

UPCOMING DATES:

Sept 2nd – NO SCHOOL – Labour Day

Sept 3rd – 1st DAY OF SCHOOL!

Sept 9th – 1st Day for Kindergarten and ELP

Sept 13th – Terry Fox Run

Sept 24st – Opening Mass @ Assumption Church @ 9am

Sept 24st – Family Blessing at 5:30 followed by
Welcome back BBQ

Sept 27th – Orange Shirt Day

Sept 30th – NO SCHOOL National Day of Truth and
Reconciliation

Oct 2nd – Picture Day

Bell Times for 2024-2025

Grade 1 – 6's Mon – Thurs. **8:00am – 3:00pm**

Fridays **8:00am – 12:30pm**

Kindergarten Mon – Thurs. 8:00am – 11:10am

Early Learning Mon – Thurs 8:15am – 11:15am

Morning Supervision Starts at 7:45am.

If you choose to drop your child(ren) off before then that is your choice to leave them unattended.

Students need to be picked up by 3:10pm – There is no after school supervision.

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 7:45am – 3:45pm

Friday: 7:45am – 1:15pm

After Hours:

Please leave a detailed message on our voicemail or you can email

esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

A Message From Mrs. Bouchard

Dear ESM Families,

I would like to extend the warmest regards. Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We have been working hard at the school and the only thing missing is you! We cannot wait for the first day of school, on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024. We hope your summer was wonderful!

September is a wonderful time of year with so much anticipation. It is the time to settle back into routines, to see old friends and make new friends. It is the beginning of a new journey. It is going to be a great year!

We have new staff members joining us this year. We welcome:

Mrs. Breanne Stevenson is returning from maternity leave (5SE)

Mrs. Katlyn Rabl has joined our kindergarten team (KRE)

Mrs. Anne Van Roon has joined our office team.

Mrs. Ruth Velker and Pam Corliss have joined us as new members of our educational assistant team. Mr. D'Arcy George has retired after 31 years of service to Holy Spirit.

It's a girl! Mrs. Tara Palychuk had her baby girl in June! They are doing well.

Mrs. Kristen Shade has taken on a new position with Holy Spirit.

At ESM, we use various methods of communication. School Messenger is used to share important school wide messages, Spaces is used for communication and reporting, A school wide 'Remind' message is sent weekly to inform families of special events for each week; be sure to sign up. We have newsletters, and social media posts. Of course you are always welcome to call our office (403-327-3098) if you have any questions. We are happy to help. Please note that do our best to be paperless, so please expect to receive Field Trip Forms digitally.

Please consider joining us for our first School Council Meeting and AGM that is scheduled for Thursday, September 26th in the ESM library. This is an incredible group of parents that plan for our school. Mark your calendar for September 24th for Opening Mass at Assumption Parish at 9:00 am. That evening we will host the Welcome Back BBQ and Family Blessing, **which begins promptly at 5:30pm**. Because it is a religious celebration and blessing, doors close at 5:30pm and will reopen once the liturgy is complete for the BBQ. After that, you can meet your child's learning team! It is a wonderful way to kick off the year as a community.

Operations Updates for this year:

- **Morning Supervision begins at 7:45 am.** Buses arrive at 7:45 am. **There is NO SUPERVISION** before that time. Please do not plan to have your child dropped off before then. School begins at 8:00 am.
- The use of personal devices for students is **not permitted**. This includes cell phones, smart watches and other personal electronic devices.

- **Do not park in the bus drop off zone, please.** There is a parent drop off zone past the flagpole. Please note, this is not for parking, it is only for drop off. It is a busy place so please ensure you are doing your part to help buses.
- **After School Pick Up:** The final bell rings at 3:00pm. Parents are asked to make arrangements to pick their children right after school. Please pick up your child outside their zone door.
- **Breakfast and Lunch programs:** We will have breakfast grab and go items for students as they arrive in the morning. We also have lunch items for students if they require food. These programs begin on September 9th.
- If you are coming to the school, please make an appointment. **Parents and guardians must check in at the office.** Thank you for your cooperation.

It is going to be an incredible year. Thank you for choosing Ecole St. Mary for your child's education. We look forward to partnering with you in your child's education for a successful year full of learning, fun and growth.

Yours in Christ,

Kiera Bouchard

A Message From the Desk of Mr. Harper

Hello! Bonjour! Oki! For those of you that are new, welcome to our ESM learning community! For those of you returning, we are so glad to see you again and can't wait to hear about your summer holidays! I am very excited to begin my third year at École St. Mary. It is a privilege and my pleasure to serve such an amazing learning community. Thank you for the opportunity.

We are beginning year three of our faith theme, which is guided by the phrase, *Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope*. *Proclaim* is the call word for this third year, changing from *Build*. This year, our faith focus will be that God is on our lips and the theological virtue of Hope. We place our trust in Christ's promises and rely, not just on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. We will be focused on elements of looking upwards—the Gospel, the Creed, and the Synodal Focus on mission. We will look upwards at our fantastic community and proclaim the Catholic faith in our classroom, school, and community this year. Our three-year faith plan aligns with the Jubilee Year's central focus, "*Pilgrims of Hope*." His Holiness, Pope Francis, beautifully expressed this

new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision.”
What a beautiful alignment of our faith plan, faith, and learning community.

We want to welcome everyone to our opening Mass on September 24th at 9:00 AM at Assumption Church and our Family Blessing the same day, September 24th, at 5:30 PM at École St. Mary School. Please put these dates in your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there. Information about future Masses and celebrations can be found on our school calendar and monthly newsletter! Each class will host a celebration or Mass throughout the year, and teachers will communicate with families when their child's class will be participating. We will continue to share the upcoming Sunday Gospel each week as we learn more about the Catholic faith.

This year will be remarkable as we work towards the future with spirit, heart, and vision to grow with our school community. We are grateful that we are able to journey alongside each of you.

“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

September

2024

Welcome Back, Students!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 NO SCHOOL Labour Day	3 First Day of School!	4	5	6	7
8	9 First Day for Kindergarten	10	11	12	13 Terry Fox Run	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Opening Mass @ Assumption - 9 am WELCOME BACK BBQ 5:30	25	26	27 Orange Shirt Day 	28
29	30 NO SCHOOL National Truth and Reconciliation Day					

October

2024

Fall Colors



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 PICTURE DAY!	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	15 NO SCHOOL PD Day	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWE'EN Assembly 		





Saints of the World Journal 2024-2025

Month	Saint
September	1 <u>St. Augustine of Hippo</u>
October	2
November	3
December	4
January	5
February	6
March	7
April	8
May	9
June	10
<u>Division Parishes</u>	

September

"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

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-430 (Feast Day: August 28)



Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope

St. Augustine of Hippo was an unlikely saint, but a very influential one. Living between 354 and 430 AD in what is today Algeria, St. Augustine became a Doctor of the Church, meaning that his influence on Catholic theology and philosophy was vast and enduring. His writings, including *City of God* and *Confessions* remain important works to study even today.

However, St. Augustine was not always so religious. He was born into an upper class family with a devout mother, Monica (who later became a saint herself), but in his youth lived wildly and rejected his Christian upbringing. A brilliant student, Augustine lived in Carthage, Rome, and Milan while completing his education and beginning to work as a professor. With the constant prayer of his mother, Augustine returned to Christianity and was influenced greatly by Ambrose of Milan, the Bishop (and later also a saint).

A key moment in his conversion was his reading of the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. After being baptized in 387, Augustine returned to Hippo the following year and became first a priest, and then the Bishop of Hippo by 395. He was well known for his sermons, which were engaging (and often quite lengthy). For the last 35 years of his life, he preached constantly and dedicated himself to the conversion of his local people to Christianity, and became known for many of his contributions to the development of Christian thought. But he was also highly practical and focused on the needs of those around him, as expressed in this quotation:

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

Charles

The Apostles' Creed

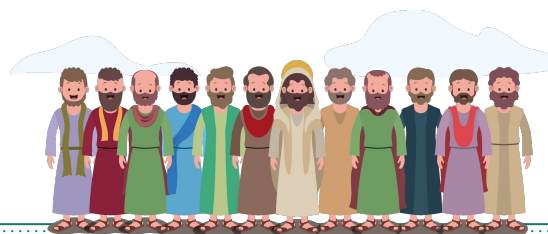
As part of our call to *Proclaim* this year, we are going to focus on elements of the Apostles' Creed each month, starting with an overview of creeds in general. A creed is a summary of beliefs; it comes from the Latin word *Credo*, which means "I believe." We are likely familiar with the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, which are the two main Creeds that we use in the Catholic Mass. While we say in these creeds "I believe," we do that alongside all of our brothers and sisters in faith, a unifying proclamation of what it is that we believe in. The creeds are combinations of historical truths with statements of faith, and have been derived over time from the earliest Christians.

In *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis writes that:

"Faith is necessarily ecclesial; it is professed from within the body of Christ as a concrete communion of believers...Faith is not a

private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to be proclaimed...Faith...enables us to become part of the Church's great pilgrimage through history until the end of the world."

As we seek to become Pilgrims of Hope this year, let us 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

One of Saint Augustine's famous sayings is: "You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you". Throughout the three years of this faith plan, you have heard Steve Angrisano's "[A Rightful Place](#)" at all of our divisional Masses. This song is based on St. Augustine's *Confessions*, and contains many of the themes and calls that we have responded to.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



"You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

- ST. AUGUSTINE

Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...” — Mark 7:6

Have you ever tasted 100% pure chocolate? It looks luscious and sweet but because it has no sugar in it, it tastes bitter and dry. It's not at all like milk chocolate found in the candy we love so much. Can you think of other things that look good on the outside but are quite different on the inside? Sadly, sometimes people seem charming and smart by the things they say and do but inside they are bitter and selfish.

In today's Gospel, Jesus confronts some church leaders who see themselves as more important than Jesus' followers. These scribes and Pharisees judge Jesus' disciples by a set of man-made rules while ignoring the commandments given by God himself. They are using these rules to put the disciples down and criticize Jesus, their leader.

When people bully and degrade others, it should be a warning sign to us not to follow their example. To be a follower of Jesus, we must love like he does.

Do you know someone in your community who is being judged unfairly because of their looks, language, or culture? Make a point this week to reach out to that person.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, help me to be good on the inside and out.



Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

“They were exceedingly astonished and they said, “He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” — Mark 7:37

In today's Gospel, we read about a fantastic miracle Jesus performed. He restored a man's hearing and speech. Imagine someone you know who is sick or hurt right now. How excited would you be if Jesus healed that person right before your eyes? It would be hard not to shout your excitement to let everyone know the good news!

But Jesus still performs miracles every day, and often we don't even notice. Place your hand on your wrist and feel your blood pumping through your body. Or, stare at a black and white image for about 30 seconds; then close your eyes and see how the image is now reversed. It's pretty amazing that God created our bodies to work the way they do. Take notice today and see how many astonishing things God has done and is still doing!

What are some miraculous things God has done for our family?

Prayer:
Dear Lord, help us to be attentive to your greatness and be grateful for the miracles you perform all around us.



Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Augustine of Hippo
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” — Mark 8:34

An old saying states: “Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” Here’s an example of what that saying means: Let’s say that you volunteer to help a sick or elderly neighbor by raking his leaves, but instead of finishing the job, you leave the piles for him to bag and put out to the curb himself. Maybe you grew tired or wanted to do something that was more fun, so you left the task half done. Your intentions were good at the beginning, but unless you finished, you haven’t done your job very well.

Jesus was faced with a very difficult task. He didn’t want to suffer and be killed any more than any person does, but he knew people might kill him because he was standing up for the truth and trying to do the right thing. Jesus was committed to finishing the task he began out of love for us. He wouldn’t stop doing the right things even though he knew he would get killed for it. As followers of Jesus, we too need to help others, regardless of the price we must pay.

Is there a task we left only partly done that we need to complete out of love for someone else?



Prayer:
Lord, help us to be generous with our love despite the sacrifices we must make.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

“Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder...the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle...the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” — James 3:16-18

Do I find myself living in the wisdom God gives, in peace and gentleness and the other gifts of the Holy Spirit that I received at my baptism? Or do I find myself more often wrapped up in my wants: wanting my own way, wanting what others have, etc.? Is there peace in my heart when I seek these things, or do those wants create jealousy and selfishness? God wants me to have peace, but peace won’t come out of being selfish. Often we need to practice being thankful for what we have and giving instead of getting in order to find peace.

Am I jealous of what others have? What do I have that I can concentrate on being thankful for instead?

Prayer:
Dear Lord, please show me how to put selfish wants and desires aside. Help me to find peace through a heart filled with gratitude. Teach me to put others before myself, living out the gifts of patience, joy, kindness, love, and gentleness.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- Colossians 3:17



Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

“There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.” — Mark 9:39-40

Jesus’ disciples were upset that some other people who weren’t followers of Jesus were doing good things for him. They thought they were special because they were in the “in” crowd by following Jesus but the others weren’t. Jesus teaches them that it’s not about some people being “in” the group and others being “outside” of the group. Everyone who does good things and lives lovingly is on Jesus’ side, even if they don’t say they are following Jesus! He teaches us that there are plenty of good people in the world that might not go to the same church or even be the same religion as us and they will be rewarded for their good works too.

Who are some good people we know who don’t go to our church but are still living as Jesus taught?

Prayer:
Dear Lord, help me to be accepting of everyone, not just those that are the same religion or go to the same church as me.

Sources:
[Saint You Should Know: Augustine of Hippo](#)
[Story of Saint Augustine \(Christian Family TV\)](#)
[St. Monica and St. Augustine](#)

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 (Live-streamed) 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 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. Blow 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



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

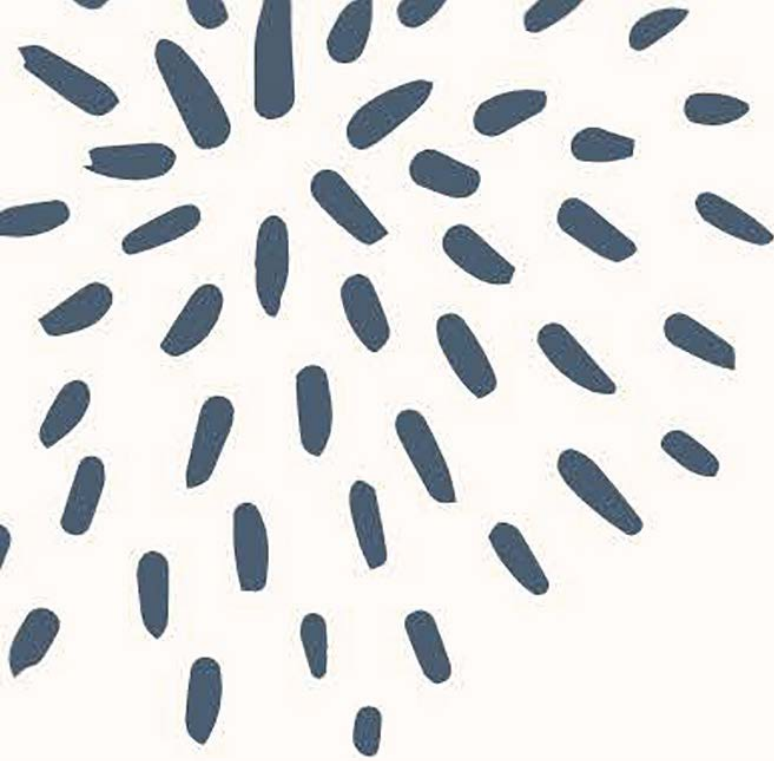
When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which ideally includes the principal / associate principal, a school based counsellor / jurisdictional lead and police of jurisdiction. If the situation is serious the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and call in members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safer such as, but not limited to, local police, children's mental health organizations or Child and Family Services. Parents / guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents / guardians cannot be reached, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behavior, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents / guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,
Ken Sampson, Superintendent of Schools

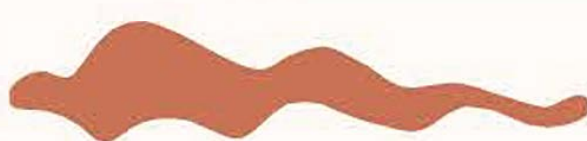


Parent Cafe

Mindful Parenting

Sept. 26, Oct. 3,10,17,24

All Things ADHD



With :

Childrens Mental Health

Location:

ECOLE ST. MARY, THE GARAGE

1-3 PM

Refreshments & Light Snacks Provided

RSVP:



Tanya Koopmans

403-634-2712

koopmanst@holyspirit.ab.ca

