



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025



Basketball!



100th DAY



Valentine's Day



IMPORTANT DATES

March 4 – Shrove Tuesday

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:30 (5BI)

-School Council at 6 PM

March 7 – Boys' Final Basketball Jamboree at ESM

- Girls' Final Basketball Jamboree at FLVT or CSM

March 10 – Lenten Celebration 2 – Virtual (2/3GE)

-Grade 6 Tour of St Francis Junior High

March 12 – Mass In Slow Motion Grade 5s

- Celebration of Learning Evening

March 13 - - Celebration of Learning Evening

March 14 – Student Retreat

March 17 – NO SCHOOL – Divisional Collaboration Day

March 18 – NO SCHOOL – Spiritual Development Day

March 19 – Science Event after school @ 3 pm

March 20 – Lenten Celebration 3 – 2 PM (3DI/3ME)

March 26 – Divisional Board Meeting

March 27 – Hot Lunch Taco Bell

March 28 – Lenten Celebration 4 – 10:30 (4CI)

March 31 – Grade 6 Retreat at Assumption

APRIL

3 - Lenten Celebration 5 @ 11 - In person (4/5GI)

7 – Green Shirt Day

- Lenten Celebration 6 – (Staff)

18 – Good Friday – NO SCHOOL

19-27 – Easter Holidays



March Message From Mm Bouchard

We've officially reached the halfway mark of the school year! March brings with it the promise of change—winter's chill slowly gives way to the warmth and renewal of spring. This month also marks the season of Lent, a meaningful time to grow in faith through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, may we embrace this time of reflection, hope, and renewal.

Looking back on February, our school was buzzing with energy and joy. It was a month full of special moments as we celebrated Global Play Day, 100th Day, Valentine's Dance with DJ Ferdie, Valentine's Day, French Cultural Show! Classes have been out skating, dress up days and our grade 2 retreat. Of course we could never do such things without parent volunteers! Thank you! There were also wonderful opportunities for community feedback at our Boundary Consultations. Senior Administration and Trustees are working hard to plan forward for our division, for our children, and hear your feedback for forward planning. We were also very blessed to have Bishop McGrattan, our Superintendent, Chantel Axani, and Director of Religious Education,, Aaron Skretting, visit us. What an extraordinary gift to have His Excellency make some time to get in to see students. This was a wonderful experience and opportunity for students and staff alike. What a blessing!

As always, there is much to look forward to in the coming weeks! Our students continue to engage in enriching extracurriculars, including Chess Club, Open Gym, Drumming Club and and Grade 6 Basketball windup. . The final basketball jamboree takes place on March 7th. Good luck to our Bobcats! Additionally, on March 13th, our students will have the opportunity to attend the St. Francis production—an event sure to inspire!

Our School Council continues to work so hard for our students. They have funded 2 new iPads, flags for our gathering space, new helmets, books for adults, ukeleles for our music program, money towards field trips, art supplies, and much more. Dear School Council, you are extraordinary and the work you do to support students and staff at our school is exceptional. Thank you! Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5th. If you have ever wondered about coming out, you should, It is an extraordinary group of parents doing great things for kids.

We are excited to invite you to our **Celebration of Learning Evenings/Interviews on Wednesday, March 12th, and Thursday, March 14th**. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, celebrate their progress and achievements, and collaborate on strategies for a strong finish to the school year. As partners in your child's education, these conversations play a crucial role in reinforcing learning and setting the stage for continued success. Plus, it's always wonderful to hear just how amazing your child is! We encourage you to attend and be part of this important experience.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we encourage families to **complete re-registration as soon as possible** to ensure their child's place in our school community. If you know a family considering **École St. Mary** for their child's education, please invite them to visit our website to fill out a **New Student Registration form**. Our office team is happy to assist with any questions—just give us a call at **403-327-3098**. We look forward to another fantastic year together!

Wishing you and your family a **peaceful and grace-filled Lenten season**. May this time of reflection and renewal deepen your faith and bring you closer together. Please know that you are in our prayers, and we are grateful to walk this journey with you.

Warm regards,
Kiera Bouchard

March Message from Mr Harper

As we welcome the month of March, we are grateful for the beautiful weather this past weekend and the promise of spring ahead. With the arrival of Lent, we enter a season of reflection, prayer, and renewal, embracing this opportunity to grow in faith as a school community.

We begin the month with Shrove Tuesday on March 4th, when students will enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast thanks to our amazing volunteers, including parents, staff, School Council, and members of the Catholic Women's League. A big thank you to St. Francis for providing space to cook and to everyone who is making this special morning possible!

On **March 5th at 9:30 AM, we will gather at École St. Mary for our Ash Wednesday Mass**, marking the beginning of Lent. We are excited to welcome Father Santiago to celebrate with us. Our 5BI class is hosting, and we extend our gratitude to Father Santiago, our music ministry classes, Mr. George, and everyone involved. Families are welcome to join us for this special Mass.

Throughout Lent, we will have weekly Lenten celebrations. Our first, on March 10th, will be a virtual celebration led by 2/3GE and shared with all classrooms. We also have two in-person celebrations, and families are invited to attend:

- **March 20th at 2:00 PM, hosted by 3DI/3ME**
- **March 28th at 10:30 AM, hosted by 4CI**

Additional celebrations, including our Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday, will be shared in the April newsletter.

This year, we are excited to host our Student Retreat on March 14th. We will welcome students from Catholic Central High School along with AJ Barrows, our Family Life Coordinator from All Saints Parish, to help guide the day. This retreat will provide students with an opportunity to learn more about their faith, strengthen our school community, and reflect on the Lenten season. A big thank you to everyone helping to make this day possible—we can't wait!

Another noteworthy initiative to be aware of is the ongoing fundraiser in support of the Holy Spirit School Division's Chalice project. This year, we are continuing to contribute to St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired. If you would also like to donate, please follow [this link](#). As a school division, we are trying to raise enough money to build a block of classrooms for St. Odilia and help improve the things that help their community learn! This is an excellent opportunity to commit to one of the pillars of Lent: almsgiving.

As we journey through Lent together, may we take time to reflect, grow, and pray for one another.

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9

Blessings to you all!



Early Pick Ups at the School.....

Registration time in the office is a busy time of year-and our office appreciates help to coordinate early pick ups of students!

You can help us out:

- Try to call or email at least 30 minutes before pick up
- Make sure to come in to the office to sign out your child
- Your patience is appreciated in this process!

IF YOU NEED TO LET US KNOW OF A PICK UP:

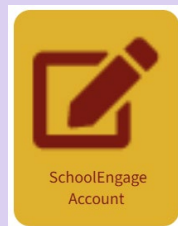
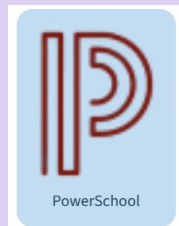
Call us at 403-327-3098 OR email the office at esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca



REGISTRATIONS for the 2025-2026 school year are now open!

Have you re-registered your student for another year with us?

Go to your Parent PowerSchool, and then SchoolEngage to find the registration form



ECOLE ST MARY GRADE 6

FLOWER FUNDRAISER

***Just in time for mother's day!
purchase your flowers or
garden additions for yourself or
a loved one while helping out our
grade 6 team raise funds for
camp!***

**ORDERS DUE
APRIL 22, 2025**

VISIT OUR FUNDRAISER WEBSITE NOW!

<https://ecolestmaryschool.growing-smilesfundraising.com/home>

ROSES, PLANTERS,
STRAWBERRY
BASKET, PETUNIAS,
AND MANY MORE!



[ESM Growing Smiles Fundraiser 2025](#)

(Press CTRL and then Click)

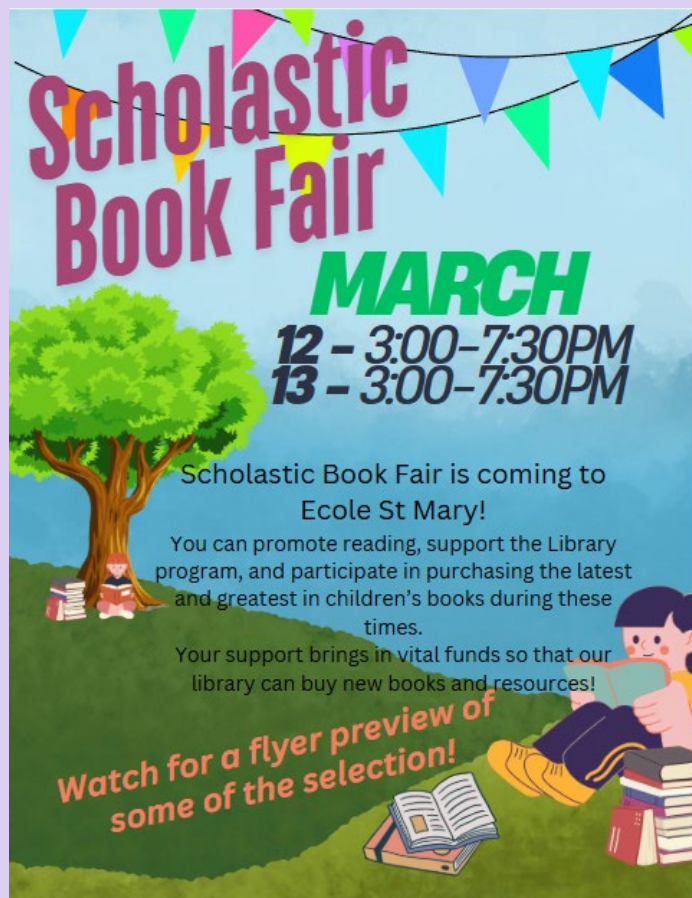


MARCH HOT LUNCH ORDER

TACO BELL

MAR 27

ORDERS ARE DUE BY MAR 20



Scholastic Book Fair

MARCH

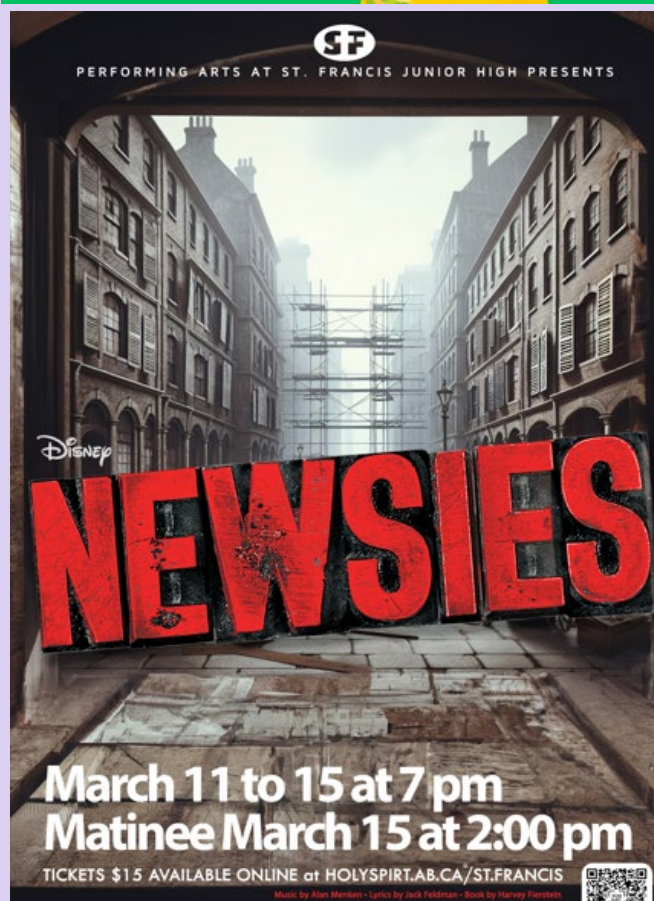
12 - 3:00-7:30PM
13 - 3:00-7:30PM

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Ecole St Mary!

You can promote reading, support the Library program, and participate in purchasing the latest and greatest in children's books during these times.

Your support brings in vital funds so that our library can buy new books and resources!

Watch for a flyer preview of some of the selection!



PERFORMING ARTS AT ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH PRESENTS

Disney **NEWSIES**

March 11 to 15 at 7 pm
Matinee March 15 at 2:00 pm

TICKETS \$15 AVAILABLE ONLINE at HOLYSPIRIT.AB.CA/ST.FRANCIS

Music by Alan Menken • Lyrics by Jack Feldman • Book by Harvey Fierstein
Based on the Broadway show written by John Foulds & David Zippin



BOTTLE DRIVE

FOR

GRADE 6 CAMP

MARCH 1

12-2 PM

Meet at the LDS parking lot in Copperwood

Please RSVP to
Brody Prete

For more information, contact
brodyprete@gmail.com
or by phone at 403-892-6124

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF
AT ABILITY BOTTLE DEPOT ON THE SOUTHSIDE
AT ANY TIME-DESIGNATE THE FUNDS FOR ESM!

ONLINE SAFETY TOOLKIT

Created through: BUILDING Lethbridge
SAFER COMMUNITIES

Whether you're a parent, caregiver, educator or a youth- when it comes to online activity, we all have a lot of the same questions and want to stay safe!

An online resource created in partnership with Lethbridge Police Service, reliable resources and tips for all ages.

Topics covered include:

- **Guiding Safe Online Habits**
Parental Controls, Household Tech Rules and Conversation Starters
- **Exploring the Digital World**
What You Need to Know About Apps, Gaming, Chatbots and Misinformation Online
- **Online Activity and the Law**
Cyberbullying, Exploitation, Scams and How to Seek Help
- **Youth Zone**
Resources for Youth- Coming Soon!

Access the toolkit with the QR Code or visit:

 www.lethbridgepolice.ca/onlinesafety

SCAN HERE



CHILDREN OF ST. MARTHA SCHOOL

FAMILY PUPPET SHOW FEBRUARY 25, AT 6PM



Joey's

FISH SHACK

LETHBRIDGE

GRADE 6 CAMP FUNDRAISER

Joey's Fish Shack is donating 20% of all takeout or dine in orders on April 2 & 3, 2025.

905 1 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 4M7

403-329-3416 | joeysfishshack.com



Help us **Build** a Classroom for St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to building up the kingdom of God, and creating Christ-centred learning communities where students are cherished and achieve their potential. In this year's faith plan, *Build! Pilgrims of Hope*, we are reflecting on the passage from Nehemiah 2:18:

I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us start building!" So they committed themselves to the common good.

As part of our common commitment to putting our gifts at the service of the common good, and our examination of Catholic Social Teachings and the Corporal Works of Mercy this year, we have partnered with Chalice in building a new classroom block for St. Odilia School in Zambia.

St. Odilia School is a Catholic school run by the Sisters of the Child Jesus. Chalice, the Canadian Catholic child sponsorship organization, has been supporting St. Odilia since 2011 as part of their Kawambwa sponsor site. Over that time, Chalice has installed water and solar power in the school, launched a robust school farm, and supported their campus meal program.

Hundreds of Chalice sponsored students attend St. Odilia, as it is one of very few schools in Zambia that serves children with visual impairments, physical disabilities, and albinism. Enrollment is increasing yearly, which means that the school's infrastructure cannot accommodate all of their students comfortably nor offer all of the programs that would support the needs of their students. Our project seeks to build a new classroom block of three classrooms and two offices that would support present students and allow future growth. If you have questions, would like more information, or would like to partner with us in this project, please contact Aaron Skretting at skrettinga@holyspirit.ab.ca or 403-327-9555.

KEY STATS



Kawambwa
Zambia



495 Students



59 Orphans



99 Most
Vulnerable



28 Total Staff



LEARN MORE

Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:26



Chalice



DONATIONS



Did You Know?



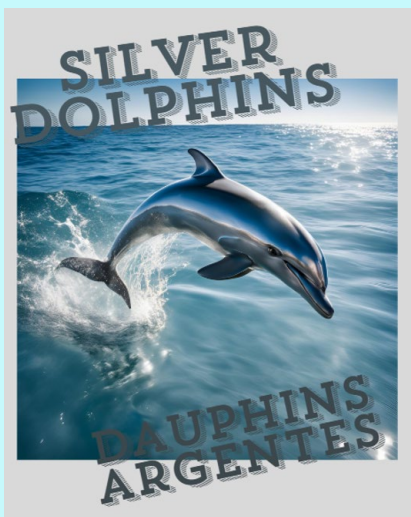
Ecole St Mary is a vibrant community with a diverse ethnic population-and we love to know where our families are coming from!

Our front office features a world map, and we invite our students to place a flag pin in the city/country where they are from-

we invite you to "Put A Pin In" by stopping by our office or reminding your student what your city of origin is! *(write it out if you need to!)*

We'd love to hear from you!

MARCH'S WINNING HOUSE TEAM IS:



MARCH SAMARITAN SUPERSTARS!



Sope in 3DI



Bryan in 3DI



MARCH 2025

			WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Girls' Basketball Practice	Shrove Tuesday Lacrosse iSwag Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	ASH Wednesday Mass @ 9:30 5BI Girls Basketball Practice School Council 6 pm	Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Boys BB Finals Jamboree @ ESM Girls Final BB Jamboree @ FLVT or CSM	TURN CLOCKS BACK 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
TIME CHANGE!	Lenten Celebration 2 Virtual-2/3GE Gr 6 Tour of SFJ		Mass in Slow Motion Gr 5's Celebration of Learning	Green/Gold/Rainbow Dress Up Day SFJH Play Celebration of Learning	Student Retreat	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
 St Patrick's Day NO SCHOOL- PD DAY		NO SCHOOL Spiritual Development Day	Science Event at 3 PM	Lenten Celebration 3 @ 2 pm 3DI/3ME		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Divisional Board Meeting	Hot Lunch Taco Bell	Lenten Celebration 4 @ 10:30 4CI	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Fav TV/Movie Character Grade 6 Retreat @ Assumption					



APRIL 2025

		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 	3	4	5
			Joey's Only Gr 6 Fundraiser Autism Awareness	Joey's Only Gr 6 Fundraiser Lenten Celebration 5 @ 11 - (4/5GI)		
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12
	Green Shirt Day Lenten Celebration 6 - Staff			CAP is here 12:50-2:50 Blackfoot Family Night		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Last Day for PS II Students	BBBS 11:15	HOLY THURSDAY Stations of the Cross - In person	GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			LAST DAY TO ORDER FLOWERS			
Easter Holidays						
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	Return from Easter Break	Resurrection Liturgy - Virtual (3DI/3ME)	ASSEMBLY BBBS 11:15 Divisional Board Meeting			

March

"This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

- Matthew 3:3

St. John the Baptist 6 B.C.-30 A.D. (Feast Day: June 24)

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



John the Baptist was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in the 1st century B.C. We can read the most detailed account of this in the Gospel of Luke, where the angel Gabriel visits them prior to visiting Mary. This has led to the placement of John the Baptist's feast day as six months before Christmas, on June 24. John's public ministry is conducted in the desert, where he is described as a voice 'crying out in the wilderness', wearing clothes made of camel hair and eating locusts and wild honey. He baptizes his followers in the Jordan River, in order to forgive their sins, and calls for repentance in advance of the coming of the Messiah. In this way, we recognize John the Baptist as a prophet of Christ. The Gospels describe John's baptism of Christ:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1: 9-11)

At some point after this, John the Baptist is taken prisoner by Herod, and then beheaded (which is confirmed by the Roman historian Josephus). John the Baptist is the last of the prophets that heralded the coming of Christ, and serves as a model for us in a variety of ways. He speaks of the need for repentance and a healthy understanding of our own sins and flaws. He points to Christ, drawing our attention to him. Finally, his constant witness to Christ, which led him to his death, reminds us to always speak the truth and to put God first in our lives. As we begin Lent this month, may he help us to repent and to prepare the way of the Lord.

The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in the Holy Spirit..."

The word Spirit is a translation of the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means breath, air, or wind - these multiple meanings suggest the various ways in which we feel the movement of the Spirit in our lives. We also use many different symbols for the Holy Spirit — fire, wind, doves, water, light — representing the multitude of gifts that we receive in the Spirit. Traditionally, we think of the seven gifts of the Spirit given at Baptism and sealed at confirmation:

- **Wisdom** - the ability to see things from all sides, to see not only the facts but the relationships between them.
- **Understanding** - the ability to see from others' perspectives, to accept and care for others.
- **Counsel** - the ability to judge rightly, seeking input from those around us.
- **Knowledge** - Seeing the world around us as it is.
- **Fortitude** - the strength to follow our conscience in spite of obstacles or difficulties.

- **Piety** - reverence for the value of every thing and person that God has created - to see God's holiness reflected in the world around us.
- **Fear of the Lord** - sometimes known as awe and wonder, the ability to be amazed, to realize the powerful presence of God at all times.

Further, we think of the signs of the Spirit — the fruits of the Spirit — as evidence of its work in our lives. The twelve fruits are *kindness, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, humility, fidelity/faith, modesty, self-control, chastity, and love*.

We can notice that in all of the above, there is relationship — that the Spirit, as a relationship, enlivens, animates, and directs us into right relationship with God and with each other.

As we seek to become *Pilgrims of Hope* this year, let us continue to contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

To help raise money for the Chalice Project and St. Odilia's School, St. Joseph School, Coaldale's Leadership class recently held a Hot Chocolate Fundraiser. Not only did the students and staff have a blast putting this together, they were able to raise over \$800 through the event! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success!

If you are interested in more information about our Chalice project, or St. Odilia's School, you can reach out to Aaron Skretting, Director of Religious Education, or view [here](#).

The Jubilee Prayer: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



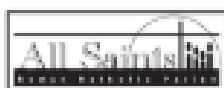
Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Families In Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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

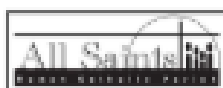
Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm

Mass (Sunday):

9:00 am

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 (Sunday): 10:00 am

643 12th 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 (Saturday): 5:00 pm

Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am

1101-1st Street E.
Bow Island, AB T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-645-2023



St. Michael's Parish Pincher Creek

Father Marino Infante

Mass (Saturday): 7:00 pm

Mass (Sunday): 10:00 am

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