Parish Coaldale

Father Ian Gagne

Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am | 4:00 pm

1523-23rd Avenue Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2 Tel: 403-345-3400



St. Catherine Parish Picture Butte

Father Ian Gagne

Mass (Sunday): 11:00 am

762 Crescent Avenue Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0 Tel: 403-732-4433



St. Augustine Parish Taber

Father Philip Van Tinh Le

Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am

> 5009-48th Avenue Taber, AB T1G 1T4 Tel: 403-223-2226



St. Michael's Parish Bow Island

Father Wojciech Jarzecki

Mass: 9:00 am

1101-1st Street E. Blow Island, AB T0K 0G0 Tel: 403-545-2023



St. Michael's Parish Pincher Creek

Father Myles Gaffney

Mass: 10:00 am

958 Christie Avenue; Box 339 Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0 Tel: 403-627-3071