

## From the Principal's Desk

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." — Matthew 5:12

The month of November, more often than not, is a month that has our community recognizing, reflecting, and preparing for important events at St. Paul. As the season changes and colder weather arrives, we are often awoken to what our purpose is and how we can best serve our students, staff, and community.

Commemorating Remembrance Day and those who sacrificed dearly for our way of life will be one of the most important events this month. Students and staff will also attend several masses at St.Basil's to further cement their faith around gratitude and peace, two virtues recognized during our Christian action awards in October and November. Our students will continue to practice for our upcoming Christmas Concert and Ms. Packham will undoubtedly work tirelessly to prepare the students for this extraordinary event.

Important dates and programs running this month:

•AGM for St. Paul Parent Council occurs at 6 pm on Tuesday, November 14th. All parents wishing to be a part of the voting council or wishing to sit as executive members are asked to attend.

•'Principal for a Day' Food Drive will run for November. Each student who brings in a food item will have a ballot entered into the draw to be the Principal for a Day. The class who designs the best 'food sculpture' at the end of their collection will also win a Pizza Party.

•The 'SPS Citizen of the Week' program will start October 30th, where one recipient from each grade level will be drawn from many nominated students at the end of each week. Teachers, education assistants, and peers can submit this nomination based on kindness, caring, or considerate acts toward others.

•Catholic Education Sunday - November 5th will see all parishes acknowledge and celebrate what great products come from Catholic Education. During these local masses, Trustees, Principals, Teachers, and other staff members will be present to participate and celebrate those who continuously commit to our Catholic Faith.

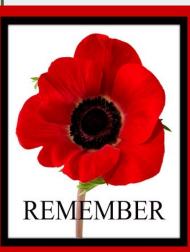
•Extracurricular vollevball continues until November 17th, where the final jamboree will take place. Final competition locations have yet to be decided upon, but hopefully, these locations and times will be shared with parents soon. Practices will continue to run from 3:45 - 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

•'Family conferences' will take place on Thursday, November 23rd. These studentcentered conferences will involve the attendance of the student, parent, and teacher.

With all this said, please visit our school website and classroom SPACES platforms to stay updated with upcoming events. On behalf of the St. Paul community, I wish you all a great month of November!

God Bless.

Physlen Ryan Myndio



### IMPORTANT DATES

- Christian Action Nov 1
- Wear Red
  - Nov 9
- No School in Lieu of Nov 11

**Nov 10** 

- Remembrance Day Nov 11
- Wellness Dav— **No School**

**Nov 13** 

- School Council Meeting **Nov 14**
- Grade 3 Retreat **Nov 14**
- Plaid Day **Nov 22**
- Family/Teacher Conferences **Nov 23**



## <u>Associate Principal's Message</u>

For me, November is always a month of reflection. We spend time in classrooms discussing Remembrance Day and helping our students understand the great sacrifices our veterans made in the past and those that our current peacekeepers make. We share messages of peace and hope for the world going forward and we pray together. Our gratitude for all of the sacrifices is expressed in our words and actions as we commit to act as peacemakers with one another. Our students are reminded that kind actions and kind words, finding positive ways to resolve conflicts and forgiveness are just a few of the ways that they are peacemakers every day.

In November we celebrate two feast days in our church; November 1st - All Saints Day and November 2nd - All Souls Day. All Saints Day is the day when we remember all those holy men, women and children who have gone before us

to heaven. These saints, recognized by the church, are 'ordinary' people like you and I, and those in our family who led holy lives. They all lived lives faithful to God and they are cheering for us who are still living. All Souls Day is a day to remember our family and loved ones who have died. We ask God to help us live with the hope that one day we will be reunited in heaven. Catholic Education Sunday is a November day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. It is an opportunity for schools and parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, teachers, support staff and volunteers who work so hard, in and for, our Catholic schools. It is a chance for us all to remember that our churches and schools must have open doors to all, and that we must go out of those doors to meet and welcome everyone with Christ's love.

We also spend hours reflecting on our students as we draw all the pieces of information we have together to put together their Fall assessment, and we look

forward to meeting with parents during Family

interviews. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, students and teachers to connect, share and set new goals together.

Have a wonderful November!

Tina Delinte Associate Principal

### November Faith Focus

November is a faith-filled month where we will have many opportunities to explore ways that we can be committed to deepening our faith, being responsible and being stewards for each other.

Christian Action Theme - Peace

Peacefulness is a way of approaching conflict with

others so that no one is made wrong. It is being fair to others and yourself. Peace is giving up the love of power for the power of love. When you are peaceful, you respect others and their differences.



This month we recognize the virtue of peace.

Every person can work for peace by carefully considering how their words and actions make others feel. Peace within nations starts with peace among us!

> Peace go with you. God's quiet within the noise. God's hope within uncertainty. God's rest within the toil. God's presence within your soul. Peace go with you.





## THANK YOU FOR FEEDING OUR KIDS!

Thank you to our wonderful breakfast program and Mindful Munchies through the Lethbridge Food bank for supplying our school with our lunch program. We are so grateful to be able to ensure full bellies to our kids thanks to you!

Another big thank you for the amazing donation from Mr. Marc Dufresne at *St. Michael's Health* Centre and *Martha's House*. The

beautiful assortment of healthy snacks dropped off at our school weekly has made a tremendous difference and is so greatly appreciated!



"A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water."  $\mathcal{P}_{roverbs}$  11:25

Our St. Paul Choir is back again! We have over 50 students participating so far this year and we are so happy they have been able to fill our school with such beautiful music. Choir practice is Tuesdays at lunch recess and we are still accepting anyone who is interested in singing.



Stay tuned for details on upcoming choir events and performances!

## 

### **FAMILY/TEACHER CONFRENCES**

November 23, 2023

In-Person Interviews: Strongly encouraged that Students are present

**<u>Step 1</u>**: Check your email—A class email will come from School Messenger with a google form attached.

**Step 2:** Click on the class google form. Fill in your email, child's name, and select the time and method you'd like your interview to be.

**Step 3:** See you there at your scheduled appointment time!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 403-328-0611

### PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

We ask students to please not bring their own digital devices to school (Phones, iPad's, DS, Etc.) We are not responsible if the devices are lost or stolen. If a student does bring their own device, they are asked to bring them to the office as soon as they come into the building in the morning, and pick them up at the end of the day before they leave. We know these devices are expensive and don't want any to disappear!





Parents, all the information about *Angel Tree* and how to get involved, whether that is to Register, Donate, or Volunteer is located on their website at:

https://www.lfsfamily.ca/content.php?p=angeltree

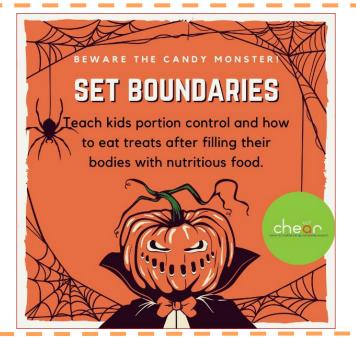


SOON AS POSSIBLE. TO PAY YOUR FEES LOG ON TO YOUR SCHOOL CASH ONLINE ACCOUNT OF SCAN THE AT-TACHED QR CODE





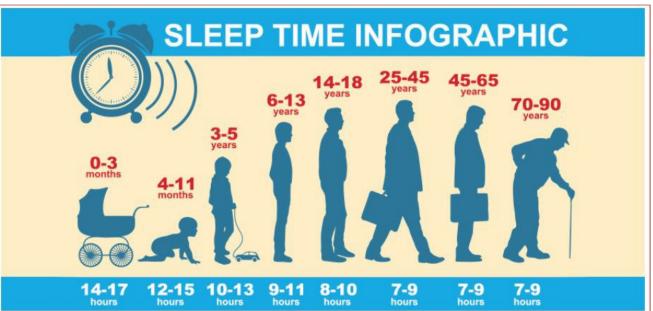
## Avo<mark>id Post-Hallowe'</mark>en Gr<mark>umpies!</mark>



### Make a plan WITH your child about their 'stash':

- 1. Decide on how many treats per day
- 2. Decide when treats are allowed
- 3. Use the 'candy stash' for learning (make a graph, add & subtract with M&M's, read the wrappers, build a candy tower, save some for gingerbread houses, etc.)

### Stick to sleep routines:







Welcome to *St Paul School Council News*! St Paul School Council participates directly with our School, our Teachers, and our Students and of course our Parents/Legal Guardians. Succession planning is always on the forefront so if you look after one or more children in our school and feel you may have an hour or two every month to make a difference we invite you to join us.

St Paul School Council meetings are virtual on the **2nd Tuesday of each month** and the link will be shared in the weekly School Updates email. We look forward to seeing you! **Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 14th - 6:30pm** we hope to see you here!

Current Council Members ...

Chair– Theresa Wiberg; Co-Chair–Lacey Michael Treasurer - Marilyn Anderson; Secretary - Open;

Welcome to the School Council

Fundraiser Coordinator - Open; Hot Lunch Coordinator - Tiffany Freer



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

Superintendents Blog: <u>https://blog.holyspirit.ab.ca/</u>

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples." Psalm 96:3

Build! Pilgrims of Hope

#### St. Frances Xavier Cabrini 1850-1917 (Feast Day: November 13)

Maria Francesca Cabrini was born on July 15, 1850 in what is now Lombardy, Italy, the youngest of thirteen children in a farming family. As a young person, she dreamed of becoming a missionary and achieved a teaching certificate. In 1870, she became the headmistress of an orphanage, and in 1870, took her religious vows. It was at this point that she took the name Xavier, to honour the patron saint of missionaries, St. Francis Xavier. In 1880, along with several other religious sisters, she formed the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and became known more popularly as Mother Cabrini.

The order was very active in Italy, supporting orphans and providing education and housing, which led to Mother Cabrini being asked by the Pope to migrate to the United States to support the growing Italian-American population. While she was initially resistant to this idea, Mother Cabrini did emigrate in 1889 to New York. While there, she and her sisters established schools, orphanages, and hospitals in a time before governmental support for these types of institutions. She became an American citizen in 1909, and when canonized in 1946 became the first American saint.



### "Building" In Our Schools

Influenced by the book "The Dot", International Dot Day (a global celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration) is held yearly on September 15th. *The Dot*, a book written by Peter H. Reynolds, is a story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to "make her mark." Standing at 4 feet high, St. Michael's Pincher Creek's grade 7 homeroom replicated the faith plan image using a variety of assorted sizes and coloured dots. What a beautiful faith-building expression of creativity!

#### Corporal Works of Mercy -Bury the Dead -

Did you know that this Corporal Work of Mercy is the only one not found in Matthew 25? Most often, reference is made to Tobit. Tobit risked his own life to ensure that his fellow Israelites received a proper burial during a time of oppression. We also know about the importance of human dignity as Catholics. Jesuit Father James Keenan has noted that "the significance of burying the dead is then rooted in the profound respect that Christians have for the human body. The human body created and redeemed by God is to be raised up by God in glory."

November is a month where we are often more conscious of praying for the deceased and those who are grieving, as we observe both "All Souls' Day" and "Remembrance Day". Through our prayers and actions, we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and seek to comfort those who mourn.

What might some practical suggestions be?

- Be faithful about attending prayers, wakes, and funerals
- Spend time with those who are grieving or who have experienced loss
- · Go with friends and relatives to visit the cemetery
- Offer daily prayers for those with terminal illnesses and for those who have died
- Send Mass cards to families of those who have died

Pope's Prayer Intentions - Let us pray for the Pope that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, he may continue to accompany in the faith the flock entrusted to him.

#### Catholic Social Teaching – Subsidiarity –

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.

Mother Cabrini was well known for her works of service, in a time when the government did not provide the same levels of funding and structure as it does today. She saw a need, assessed the need, and chose to take the actions that she could to try to address the need. When we act in this way, seeking to create solutions with those around us, we are engaging in subsidiarity.

"The principle of subsidiarity allows everyone to assume his or her own role in the healing and destiny of society. Implementing it, implementing the principle of subsidiarity gives hope, it gives hope in a healthier and more just future." (Pope Francis)

The basic premise of subsidiarity is that local groups, associations, and institutions are often in the best position to deal with local issues, and should be supported by higher orders of government in addressing them. We often see this principle applied by organizations such as Chalice, that seek to work together with those at the local level in supporting development programs.

Learn more about subsidiarity with one of these resources: The Religion Teacher - <u>Subsidiarity</u> Caritas Australia - <u>Subsidiarity</u> CAFOD - <u>Subsidiarity</u>



"During our daily ordinary tasks, whatever our work, let us offer every act to the Heart of Jesus for the conversion of sinners." (St. Frances Xavier Cabrini)

### **Gospel Readings**

November 1, 2023

#### Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12a

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." — Matthew 5:12

Today is a great day of hope in the Church. We remember and celebrate all the men and women who have gone before us... the saints. Many of them had difficult lives, suffering for their love and faith in Jesus. All of them lived lives of great example. They showed us how to live out the beatitudes (also from today's Gospel). They taught us how to pray and live lives pleasing to God. May we be inspired by them and strive to also live lives that will be pleasing to God.

As a family, learn something new about a saint you didn't know much about before. For example, read about St. John Vianney, St. Benedict, St. Rose of Lima, St. Maximillian Kolbe, St. Lucy, or St. Juan Diego, just to name a few.

#### Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you not only for your Son who lived the perfect example in life, but also for all the saints who continue to reinforce Jesus' teachings.

#### November 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

"...do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice." — Matthew 23:3

Have you ever played a board game with someone who kept changing the rules so they would win? In this Gospel, Jesus warns the people about some religious leaders who were changing God's rules for the game of life. God's rules are simply to love him above all things and to love each other as we love ourselves. But these leaders, to make themselves look important, added more rules that were almost impossible for people to obey. And to make it even worse, they didn't even follow their own rules!

Here is a lesson we can learn from this Gospel. To be a good leader—one who is worth following—people need to see that we practice what we preach and that what we preach is good and honorable. This is what the word "integrity" means—what we say with our actions matches what we say with our words.

Do you have a younger brother or sister, cousin, or friend who looks up to you? What are some things you can do to give them a good example to follow?

#### Prayer:

Dear God, please help me to follow your rules so I can help others follow them, too.

Download this month's Saint Prayer Card - St Frances Xavier Cabrini









### **Gospel Readings**

#### November 12, 2023

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." — Matthew 25:13

If you were going to run a marathon, what are some things you would have to do ahead of time? Do you think you would be prepared to run such a long distance if each day for a week before the race you only ran around the block and then took a nap? Do you think your feet would be able to carry you the whole distance if you only had flip flops to wear?

In the Gospel today, Jesus uses a story to help us understand how important it is to be ready to meet God. We need to prepare in advance. If each day we try a little harder to follow Jesus' example of love, we will grow in holiness and look forward to seeing God face to face one day.

What is one thing you can do today to become more like Jesus?

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to prepare my heart to become more like yours – filled with love.* 

#### November 19, 2023

#### Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

"Well done, my good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23

If you won \$100 in a contest, what would you do with it? Would you spend it on something you want, save it, or give it away? Each of these options can be good. You could spend it on something that would help you with your school work (like a calculator), put it in the bank to earn interest (increasing its value), or donate the money to someone in need. In each case, your money would be well spent. But what if you decide instead to dig a hole in your backyard and bury your \$100? That would be totally useless!

In our Gospel today, Jesus tells a story to help us understand that he has given each person a winning prize-talents that we can use to help the world know God's love. If we choose not to use these talents, it would be like burying a \$100 bill!

What special talent has God given each member of your family?

#### Prayer:

Lord, help me to give you honor and glory by using the talents you have given me.

#### November 26, 2023

#### Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

Most people have never seen Christ in a physical way, where they could talk to him and hear him talk back to them. In today's scripture, however, Jesus tells us that he is present in the people who may be the hardest to look at. Who are the "least" of our brother and sisters? He might be the person at school who isn't very popular. She might be the person at work to whom no one reaches out. He may even be the person who lives next door to you. Jesus wants us to find ways to love him through those who may not be easy to love, just as he did.

Is there someone at school or work who people shun? What can you do to be the face of Jesus for that person?

Dear Lord, sometimes I judge people by what they look like or by their possessions. Please give me the grace to love all people as you taught us through your example.

Home Page

**Prayer:** 

#### 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time









Practical Suggestions for Practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

## **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





The Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques** de **l'Alberta** et des **Territoires** du **Nord-Ouest** 

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

October 5, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Our theme for Catholic Education Sunday this year is: "Courage to Lead". Parents, educators, administrators, trustees, and clergy are all invited to engage their responsibility of leadership to strengthen and promote Catholic education, through which we lead the children entrusted to our care to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ.

Publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a unique and cherished historical gift, for which we are grateful. It is an invaluable offering to both the Catholic community and wider society, carrying growing responsibility in an increasingly secular world. In the face of many societal changes and challenges, we share the responsibility of ensuring that our faith-based education remains steadfast in its fidelity to the teachings of the Church. We are all called to lead with courage, secure in God's love.

Leadership within Catholic Education involves guidance with a sense of purpose, driven by the mission to nurture in our young people a joyful reliance upon the Holy Spirit, unwavering trust in the words of the Lord Jesus, and abiding confidence in the providence of our Heavenly Father. Beyond academic excellence, dedicated educators will permeate all aspects of school life with the Catholic faith. Parents and clergy have their role to play by strengthening the relationship of our schools with both home and parish. In addition, all Catholics exercise their responsibility by offering the support of their prayers and advocating strongly for our schools. Every effort counts in the promotion of our Catholic education system.

For our part, we Bishops pledge our leadership and support in the service of our schools. We look forward to our continuing engagement with parents, trustees, administrators, teachers, and clergy to ensure that our schools are places of authentic Catholic community, in which our beloved students come to know the joy of friendship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

May God bless our Catholic schools.

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

Richardly

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith Archbishop of Edmonton

+ Day Jul

Most Reverend Gary Franken Bishop of St. Paul

David

Most Reverend David Motiuk Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

+ William M. Shutter

Most Reverend William McGrattan Bishop of Calgary

+ Gerenetetti por, care

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

+ Jourfans

Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

## Courage to Lead

"Have I not commanded you?"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2023



CELEBRATING IN PARISHES WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND ADVOCATES

GRATEFULLY ADVOCATING FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

THE MISSION OF GRACE IS TO INSPIRE, INVIGORATE AND EMBOLDEN THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN ORDER TO UNITE, ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE WITH ONE VOICE ON ITS BEHALF

FOLLOW GRACE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



# FAMILY INFO NIGHT

November 21 6:00PM via Zoom



Join us for an informative evening learning about your student(s) digital portfolios with SpacesEDU.



Register by following the link below: https://myblueprint.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_AeDVVScuQLKU-Vo-apyYaA#/registration



Capture the moments where growth happens.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division



## HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY MIGHT NOT BE OKAY?

Join us as we enjoy learning from Kim Clark as she presents while having a courtesy meal



## CEDAR ROOM

Sandman Signature 320 Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge AB

## **PLEASE RSVP AT**

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

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division (I) SWAG (Indigenous) Student Wellness Access Guide #STRONGERTOGETHER

## **KIM CLARK**

Kim Clark has been a social worker for 30+ years with a specific focus on Mental Health and Leadership Training. Kim has worked with a variety of clienteles, such as adults with disabilities, seniors, and youth at risk. She applies evidence based training into a group environment to create a comfortable and enjoyable learning experience for everyone.

This event is **FREE** and is open to all parents, guardians, and caregivers.

**PLEASE RSVP AT** 

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



## Special Olympics at the YMCA of Lethbridge!

Give your young athlete a head start.

## **Programs for kids:**

Active Start (2 to 4 years old) Active Start (4 to 6 years old) FUNdamentals (7 to 14 years old)





**REGISTER HERE!** 



## **FREE FAMILY EVENT**

FREE play activities, dancers, games, prizes, community agencies, and more!

# ATIONAL CHILD DA

NOVEMBER 18, 9:30 - 12:00 at Lethbridge College

## **Questions? lethbridgeplays@gmail.com**









HOLY SPIRI

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS









