



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 2, 3 – Joey's Only Fundraiser for Grade 6 Camp
-Autism Awareness Day

April 7 – Green Shirt Day
-Lenten Celebration 6 (Staff)

April 8 - 3DI/3ME/2-3PSI Helen Schuler Trip

April 10 – Blackfoot Family Night

April 11 – Lenten Celebration 6 @ 8:30 - Staff

April 17 – HOLY THURSDAY – Stations of the Cross

APRIL 18 – 27 – NO SCHOOL FOR EASTER BREAK

April 23 – Last day to order Growing Smiles flowers

April 28 – First Day back from Easter Break

April 29 – Resurrection Liturgy – Virtual

April 30 – Hot Lunch - KFC

MAY

May 1 – Kindergarten Grad Photos

May 7 – Delivery of Growing Smiles



Epilepsy Awareness



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes!



SKATING!!!



Ash Wednesday Mass

A Lenten Journey at ESM- Mme Bouchard's April Message 2025

As we turn the page on March, we reflect on a month filled with faith, learning, and community. With so many activities happening, ESM continues to be a vibrant place where students grow and thrive. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events—our final months of the school year will be packed with field trips and exciting experiences!

Throughout Lent, we have walked together on a journey of reflection, prayer, and service. Our students have led us beautifully in Ash Wednesday Mass, Lenten Liturgies, and weekly Gospel Time, guiding us toward deeper faith. We began with Shrove Tuesday, where volunteers made pancakes and sausages for all students and staff. We hosted our annual Student Retreat—an incredible day focused on spiritual growth and wellness. A heartfelt thank you to CCH staff and students for helping to organize this meaningful experience. It was a beautiful collaboration.

March also marked the end of our Grade 6 Basketball season, and we couldn't be prouder of our athletes! Their dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship shone both on and off the court. A special thanks to everyone who made the Grade 6 Basketball Jamboree a success. Go Bobcats go!

Our second and final round of Parent-Teacher Interviews provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student growth. Thank you for taking the time to connect with us—it is always a joy to partner with you in your child's education. If you ever have questions about Spaces or your child's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to their teacher.

March also saw the return of the Scholastic Book Fair, filling our library with new books for students to enjoy. Thank you to Mrs. Bugg and our incredible parent volunteers for making it a success! ESM attended the St. Francis play, the Newsies. Thanks to St. Francis for inviting us to take part in the arts! We have started an E-Sports club on Fridays for grade 6 students. We hosted a wonderful after school Science Event led by APEGA engineers. It was great fun and learning for our grade 4 students. March was a fun and busy month.

If you have not reregistered your child, please do so. It helps us with planning for the upcoming school year. Thank you for your help!

As we enter April, we prepare our hearts for Holy Week—the culmination of our Lenten journey. Through Jesus' Passion, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice that leads us to the joy of Easter. May this season of renewal fill your homes with hope, faith, and the promise of new life. I look forward to proclaiming together: *He is risen!*

Wishing you and your family a blessed Easter.

**God Bless,
Mme Bouchard**

*Loving Creator of mine,
I feel the pace quicken, the time draw near.
I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter
and the promised reconciliation with you.
Teach me to follow the example of your Son,
to be worthy of being called one of his people:
a Christ-ian.
Help me to live each day as he did
turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.
I await the new life with eagerness, faith
and a deep gratitude.*



Mr. Harper's April Newsletter Entry

March was a full and faith-filled month at École St. Mary! Our staff had the opportunity to join together for a spiritual development day with other Holy Spirit schools. It was a meaningful day of learning and reflection with Dr. Troy Davies, Father Troy Nguyen, and Dr. Matt Hoven to help guide us in our Lenten journey.

On March 4th, our amazing volunteers cooked pancakes and sausages for our whole school for Shrove Tuesday. A big thank you to our volunteers, staff, Mme. Bouchard, and St. Francis for lending us their kitchen space! The next day, we gathered for Ash Wednesday Mass with Father Santiago. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community at the start of Lent.

Throughout March, we continued our weekly Lenten celebrations. Thank you to our 2/3GE, 3DI/3ME, and 4CI classes for leading our school in reflection and prayer. On March 14th, we held our school-wide student retreat, where students and staff from Catholic Central High School helped lead the day. Thank you to the CCH religion students, Mrs. Dudas, and Mr. New for their support in making the day so meaningful. Finally, on March 31st, our Grade 6 students attended their retreat at Assumption Parish—thank you to All Saints Parish for hosting and supporting this great learning opportunity.

Our Lenten journey continues through April with more Gospel Time and celebrations:

- April 3 at 11:00 AM – led by 4/5GI
- April 11 at 8:30 AM – led by staff
- April 17 at 1:00 PM – Stations of the Cross led by 5SE

Following our last celebration is Good Friday and Easter. Easter is a joyful celebration in the Church year, when we rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and the gift of new life and hope that it brings to all of us.

Our division is continuing to support the Chalice project to help build a block of classrooms for St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired. While we've done lots of fundraising this year, we are still sharing ways for families to donate if they wish. If you would also like to donate, please follow [this link](#).

Thank you to our entire École St. Mary community for your continued support, kindness, and care. It is a blessing to be part of a community that continues to grow in faith and support one another.

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." – Matthew 28:6

Blessings to you all, and happy Easter!



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

APRIL HOT LUNCH ORDER



APRIL 30

ORDERS ARE DUE BY APR 16

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/online-safety

SCAN HERE



HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE



For supporting the Scholastic Book Fair!

Thank you to the parent helpers and the students for supporting the Library-

Your support helps us purchase new books and resources for students to enjoy!

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)

Blackfoot Family Evening at Ecole St Mary

Join us for an
evening of
food, family
fun, and
prizes!



Dinner is provided



Activities with Elders



Doorprizes to win!



All are welcome!

Thursday April 10
5-7:30 pm
in the ESM Gym

For more info, contact
plumb@holyspirit.ab.ca
or call 403-327-3098



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.

Let all things be done for building up.
1 Corinthians 14:26



LEARN MORE



Chalice



DONATIONS

KEY STATS



Kawambwa
Zambia



495 Students



59 Orphans



99 Most
Vulnerable



28 Total Staff



LOST AND FOUND IS GETTING FULL!

It's warm-and kids are taking their outerwear off to play!

We have set up a table outside the office and are encouraging kids to check for their items-

You are welcome to stop by and check it as well!

Samaritan Stars

★ Sage in 6MI

★ Caleb in 3DI

Winning House Team



APRIL 2025



APRIL 2025						
	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2 	3	4	5	
	Grade 4 Badminton 3-4	Grade 5 Badminton 3-4 Joey's Only Gr 6 Fundraiser Autism Awareness	Joey's Only Gr 6 Fundraiser Lenten Celebration 5 @ 11 - (4/5GI) Grade 6 Badminton 3-4 pm	E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00		
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12
	Green Shirt Day Grade 3 Badminton 3-4	Grade 4 Badminton 3-4	Grade 5 Badminton 3-4	CAP is here 12:50- 2:50 Grade 6 Badminton 3-4 pm Blackfoot Family Night	Lenten Celebration 6 - Staff E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Grade 3 Badminton 3-4	Last Day for PS II Students Grade 4 Badminton 3-4	Easter Colors Dress Up Easter Egg Hunt BBBS 11:15 Grade 5 Badminton 3-4	HOLY THURSDAY Stations of the Cross - In person	GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	
20	21	22	23 LAST DAY TO ORDER FLOWERS	24	25	26
		Easter Holidays				
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	Return from Easter Break Grade 3 Badminton 3-4	Resurrection Liturgy - Virtual (3DI/3ME)	ASSEMBLY BBBS 11:15 HOT LUNCH KFC Divisional Board Meeting			



MAY 2025

WED				THU		FRI
SAT				1		2
3				4		5
				Inside Out and Backwards Day Kinder Grad Photos Grade 6 Badminton 3-4 pm		E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00
						First Communion @ 7:00 pm @ St. Basil's
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TBC 11:30 FLVT Play @ YATES				5BI and 5SE Bake Sale		E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00
						First Communion @ 5:00 @ Assumption
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
School Council - 6 PM				BBBS 11:15		E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00
				Joey's Only Hot Lunch		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
VICTORIA DAY NO SCHOOL				School PD Day NO SCHOOL		Assembly E-Sports club 12:30 - 2:00
				Marian Mass @Assumption @9:00 AM (2MI/Grade 2) World Day of Cultural Diversity!		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				Grade 6 Camp World Catholic Ed Day Kindergarten Parent Celebration am		Grade 6 Camp
				Grade 6 Camp BBBS 11:15 Divisional Board Meeting		

April

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



*"Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!"*
- Psalm 25:7

St. Dominic Savio, April 2, 1842 (Feast Day: May 6)

Domenico Savio was born into a large family in rural Italy in 1842, and from a young age was keenly interested in his Christian upbringing, attending Mass and receiving special permission to receive the Eucharist. He was a hard worker at school, and to continue his education at age ten, began walking about five kilometers each way to the school at Castelnovo. It was here that he would eventually meet St. John Bosco, with whom he then returned to Turin. He resolved during this time to become a saint, and experimented with various penances that he thought would assist with this goal. John Bosco, upon hearing of this, forbade it and recommended that Dominic focus on his studies and duties, doing all to the best of his abilities, which led Dominic to say "I can't do big things but I want everything to be for the glory of God." He continued to work diligently at school, to pray frequently and fervently, and sought to be a good example to his classmates at all times.

In the spring of 1857, at the age of 14, Dominic became ill, passing in March. Don Bosco wrote a short biography of Dominic, which led to his increasing popularity despite his young age at death. Due to his heroic virtue, he was canonized in 1954, and until 2017 was the youngest non-martyr saint in the Catholic church. You can learn more about him by watching one of these short videos:

[Story of Saint Dominic Savio \(Saints and Angels\)](#) | [Saint Dominic Savio \(Stories of Saints\)](#) | [The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends \(Brother Francis FORMED\)](#)

The Apostles' Creed

"the holy catholic Church..."

The Nicene Creed uses here the words 'I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. These four marks are actually quite significant, and perhaps help us to understand this section more clearly. They are calls to action that animate our lives, not just a passive mention of the Church. Our word Church comes from the Greek word *kyriakon*, derived from *Kyrios* - 'something belonging to the Lord' or *ekklesia* - 'an assembly of people called forth.' After Vatican II, we often refer to the Church as the 'People of God.' That's all of us!

- **One** - we desire unity with one another, with our Catholic brethren, and with our Christian family. (CCC 813-818, 820, 866)
- **Holy** - we believe that the Church is the place where we find holiness - in the sacraments, in our liturgy, and so on. While the Church is not perfect, it is holy. God is the source of holiness; the Spirit unites us in holiness; Christ is the perfect model of holiness. (CCC 823-829, 867)

- **catholic** - small c catholic means universal - we embrace one another and make room for each other to belong. We accept the Great Commission to share the Gospel with those around us, in all times and places. (CCC 830-835, 868)
- **Apostolic** - we believe in the foundation set by the Apostles after Christ's death, the succession of the Popes, and the teaching authority of the Church. Apostle means 'one who is sent' - we are all sent to share the Good News. (CCC 857-865, 869)

So, we are called to belong, with one another, to the Lord, to follow the path set out by the apostles, to find our holiness in the Church, and to be one and universal in our outlook. 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

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

Inside the overall Jubilee year, there are a variety of specific celebrations that are occurring on the calendar. It is exciting this month that we have two celebrations that are specifically pertinent in our schools. From **April 25-27**, there will be a **jubilee of teenagers** that will culminate with the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis. This will be followed on **April 28-29** with the **jubilee of people with disabilities**. Given these two celebrations, it might be a good time this month to review [Christus Vivit](#) — Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to and about young people, which was the response of the Holy Father to the 2018 Synod on "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment" which laid a new foundation for the Catholic Church's current work with youth and young adults. We have embedded this into this current faith plan, so some of it will likely sound familiar to you! In the upcoming Easter season, we might for instance revisit the message at the outset, which are words of great encouragement to us:

Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.



Pope's Prayer Intentions — For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



[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

 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 12B Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L6 Tel: 403-328-4753	 St. Ambrose Parish Coaldale Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 4:00 pm 1523-23rd Avenue Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2 Tel: 403-345-3400	 St. Catherine Parish Picture Butte Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 11:00 am 762 Crescent Avenue Picture Butte, AB T0K 1W0 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: 403-545-2023	 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