

From the Principal's Desk:

"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." — *Philippians* 2:3-4

As we head into October, one which celebrates 'Thanksgiving,' we as a community should truly embody what 'giving thanks' actually means daily. Regular prayer and participation at mass are one way of giving thanks to our Lord, but we also need to walk the path of Jesus and act on 'giving thanks.' I encourage our community to continue to show and exemplify 'giving thanks' to others. As parents, we are role models to our children, who look up to us daily for direction. When they see us giving thanks to others, they mirror these actions to their friends, family, and neighbors.

This month, we will see some programs and extracurricular activities start or even increase momentum.

• A SPACES parent training night will occur at the school at 6 pm on October 4th. This night will allow parents to receive intimate training on the SPACES program, one which has been launched throughout the division this year. All communications, feedback, and assessments will be shared through this program so that parents will have a 'one-stop shop' for monitoring their child's performance as they transition through Elementary school.

• Extracurricular volleyball will begin on October 2nd in the gym, starting at 3:45 pm and finishing at 5:00 pm. If your grade 5 or 6 child would like to train and/or play for the boy's or girl's teams, we invite them to attend. Please ensure that the permission form is submitted before they train, as this form is mandatory for children to participate.

• United 4 Literacy will begin shortly in rm 132, where the professionals in that room will remove students for extra reading help. If you want your child to attend some sessions, please contact and discuss this with your child's homeroom teacher.

• On Wednesday, October 11th, @ 11:00 am, Father Kevin will attend our first Christian Action Awards of 2023-24. Many students who have displayed the 'Virtue of Hospitality' to their community members in September will receive awards. St. Paul School would also like to invite new families to attend as we would like to welcome them into our greater Holy Spirit community.

With all this said, please visit our school website and SPACES platforms to stay updated with upcoming events. On behalf of the St. Paul community, I wish you all a great month of October and memorable moments during your Thanksgiving weekend.

God Bless,

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Ryan Myndio



on- els iks	Christian Action & Blessing of New Families Oct 11
l	Tie Dye Day
u- lat	Oct 12 School Council Meeting
iey	Oct 17 Div. PDDay—No School
45 e	Oct 23 Hat Day
-	Oct 25
t d	Halloween Oct 31
t tue	Re Thankfill

Upcoming Events:

Oct 9

Thanksgiving—No School



Associate Principal's Message:

Welcome October and the time of year that we are reminded to be thankful and grateful for all of our blessings. God's gifts and nature's beauty surrounds us and it is important to take the time to look around, think about and appreciate all that we are blessed with. It is also important for us to take the time to recognize the gifts that others bring to our lives and to say thank you! At St. Paul School we are blessed with love and support from our community, our families and the caring and compassion of our students. We continue to pray for all



of those in need of our prayers; for those who are homeless or hungry, sick or suffering. Give thanks this month and reach out generously to others.

> *-Tina Delinte Associate Principal*

October Faith Focus

October 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 for each other and being grateful for the many blessings that we have. We carry hope in our hearts, in our words and in our actions.

Christian Action Theme—**Gratitude**

The virtue of gratitude shapes our entire outlook on life. It allows us to appreciate and accept our life as a gift.

There is great growth and joy in appreciating others by saying Thank-you!



This month we recognize **Generosity**, a Gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Generosity is a big-heartedness grounded in an abundance mentality. It is unselfish and expresses itself in sharing. It is extended to family and friends, strangers, and particularly those in need, and is offered not only as money, food and clothing, but also as time shared and assistance provided".

Be generous with all of your heart; with your time, your talents, your compassion, your energy and your love!

CHRISTIAN ACTION CELEBRATION

We have such a wonderful school, made up of great children. The virtue recognized for the month of September was Hospitality. We will have a monthly Christian Action Celebration allowing us to recognize children from each class and celebrate their Christian Actions as a community. If your child will be recognized a letter will come home informing you of the celebration date and time. Please join us if you can!



BREAKFAST CLUB:

The breakfast club is open to all St. Paul School students every morning 8:00—8:35am in the gym. Please use the community room doors and enjoy a nutritious breakfast!



St. Paul School Student Hardship Donation

If you are thinking of helping out the students of our school and you are not sure how, this is one means of support. The easiest way to make a donation is with School Cash Online's Make a Donation button in the top right corner of the screen. You will be able to print a receipt right after the transaction is made! If you would like more information, please feel free to contact the school office at 403-328-0611.

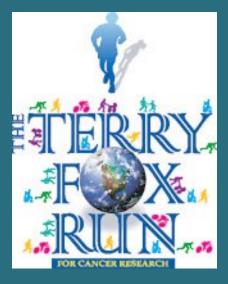
> A reminder to parents to please bring your children to the front entrance of the school if you are dropping them off <u>before</u> <u>8:25 am</u>. An adult will bring them to the playground at 8:25 am, where they will be able to enjoy supervised play until school opens at 8:37am.

Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox run was held on September 21st. A huge thank you goes out to all of our students and families for their donations. The final count of donations collected is in, with a total of **\$311.35.** The St. Paul community really came together to support the dream that Terry

had many years ago. The funds raised from the Terry Fox Run are given to fund research towards finding a cure for cancer. The Terry Fox Foundation believes in providing hope for those whose lives are affected by this disease. Scripture also reminds us of our apostolic responsibility to help those who are suffering:

"Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to drive them out and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness." (Matthew 10:1)





STAYING CONNECTED



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

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: <u>www.holyspirit.ab.ca/stpaul</u>

WARMAN TO AND

Superintendents Blog:

https://blog.holyspirit.ab.ca/



A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL FEES ARE PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF THESE FEES, PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.





Office of the Minister MLA, Calgary - Bow

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

3) We are focused on improving student mental health.

Alberta's government is supporting almost 80 mental health pilot projects across the province, with an investment of \$50 million. These projects will encourage student wellbeing through new and innovative approaches to providing supports and services like counselling, social and emotional learning, student assessment and training for school staff. For more information, please click <u>here</u>.

4) We will continue to lead the country in early literacy and numeracy assessments.

As a father of two, I want to know how my girls are progressing in their academic journey and I know many of you want the same. In September of 2022, Alberta's government implemented new mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments for all students in Grades 1 - 3. These assessments will help identify students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy skill development and inform teacher intervention lesson plans and techniques to improve student skills. Based on school reporting, these interventions are working. I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Please know Alberta is leading the country with this type of early assessment and screening and will continue to foster new and improved ways to improve the education system. For more information, please click <u>here</u>.

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge all our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. The work that you do is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government and I want to express my personal appreciation for your work. I look forward to serving as our province's Minister of Education for our great province and am confident we can continue to provide every student with a world-class education.

Best,

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD Minister of Education

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:7

Saint Marguerite d'Youville 1701-1771 (Feast Day: October 16)

St. Marguerite d'Youville is the first native-born Canadian to become a canonized saint in **Pilgrims of** the Catholic Church. She was born just outside of Montreal in 1701 into a growing family, but at the age of seven, her father died, which left the family impoverished. She left school to help work and take care of the family, and later married Francois d'Youville. Her marriage and family life were challenging; Francois was a dishonest businessman and did not care deeply for Marguerite, and four of their six children passed away at young ages. Upon Francois' death in 1730, a priest told Marguerite:

> "Console yourself, Madame, God has destined you for great works, and you will rebuild a crumbling house."

Despite all of the sadness and challenges of her early life, Marguerite was convinced of God's presence in her life, and sought to make real to others his compassionate love. In 1737, Marguerite and some other women established a home for the poor in Montreal. Over time, the group became a religious order and took over the General Hospital in Montreal. The Grey Nuns, as they were commonly known, cared for the elderly, the ill, and the poor of the surrounding communities, and eventually spread to nearly every continent to feed the hungry and serve the common good.



"Building" In Our Schools

This year, the call in our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Faith Plan is to Build! St. Patrick Fine Arts is celebrating all the ways community members can build others up through their words and actions. Students are encouraged to fill out a "Project BUILD Slip" when they've experienced or seen a kind word or action and place it in the "Project BUILD Box". During morning announcements, the slips are read as an encouragement to all, that we are created with a purpose and a calling to build God's Kingdom through service to others.

Corporal Works of Mercy - Feed the Hungry -

Hope

So many people in our communities and world do not have enough food to eat. As we enjoy Thanksgiving this month, it is a good time to pause and reflect on how we may be blinded to our own waste or excess. On top of hunger, we also know about the expansion and impact of food insecurity. According to a Caritas study, only 19% of countries worldwide have full food security, and inside those we know that experiences vary drastically. As Pope Francis said,

"Consumerism has led us to become used to an excess and daily waste of food, to which, at times, we are no longer able to give a just value, which goes well beyond mere economic parameters. We should all remember, however, that throwing food away is like stealing from the tables of the poor, the hungry!"

What might some practical suggestions be?

- See to the proper nutrition of your loved ones
- Support and volunteer for food pantries, soup kitchens, and agencies that feed the hungry
- · Make a few sandwiches to hand out as you walk through areas where you might encounter people in need
- · Educate yourself about world hunger
- Avoid wasting food
- Share your meals with others

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Synod - Let us pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a style of life at every level, allowing herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the world's peripheries.

Catholic Social Teaching - Common Good -

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.

All of the Catholic Social Teachings are embedded in our relationship with God and others. Because we each have inherent dignity, being created in the image and likeness of God, we are called to live, learn, and work together in community. We are built for relationship, in the same way that our triune God is a relationship. The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that: "The good of each individual is necessarily related to the common good...The common good concerns the life of all."

There are three main elements required for the common good: (1) Respect for the person; (2) Social well-being and development; and (3) peace. Lastly, "The dignity of the human person requires the pursuit of the common good. Everyone should be concerned to create and support institutions that improve the conditions of human life." (CCC 1905-1926)

As we build our societies, we are called to organize in ways that promote human dignity, and consider what is good for all human persons.

Resources:

The Common Good (The Religion Teacher) The Common Good (Caritas Australia) What exactly is the Common Good (Duquesne University) The Common Good (CAFOD)



"The Lord calls us to share in his work of creation and to contribute to the common good by using the gifts we have received." (Christus Vivit 253)

Gospel Readings

October 1, 2023

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32

"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." — Philippians 2:3-4

In my family it is not always easy to think of others before myself. There are many days that I just want to do my own thing, and maybe even be left alone. But today's scripture tells me not to be selfish—thinking only of myself—but to consider others as more important than what I want. Jesus taught us the same thing when he gave us the two great commandments. He told us to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength. He also taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This sounds easier than it is sometimes, but if we ask the Lord to help us, he always will.

What are some ways I can put others in my family first?



Prayer:

Lord, please teach me how to love those around me in a self-sacrificing way. As I do, I know I will grow closer to you.



October 8, 2023

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-43

"...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." — Philippians 4:8

There are many ways for us to be entertained these days: video games, movies, books, social media, television, and much more. It can be difficult sometimes to decide what we should and should not be taking in. Are all of these activities making me a better person? Today's scripture helps us to have a holy focus. If we apply what it is telling us about being true, honorable, just, pure...then the things we use to entertain ourselves will help us grow closer to the Lord, not farther away from him.

Are you aware of any entertainment your family engages in that God may not like? What is it? Can you substitute other activities that are more in line with today's scripture?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to always be thoughtful about the things I let into my heart and mind. May they always be things that will cause me to praise you.



Download this month's Saint Prayer Card - Saint Marguerite d'Youville

Gospel Readings

October 15, 2023



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

"I can do all things in him who strengthens me." — Philippians 4:13

There are times when a task makes me feel overwhelmed. I talk myself out of being able to even try it. I put if off until I convince myself that I can't do it. Today's scripture gives us hope that because we are children of God we can do ANYTHING because it is Christ who gives us what we need to do the task before us. When we feel defeated, we simply need to remind ourselves of the grace we received at baptism. Jesus is on our side, and he makes us stronger!

Name some times that you felt defeated, then asked God to help you.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for your overflowing grace that makes use strong, even when we feel down. Your love and grace are never ending.

October 22, 2023

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-21

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers." — 1 Thessalonians 1:2

It is common that people turn to God in their need, asking for help and for God to fix bad things. But today's scripture encourages us to always give thanks to God in prayer, for the good things and even the bad. Most especially, remember to pray for others and their needs. It can be a blessing to others to have someone praying for them, even if they are not aware of it. They may feel a little happier the day you pray for them, without knowing why. You could consider yourself a "secret agent of prayer" working for God.

Who are some of the people you can pray for on a regular basis? We give thanks to God for all of you. remembering you in our prayers **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for all the special people you have put into our lives. Please bless them in a special way today.

October 29, 2023

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." — Matthew 22:37

I really love watching TV. I also really love eating ice cream. I especially love getting presents. But this kind of love always leaves me wanting more and never feeling satisfied. Jesus gave us hints of how we could be truly fulfilled, by turning our focus to God and giving him all the love we have inside ourselves. By giving God all the love we have inside of us, we are able to give him the credit he deserves for all the good things in our lives, which in turn can also help us appreciate them more. What an awesome God we have, so deserving of all our love.

What are some things that you "love" that can get in the way of your love for God?



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for loving me more than I could ever understand. Please help me to love you with all the love I have, to show you how glad I am to be your child.



St. Marguerite d'Youville Marie Marguerite d'Youville Saint Marguerite d'Youville

Practical Suggestions for Practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercv

Home Page

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





(I)SWAG PRESENTS

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



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U9 (Grades 1-3) & U12 (Grades 4-6) Introto volleyball LIMITED SPOTS! Starting October 7 Register at Lethbridgevoleyballclub.com

Prairie Baseball Academy PRAIRIE PRAVIRITE **14 Week Winter Camp** BASEBATHL **ANNA ACADEMS** Nov 13th- Mar 8th (early bird pricing until Sept 30th) ACADEM **Camp Focus** Coaches About Our Camp Efficient Warm Up → Ladder / Agility / Footwork / Speed TODD HUBKA **SAFE Indoor Throwing Program** \rightarrow Builds arm strength (Radar Gun) Head Coach PBA Varsity The Prairie Baseball Academy is **RYAN MACDONALD Proper Hitting Technique** → For all ages and skill levels excited to once again be offering Assistant Coach PBA Varsity Infield/Outfield Technique -> Emphasis on footwork/Glove action our Winter Camp to youth baseball Assistant Coach Lethbridge Bulls players in the Lethbridge and sur-**RHETT FESER** plete introduction for some. More experienced campers will receive rounding areas. This will be the 13th Pitching Coach PBA more advanced pitching instruction. year PBA runs their Winter Camp, AIDAN GEHRING **Games** \rightarrow Our staff likes to conclude most camp sessions with some JV Head Coach PBA and our coaching staff is striving to sort of competitive game. These games force kids to use the skills JOSH BURGMANN continue to provide the best instructhey're learning in camp. **Pitching Coach PBA** tion possible for your children. Every PC Lethbridge Bulls night, we will provide at least one TATE PEARCE current PBA coach and 6-8 current Regular PRAIRIE Early JV Assistant Coach Bird Price players in the program to provide BASEBAT **Until Sept** After Sept instruction. Our goal as a coaching **Camp Times** 30th ACADEMN **30th** staff is to work on improving all nec-Mon/Wed essary baseball skills while main-1 Night/Week \$420 \$498.75 **6**:00-7:30pm Ages 9-12 21 Hrs Instruction taining a fun and safe learning envi-7:45-9:15pm Ages 13-17 ronment. Baseball in Lethbridge 2 Night/Week \$551.25 \$630 **Tues/Thurs** continues to grow year after year, 42 Hrs Instruction 6:00-7:30pm Ages 9-12 and we want to make sure PBA Beginner Camp 19.5 Hrs \$236.25 \$315 7:45-9:15pm Ages 13-17 does it's part to help continue that Instruction Friday growth. The hard work campers 6:00-7:30pm Ages 5-8 have put in during the winter months All prices include GST over the last 13 years has directly correlated to the success Lethbridge Please etransfer pba@telus.net has had at the national level. Email pba@telus.net if you have any questions