

UPCOMING DATES:

Nov 2nd – Edo Hot Lunch

Nov 4th – No Kindergarten

Nov 10th – Red and Black Day

Nov 11th – NO SCHOOL – Remembrance Day

Nov 14th – NO SCHOOL – Wellness Day

Nov 15th – Rock your Mocs Day

Nov 17th – School Carnival

Nov 30th – Multiples Day

BREAKING NEWS!!!

Winter is here!

Students will still go outside for recess and need to be dressed properly.

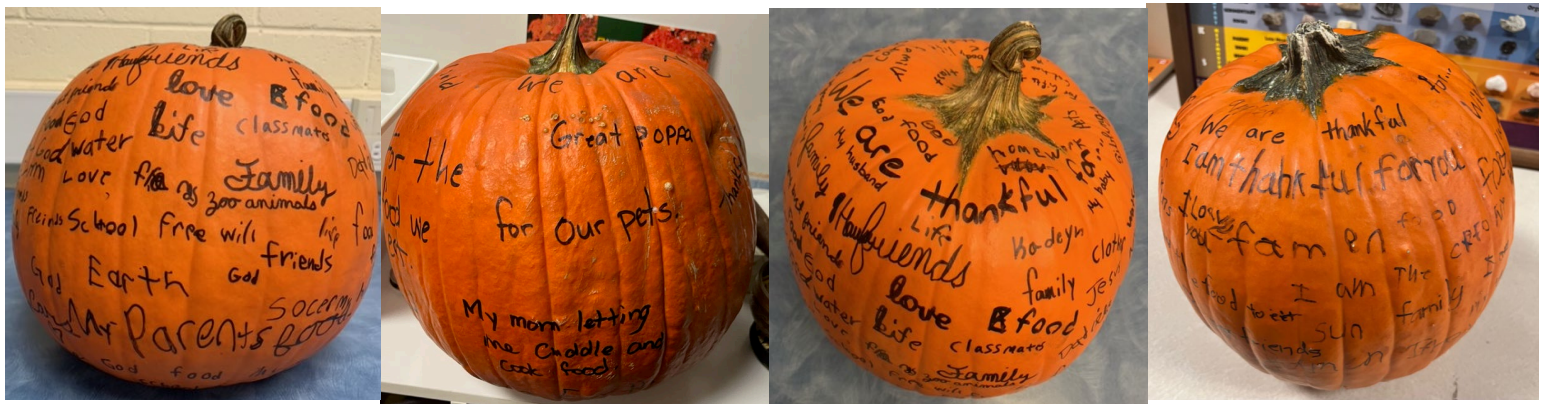
We at ESM can help those families who need winter gear.

Please contact the office!

WATER BOTTLES NEEDED!

Students have to bring their own as there are no water fountains.

Only fill stations.



Mme Bouchard November Message

Dear ESM Family,

It is hard to believe it is already November. November marks the beginning of many things. We will celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on November 6th, which is truly a day to celebrate. We are so blessed to have publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta. November is the month of remembrance. We remember those that have gone before us, those in heaven. November 1st – All Saints' Day where we pray to the saints already in Heaven. November 2nd is All Souls' Day, when we pray for all those who have gone before us. November 11th is Remembrance Day, when we take time to remember all the brave men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty. We are so lucky to live in a country like Canada where we have our freedom. Many thanks to those who have sacrificed for us.

We have recently hosted our parent Spaces evening. Thank you to all that were able to join us. If you weren't able to join us that evening, please keep your eyes open after November 10th for an invitation. It will be arriving for you to join your child's class. It is exciting to have the opportunity to share your child's learning journey with you as the year progresses.

We had our first round of Goal Setting Interviews. It was wonderful to see parents and students in the halls and in the classrooms. It is so important to begin with the end in mind, to set goals and to work together in your child's education. We value you and your time. We also had a used book giveaway, thank you to Mrs. Bugg for organizing this. It is always great to have books in kids' hands.

Our grade 6 fundraising team is working hard to raise money for Grade 6 Camp and activities for the end of the year. They are currently selling poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like some beautiful Christmas wreaths, planters, poinsettias, and would like to help send a child to camp, please consider purchasing.

Thanks so much to the School Council for buying t-shirts for all staff and students. Building community is a beautiful thing and that you do. Thank you for supporting students, thank you for supporting teachers. The order is in, so we hope to have them in our hands soon enough. Our next School Council Meeting is November 9th, 2022. All are welcome, so please join us if you can.

We are so excited to be able to have our **School Carnival again on November 17th**. People have been working hard behind the scenes to pull this together. Thank you for your support and for your hard work. It is sure to be an amazing event. There will be hotdogs, prizes, Silent Auction, a cake walk, and of course, amazing games! Please join us. All proceeds go to support student activities at ESM.

This one is important as well! Please mark your calendars for December 20th, as we will have our Christmas Concert at Southminster Church. I know the kids will sing their hearts out. We are excited to celebrate the Christmas season with you, it has been far too long.

It has been a very busy start to the year. There has been a lot going on, but it has been tremendous. Our students are incredible and we are so blessed to work with them every single day! May God bless you and your family.

Kiera Bouchard

Mr. Harper's November Message 2022

Welcome to November!

We have been blessed with warm weather for quite a while this year, which was great! This time of year, the weather is unpredictable, so we need to make sure that we are prepared for anything and everything!

October was a great month of learning during Gospel time! We spent some time praying the Blessed Rosary and learning about St. Therese and St. Francis and how they devoted their lives to service. We also learned about being thankful daily and connected our ideas to our Faith theme, Arise! Pilgrims of Hope. All the saints have many teachings that can help us in our lives. St. Therese teaches us about the little things we can do each day that makes our world a better place, and St. Francis teaches us about stewardship of our world. There are many other saints to learn about!

November is a great time to remember the saints and think about their teachings. November 1st is All Saints' Day, where we remember all of the saints, including those that do not have their own feast days and pray to the saints already in Heaven. November 2nd is All Souls' Day when we pray for all those who have gone before us. November is a great time to learn about less well-known saints like St. Therese, Bl. Carlo Acutis, St. Juan Diego, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, among many others. In November, we will spend some time speaking about the saints and learning how we can implement their teachings into our lives.

November 11th is Remembrance Day, when we remember all the brave men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty. In remembrance of their courage, we will be holding our **Celebration of Peace** on **Thursday, November 10th**. The service is being presented by our Kindergarten classes and will be shared virtually with the entire school. We have our grade 3 retreat in November and are starting to plan our Christmas concert in December! There are lots of fun activities happening in the next month!

Thank you for all the food donations, including our cereal boxes! They were set up like dominos and then knocked down, which was very fun to watch! These food items will be donated to the Lethbridge Food Bank and used to help many people. Please know that we are keeping you and your family in our prayers. We pray for your health, safety, and happiness.





SCHOOL CARNIVAL

We are excited for the return of our School Carnival!!!
Donations are being accepted for our silent auction and our prize table. Please bring these to the office during school hours on or before November 16th.

Our Carnival is on Thursday November 17th 5:00pm-7:30pm

NO PARKING IN PARKING LOT

Parking lot is for STAFF ONLY.

You may park on the east side of the street. The west side, by the field, is for school **buses only**. In the morning the sidewalk between the flag pole and the parking lot is a drop off zone. Hug and Go. Please do not park there for long periods of time.

Kindergarten & ELP – There are school buses here at 11am for the high school shuttle. Please don't block the bus lane. **Park on the East side of the street.**



STUDENT DROP OFF/ PICK UP

Students can be dropped off at 7:45am. There will be no supervision before 7:45am if you choose to leave your child unattended at the school this is your parent responsibility.

School Fees were DUE SEPTEMBER 30th.



If you have not paid or need help accessing your school Cash online. Please contact the office! You will need to have a School Cash Online account to purchase hot lunches throughout the year for your child(ren) as well.

SAMARITAN STARS

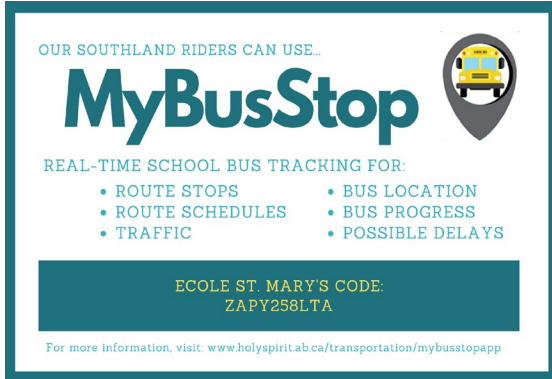
As the students do good deeds and display exemplary actions/attitudes, their fellow classmates can nominate them and put their name in the "Samaritan Stars" jar. From here we draw names to win a cheque for \$25.00 which is graciously donated by Ward Bros. Construction. Thank you, Ward Bros., for your continued generosity to our school!

For the month of October our winners were: Cyrelle 1RE and Kamryn 5BI

HOUSE TEAMS

The students are assigned a house team (colour team) so be a part of for the year. This encourages the kids to interact with kids in other grades. Our leadership team comes up with special days and activities for students to earn points to go towards their house team.

For the Month of October the winning house team is: The BLUE SHARKS!!!



SCHOOL BUS

Please check online for the Bus Routes.

There has been changes and additions to routes this month.

Also remind your kids to check the sign on the bus as they may not be in the same line up at the end of the day.

<https://www.southland.ca/lethbridge/>

ATTENDANCE

Children thrive and succeed when they attend school regularly. We understand things come up, appointments made during school hours, emergencies, sickness etc. Please call the office to let us know if your child(ren) will not be at school on any given day. You can call 403-327-3098 or email

esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

We are blessed to have a Nutrition grant this year to provide breakfast for those who need it. We also welcome back Mindful Munchies from the Lethbridge food bank who provide us with lunches for our students who forget or would otherwise go without. When the bell goes at 8am, students make their way to their classrooms. The kids pass by our Canteen when they come in in the morning and those who need a bit more to eat, or missed breakfast can "grab and go" a snack.

SICK KIDS

If your child(ren) is sick – KEEP THEM HOME.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!!

Parents and community members are welcome at the school. You are still required to check in at the office and sign in if you are coming into the school for any school event. We will keep the distractions in the class to a minimum. If you are dropping something off for your child the office staff will deliver it for you. We are happy to accept volunteers this year! You can call the office and let them know if you are available with and what you would like to help with.

NOVEMBER 2022

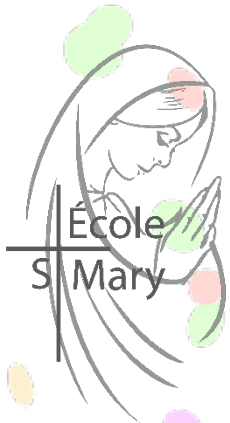


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 NO Kindergarten	5
6	7	8	9	10 Red & Black Day	11 NO SCHOOL Remembrance Day	12
13	14 SCHOOL CLOSED NO SCHOOL Wellness Day	15 Rock your Mocs Day	16	17 SCHOOL CARNIVAL	18	19
20	21	22	23 Div. Board Meeting	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Multiples Day			

DECEMBER 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 NO SCHOOL PD Day	3
4	5	6	7 Advent Mass 9am @ ESM	8 Bake Sale (gr6 providing)	9 NO KINDERGARTEN	10
11	12	13	14 Kindergarten Christmas Evening	15	16	17
18	19	20 Christmas Concert @ Southminster	21	22	23 Last Day before Christmas Holidays	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Dec 24 th – Jan 8 th						



Halloween is over. Christmas is almost two months away.
There is only one way to cure the November blues.
That's right. It is...

The St. Mary's Carnival

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Do not miss it for anything!!!

Hot dog supper starting at 5pm

Carnival begins at 5:30

Plinko, Cake Walk, Star Wars, Mini Golf, Fish Pond and much, much more!!

After playing games, kids can collect prizes at the Prize table!

Help your kids have fun, help them win prizes, plus all the money goes to supporting them on field trips and other school activities!!! You can't go wrong with the Carnival!

FAQ

1. How much money should I bring for the supper and Carnival?

Supper costs \$5 (hot dog, pop and chips); Kids tend to spend between \$5 - \$20 on Carnival games. Do what is right for your budget.

2. What's the silent auction all about?

There are items such as gift certificates for restaurants, toys for the kids (get your Christmas shopping done), a Merle Norman basket, and some items from other companies around town. Bring your checkbook or extra cash to participate. If you don't have the money that night, you could pick up your item the next day.

3. How can I support the Carnival?

Mostly just by attending and being willing to spend some money on having fun. However, you can also donate an item to the silent auction, our prize table, or bring some baked goods for the cakewalk.

4. Who do I contact with questions or donations?

M. Baptista - baptistas@holyspirit.ab.ca or 403 327 3098





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 11, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. Micah 4:5

Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift to be embraced with gratitude. As citizens in one of only three provinces and two territories with publicly funded Catholic education, we need to recognize the blessing, responsibility, and opportunity we have been afforded to lead our young people to Jesus Christ and form them in the faith of his Church. Within an increasingly secularistic society, parents are seeking a genuine Catholic education for their children. They entrust them to the educators, trustees, clergy and Catholic community, in the expectation that all will collaborate effectively to ensure that our young people encounter the love of God revealed in Christ. Let us all joyfully accept this challenge!

The theme for Catholic education 2022-2023 is “Walking Together in Catholic Education”. One year ago, our Holy Father called the faithful to experience a synodal process of communal listening, dialogue and discernment in relation to the mission of the Church. He described this as an invitation to the People of God to “walk together in faith”. In 2022, the Holy Father modelled the synodal experience when he welcomed Inuit, First Nations, and Métis delegates to the Vatican. Then, in his recent penitential pilgrimage to our nation, Pope Francis *walked with us* on the journey towards truth and reconciliation.

Throughout the synodal process in our respective dioceses, we heard again and again that the People of God are concerned for our children and families. As essential participants in the mission of the Church, Catholic schools have a vital role to play in providing opportunities for our students to encounter Jesus and walk with him. This “walking together” requires listening and dialogue. Yet, as Pope Francis has said, “We cannot create a culture of dialogue if we do not have identity.” (2) To fulfill their mission effectively, therefore, our schools must clearly understand Catholic identity and embrace it fully.

Furthermore, our theme, Walking Together in Catholic Education, gives expression to our solidarity and unity in the service of our young people. On the occasion of Catholic Education Sunday, we, the Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the “workers in the vineyards” of Catholic education. Parents, you are the first and primary teachers of your children. Thank you for your faithfulness and for choosing and supporting Catholic education. Teachers, the influence of your witness is beyond measure. By choosing to be a Catholic educator you have responded to a missionary vocation. Thank you. Clergy and parishioners, your prayers, support and active engagement with Catholic schools are evidence of our unity and commitment to young people. Thank you. To those in leadership roles, the decisions you make and the unity you model aim to foster within our schools a culture of faith in Christ and fidelity to his Word. Be assured of our readiness to support you in this heavy yet beautiful responsibility.

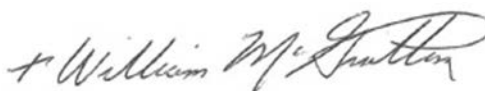
Sunday, November 6th, is an occasion for prayer, reflection and solidarity, as we acknowledge Catholic Education Sunday in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. As we gather in Eucharistic celebration in our parishes, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of Catholic schools, together with petitions for the beloved young people entrusted to our care.

May God bless our Catholic schools.

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



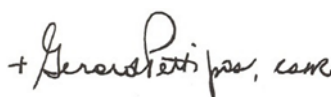
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



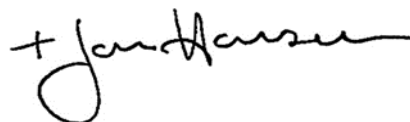
Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton



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



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Le 11 octobre 2022

Chers frères et sœurs dans le Christ,

*Nous marcherons, nous, au nom du Seigneur, notre Dieu, pour toujours et à jamais.
Michée 4:5*

L'éducation catholique financée par les fonds publics est un cadeau qui doit être accueilli avec gratitude. En tant que citoyens de l'une des trois seules provinces et des deux seuls territoires où l'éducation catholique est financée par des fonds publics, nous devons reconnaître la bénédiction, la responsabilité et l'occasion qui nous sont offertes de guider nos jeunes vers Jésus-Christ et de les former à la foi de son Église. Dans une société de plus en plus sécularisée, les parents sont à la recherche, pour leurs enfants, d'une éducation catholique qui soit authentique. Ils les confient aux éducateurs, aux conseillers scolaires, au clergé et à la communauté catholique dans l'espoir que tous collaboreront efficacement pour faire en sorte que nos jeunes rencontrent l'amour de Dieu révélé dans le Christ. Acceptons ce défi avec joie!

Le thème de l'Éducation catholique 2022-2023 est « Marcher ensemble pour l'éducation catholique ». Il y a un an, notre Saint-Père a appelé les fidèles à faire l'expérience d'un processus synodal qui encourage l'écoute, le dialogue et le discernement communs afin de poursuivre la mission de l'Église. Il a décrit ce processus comme une invitation au peuple de Dieu à « marcher ensemble dans la foi ». En 2022, le Saint-Père a été un modèle de cette expérience synodale lorsqu'il a accueilli au Vatican des délégués inuits, métis et des Premières Nations. Puis, lors de son récent pèlerinage pénitentiel au Canada, le pape François a *marché avec nous* sur le chemin de la vérité et de la réconciliation.

Tout au long du processus synodal, dans nos diocèses respectifs, nous avons entendu à maintes reprises que le peuple de Dieu se soucie de nos enfants et de nos familles. Étant des participantes clés de la mission de l'Église, les écoles catholiques doivent offrir à nos élèves la possibilité de rencontrer Jésus et de marcher avec lui. Et pour « marcher ensemble », il faut écouter et dialoguer. Or, comme l'a dit le pape François, « nous ne pouvons pas créer une culture du dialogue si nous n'avons pas d'identité ». (2) Pour remplir efficacement leur mission, nos écoles doivent donc comprendre clairement l'identité catholique et y adhérer pleinement.

De plus, notre thème « Marcher ensemble pour l'éducation catholique » exprime notre solidarité et notre unité au service de nos jeunes. À l'occasion du dimanche de l'éducation catholique, nous, les évêques de l'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, souhaitons reconnaître avec une profonde gratitude les « ouvriers de la vigne » de l'éducation catholique. Parents, vous êtes les premiers et principaux éducateurs de vos enfants. Merci de votre fidélité et d'avoir choisi et soutenu l'éducation catholique. Enseignants, l'influence de votre témoignage est sans commune mesure. En choisissant d'être un éducateur catholique, vous avez répondu à une vocation missionnaire. Merci. Membres du clergé et paroissiens, vos prières, votre soutien et votre engagement actif envers les écoles catholiques sont la preuve de notre unité et de notre engagement envers les jeunes. Merci. À ceux et celles qui assument des rôles de direction, les décisions que vous prenez et l'unité dont vous faites preuve permettent de renforcer, au sein de nos écoles, une culture de la foi en Jésus Christ et de la fidélité à sa Parole. Soyez assurés que nous sommes prêts à vous soutenir pour accomplir cette lourde, mais belle responsabilité.

Le dimanche 6 novembre est une occasion de prière, de réflexion et de solidarité, alors que nous soulignons le dimanche de l'éducation catholique en Alberta et dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Lors de la célébration eucharistique, offrons des prières d'action de grâce pour le don des écoles catholiques, ainsi que des requêtes pour les jeunes bien-aimés qui nous sont confiés.

Que Dieu bénisse nos écoles catholiques.

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



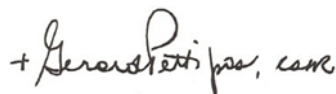
Mgr Richard W. Smith
Archevêque d'Edmonton




Mgr William T. McGrattan
Évêque de Calgary



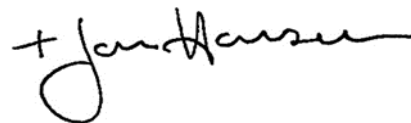
Mgr Paul Terrio
Évêque de Saint-Paul



Mgr Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archevêque de Grouard-McLennan



Mgr David Motiuk
Évêque éparchial des Ukrainiens
d'Edmonton



Mgr John Hansen CSsR
Évêque de Mackenzie-Fort Smith

November

Arise! Pilgrims of Hope



"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Blessed Carlo Acutis 1991-2006 (Feast Day: October 12)

Born in London and raised in Milan, Carlo's wealthy parents were not particularly religious. Upon receiving his first communion at age seven, Carlo became a frequent communicant, making a point of praying before the tabernacle before or after every Mass. In addition to Francis of Assisi, Carlo took several of the younger saints as his models, including Bernadette Soubirous, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and Dominic Savio.

At school Carlo tried to comfort friends whose parents were undergoing divorce, as well as stepping in to defend students with disabilities from bullies. After school hours he volunteered his time with the city's homeless and destitute. Considered a computer geek by some, Carlo spent four years creating a website dedicated to cataloguing every reported Eucharistic miracle around the world. He also enjoyed films, comics, soccer, and playing popular video games.

Diagnosed with leukemia, Carlo offered his sufferings to God for the intentions of the sitting pope—Benedict XVI—and the entire Church. Carlo died in 2006 and was beatified in 2020. As he had wished, Carlo was buried in Assisi at St. Mary Major's "Chapel of the Stripping", where St. Francis had returned his clothes to his father and began a more radical following of the Gospel. Among the thousands present for Carlo's beatification were many of his childhood friends.

Holy Moments In Our Schools

St. Mary Taber grade 9 students started off their 2022-2023 school year with a walk to St. Augustine Parish to attend Mass. Like Blessed Carlo, the choices we make daily, even at a young age, can have a major impact not only in our lives, but the world around us. We are grateful for Catholic education and the ability to attend Mass; giving thanks to our good and gracious God for the blessings that we have received from Him.



The Spiritual Works of Mercy – Pray for the Living and the Dead

- Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time.
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away.
- Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers.
- Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about.
- Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God.

Carlo is Blessed, not a Saint. What does it mean to be blessed? There are four steps to becoming a saint in the process called canonization. First, one is declared a **Servant of God**, then **Venerable**, then **Blessed**, then a **Saint**. In this process, the Church investigates the life of the person to find evidence of their virtue, their witness, and any miracles performed through their intercession. This sometimes takes years to complete.

Sources:

[Who is Carlo Acutis? 10 things you should know about him](#)

[Blessed Carlo Acutis](#)

[The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: What Is Joy?](#)

[The Spiritual Works of Mercy - Pray for the Living and the Dead](#)

[Home Page](#)

The Fruit of the Spirit – Joy

The second fruit of the Spirit is joy. The word 'joy' appears nearly 200 times in the Bible, which helps us understand just how important this second sweet fruit of the Spirit really is. Joy is a condition of the heart.

People often confuse joy with happiness, but they are not interchangeable. Joy is from within, regardless of what is going on around you. Happiness can be a blurred emotion, dependent on a situation. Joyful people make a commitment to gratitude regardless of the circumstances.

In Greek, the word for joy is 'chara.' This describes a feeling of inner gladness, delight or rejoicing. This inner gladness leads to a cheerful heart and a cheerful heart leads to cheerful behavior.

The most important attribute of joy is that you can find joy in adversity. This can be a difficult idea to grasp, because joy might be the last thing we are feeling when facing struggles. God knows our sorrows, heartaches and fears and He calls us to rejoice anyway. He wants us to live a life full of joy and promise.

Particularly in these difficult times we are facing during the worldwide pandemic, it may seem difficult to be joyful. Our lives have changed, and we are facing adversity that is unprecedented. Certainly, many of us are not happy. But, joy is an internal experience, and even through our own unhappy circumstances, we can find joy in the midst of the storm with our faith in God.

*"To be always united with Jesus,
this is my plan of life."*

- Carlo Acutis

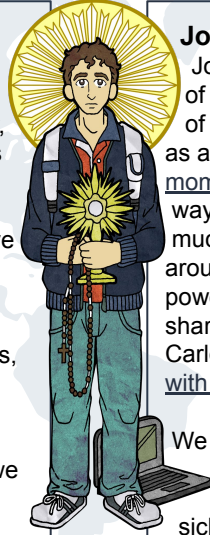


Reflecting on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis...

Pray for the Living and the Dead

At all times, we know that we are called to pray for the living. In the month of November, we are also very conscious of praying for the dead. On November 2, we have All Souls' Day, where we pray and remember all of the faithful departed. This is distinct from All Saints' Day (November 1), where we commemorate all of the Saints in heaven. We also know that Remembrance Day falls in November. Many parishes will have a Book of Remembrance that is displayed and added to throughout the month. As Catholics, we pray for the dead because, in short, while we hope that they have already been reunited with God in heaven, we also know that for some of us, we will continue to be purified after our death in purgatory.

In many of our schools, we have the tradition of asking our patron saints to pray for us at the conclusion of our prayers; we have continued that tradition as we have met new saints this year on our prayer cards. We can also pray a [Litany of the Saints](#). Whether we are praying for the living or the dead, we know that we are all one in the communion of saints; that we can assist them through our prayers as they can assist us through theirs. Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!



Joy

Joy is a condition of the heart, where we choose, regardless of circumstance, to be grateful and cheerful in the knowledge of God's promises to us. We might also think of this, in a way, as a willingness to [experience the holy wherever we are in each moment](#). Blessed Carlo Acutis showed this joy in a couple of ways. One of his great passions was pilgrimage. He spent much of his life seeking out and visiting Eucharistic miracles around the world. If you also enjoy traveling, you know the power of seeking out holy places and experiences, and how you share those experiences and memories with others. Blessed Carlo Acutis used the digital realm to [share his experiences with others](#).

We also will recognize that Blessed Carlo died at a young age. In his short life, he brought many, including his parents, to deeper belief through his joyful witness. When he was sick with leukemia, he accepted his sufferings and offered them up to God, and for the intentions of the Pope and the Church. Even as he faced this adversity, he remained a model of holiness for those around him.

Gospel Readings

November 1, 2022 All Saints' Day

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12a

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called the children of God." — 1 John 3:1

Today is a great feast day, when we remember all of those blessed people we call saints that have gone before us to be with God. Many of these people lived extraordinary lives of faith, setting great examples for us to follow. Saints like St. Francis, St. Oscar Romero, and St. Teresa of Calcutta were all people who gave their lives, hearts, minds and souls to the Lord. Others lived seemingly ordinary lives doing ordinary things to the best of their abilities. For those of us among the living, we are called to strive to be saints too. It may look different, but we can live saintly lives as students, teachers, engineers, doctors, mail carriers, or house cleaners. We, too, can live extraordinary lives of faith in imitation of the great saints of old.

Dear Lord, please give us the desire to serve you with all that we are, so that we too may one day be with you in eternity.

**Have I given my all to Jesus? My thoughts? My words? My actions?
What can I do to better follow the paths of the saints?**

November 13, 2022 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:5-19

"It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking..." — Luke 21:14-15

We are all children of God. Sometimes we are called to more than just knowing that fact. Sometimes the Lord wants us to share what we know about his love. That can be a scary thing. "What will people think of me? Will they make fun of me?" In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that this is what he wants us to do. He tells us that it will be difficult and uncomfortable for us. But sometimes difficulties bring blessings. Maybe some people with whom you share your faith are going through tough times, and by hearing from you about your love for God, they experience a peace they may never have known without your witness. Do not be afraid to share God's love!

Dear Lord, help us not to be afraid to share our love for you. You promised us that if we do, we will be with you in eternity. Thank you for that gift.

What are some ways I can share my love for God with those around me?

November 6, 2022 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Luke 20:27-38

"It is my choice to die at the hands of men, with the hope God gives of being raised up by him..." — 2 Maccabees 7:14

We recently celebrated All Saints' Day. Some saints lived very ordinary lives, and some of them even gave up their lives because of their belief in God. Because of the love they had for God, the saints knew that in giving up their lives, they were choosing everlasting life. This helped them not to be afraid to share their faith. We may never be called to die for our faith like the brothers in the first reading or the saints of old, but we may be called to do hard things for our faith. For example, if you are ever with a group of friends who say they didn't believe in God, you will have an opportunity to speak up and share why you believe. You don't have to make them change their minds, but you are called to be faithful to your own experience and sometimes that might mean putting your fears aside and sharing your beliefs.

Dear Lord, it is not always easy to share my faith in you with others. Please give me the courage to show others that I know I am a child of yours whenever I can.

If you met someone today whom you didn't know very well, how would that person be able to tell that you are a child of God?

Gospel Readings

November 20, 2022 Christ the King

Gospel Reading: Luke 23:35-43

"Above him there was an inscription that read, 'This is the King of the Jews.' — Luke 23:38

The title "king" is a very important one. To some, it is a title of respect and honor. To others, it is very threatening. When Jesus was born and Herod learned from the magi about a new king, he felt threatened. He did not want anyone to be more powerful than he was, so he tried to destroy this new king. Later in Jesus' life, Pontius Pilate also felt threatened and put Jesus to death. Jesus was a king who didn't act like other rich and powerful kings who wanted to be the center of attention. He was a humble king who led by example and gave all he had so that we may know God's love. May we give all we have to our King of Kings to thank him for such a gift.

Dear Lord, you are the greatest king there ever was. Teach me how to always give you the love you deserve.

Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It is fitting, as we enter the Advent season and prepare ourselves for the baby Jesus, that we remember Jesus' purpose in coming. He was sent by God to bring us into his Kingdom through his death and resurrection.


How do you feel about our King? How do you love, respect and honor him?

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - Blessed Carlo Acutis



WEEK ONE

When do you feel most connected to others?



Additional Sources:

[Praying for the Living and the Dead](#)

[The Importance of Praying for the Dead](#)

[Why Do Catholics Pray for the Dead?](#)



November

Arise! Pilgrims of Hope Journal

WEEK TWO

What person in your past are you most grateful for?

WEEK THREE

Is there a saint that you feel a connection with. Why?



WEEK FOUR

What can you do to live a more joyful life?



WEEK FIVE

What does God's presence feel like to you?

