

January 2025 Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Jan 6 – First Day Back at School
- Jan 8 – Ribbon Skirt Day
- Jan 13-14 – Dental Visits for K-Grade 2
- Jan 15 – Free Family After School Skating @ Logan Boulet
- Jan 15 – 6 PM School Council Meeting
- Jan 16 – Teacher Student Swap Day
- Jan 21 – Free Bingo Night – 6-7:30 PM
- Jan 22 – Divisional Board Meeting
- Jan 23 – Hot Lunch – Boston Pizza
- Jan 28 – Duct Tape/Tinfoil Day
- Jan 29 - Free Family After School Skating @ Logan Boulet
- Jan 30 – Student Retreat and January Assembly
- Jan 31 – NO SCHOOL – PD Day

FEBRUARY

- Feb 3-7 – National School Counselling Week
- Feb – Tech Talk Evening @ 6 PM
- Feb 17-21 – NO SCHOOL – Reading Week

A Christmas Prayer by Hildegard von Bingham

Mary, whatever is small and unnoticed is like you --

growing, the greenest twig stirring in the rainy gusts that were all those questions asked by those who lived
before your time
and spent their lives looking for God's son to come.

The sun warmed you, and when the time was ripe,
you blossomed, smelling like balsam,
and the fragrance of your Bloom
renewed the spices' dry perfume.

The earth rejoiced when your body grew wheat.
The sky celebrated by giving the grass dew,
and the birds-built nests in your wheat,
and the food of the Eucharist was made for all humanity.

We feast on it, full of joy!

<https://www.theologicalhorizons.org/theological-horizons/2019/12/20/an-advent-story-the-peace-of-hildegard>

Mme. Bouchard's January Message 2025

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2025!

Dear Ecole St. Mary Community,

Happy New Year! As we welcome a new year filled with hope and opportunities, I am excited to embark on another chapter with our incredible school community. I want to take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our school. The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to set fresh goals, nurture meaningful connections, and grow together as a school family. I look forward to the many opportunities and successes that 2024 holds for our students, staff, and families.

December was truly a magical month for our community, filled with memorable events and acts of kindness. Our students began the season with a beautifully decorated school on the first Monday of Advent—a cherished tradition started by ESM staff to bring light and love to our school during the darker days of winter.

We celebrated the First Week of Advent Mass, hosted by 4NE and led by Father Kevin, who reminded us to work on our patience—an important message for all of us. The 2/3PSI and Kindergarten classes guided us in prayer during other Advent celebrations as we prepared our hearts for Christmas. One of the highlights was our “Buy a Plate, Donate a Plate” Turkey Dinner. Thanks to the generosity of our community and support from School Council, every student enjoyed a traditional turkey meal. Thanks to our volunteers and Prime Catering.

Our students also brought holiday cheer to seniors by creating cards and singing Christmas songs. The Christmas Activity Night was a joyful celebration with crafts, trivia, dancing, treats, and hot chocolate—a true reflection of the warmth and togetherness of our school community.

January is shaping up to be an exciting month! Highlights include: the start of our Grade 6 basketball program, Drumming Club sessions, After-school family skating, Skating field trips, lacrosse, dress-up days, and more! We invite you to join us for our **School Council Meeting on January 15th at 6:00 PM** in the library.

With cooler weather upon us, we aim to have students play outside as much as possible. Please ensure your child comes to school with proper winter gear, including boots, snow pants, a winter coat, a toque, and gloves. If your family needs assistance in obtaining winter gear, please reach out to the office—we’re here to help. Fresh air and play are essential, and being properly dressed ensures our students have the most fun while staying safe.

May this year bring joy, health, and new possibilities for you and your loved ones. Let’s make this year one of learning, kindness, and collaboration! Thank you for being such an important part of our journey. Here’s to a fantastic 2024!

Warm regards,

Kiera Bouchard

Mr. Harper's January Message 2025

Welcome to the start of 2025! We hope your holidays were filled with joy, rest, and moments shared with loved ones. As we begin this new year, we look forward to continuing our shared journey of faith, learning, and community.

December at École St. Mary was a season of joy and celebration! Our students brought Christmas cheer to seniors and healthcare facilities, spreading love and kindness beyond our school walls. We gathered as a school for two Advent celebrations led by our 2/3PSI and Kindergarten classes, and we came together for an Advent Mass with Father Kevin, led by our 4NE class. Thanks to our dedicated staff's creativity and hard work, our hallways were filled with festive spirit and a celebration of lights. It was a season of gratitude, generosity, and faith-filled moments.

As we move into January, our faith learning continues with a focus on the Creeds and a deeper understanding of the Jubilee Year of 2025. The Jubilee officially begins on December 24, 2024, at 7 PM, with the Holy Father opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, followed by the Night Mass of the Lord's Birth. This sacred event reminds us of God's invitation to mercy, reconciliation, and hope. We will also explore prayers of petition, encouraging students to turn to God in times of need as we pray together for the sick, the poor, and hope for the world.

This month, our 1DI class will lead us in a virtual liturgy celebrating the Baptism of the Lord, offering a meaningful way to center our hearts and minds at the start of the year. We are also looking forward to our Student Faith Retreat on January 30th, providing students with a chance to grow in faith, reflect on their relationship with God, and continue to find ways to proclaim our faith!

May 2025 be a year of blessings for everyone at École St. Mary. May your days be filled with laughter, growth, and a deep sense of community. As we walk together through the year ahead, may we continue to uplift each other and build bridges of understanding and kindness. Here's to a year filled with faith, hope, and the warmth of shared moments.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." – Romans 15:13

Blessings to you all in this new year!

ISWAG Presents....



Gather your family for an evening of thrilling games, fabulous prizes, and unforgettable memories.

TUESDAY **6:00 - 7:30PM** **JAN. 21 2025**

Ecole St. Mary School

ISWAG-Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide

Family ICE SKATING

3:30-4:30 PM
LOGAN BOULET ARENA

Located at - 1302 8 Ave N

WEDNESDAYS:
JAN. 15TH
JAN 29TH

THIS IS A SOCIAL EVENT FOR FAMILIES TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER!
PARENTS MUST STAY AT THE RINK WHILE THEIR CHILD IS SKATING, AND A CSA APPROVED HELMET MUST BE WORN.



December

Samaritan Superstars

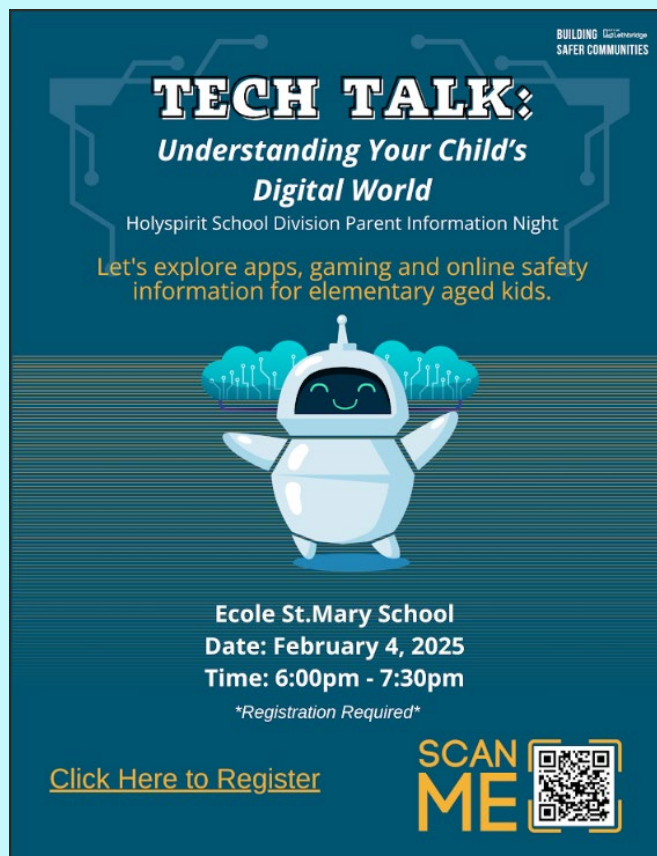
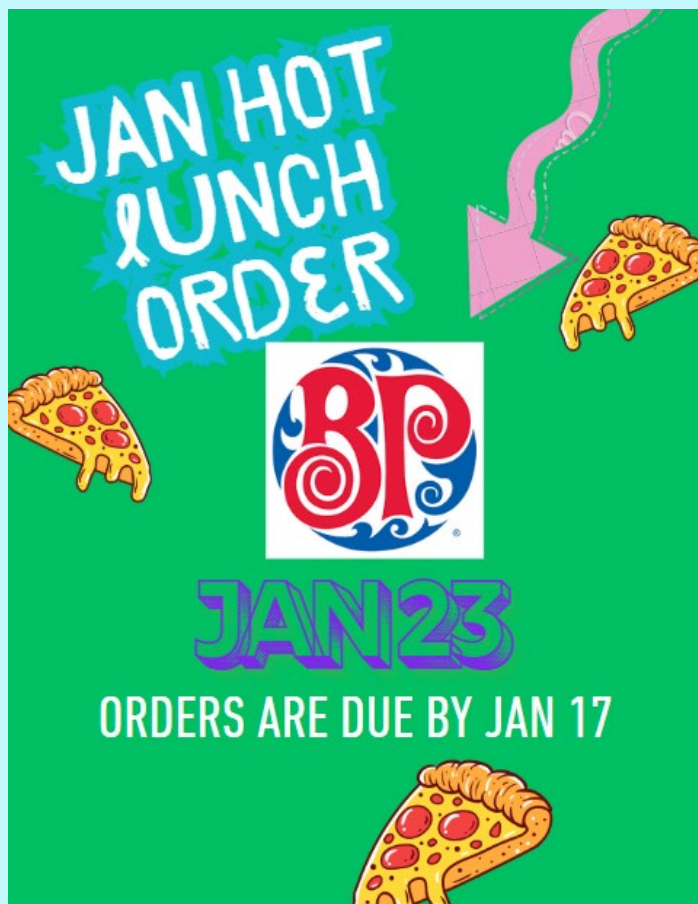
★ **Quinn 4/5GI**

★ **Logan 5BI**

December's Winning House Team



BROWN MUSTANGS





JANUARY 2025

		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			HAPPY NEW YEAR!	NO SCHOOL-Holidays	NO SCHOOL-Holidays	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	First Day Back at School! Girls Basketball Practice 3-4	Lacrosse iSwag Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Ribbon Skirt Day BBBS with OCH Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Dental Visits for K-2 Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Dental Visits for K-2 Lacrosse iSwag Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	 Family Skate at Logan Boulet 3:30-4:30 Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm School Council 6 PM	Teacher/Student Dress Up Swap Day! Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Lacrosse iSwag Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm FREE BINGO NIGHT 6 pm	Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	HOT LUNCH Boston Pizza Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	Girls' OLA@ESM	Duct Tape/Tinfoil Day Lacrosse iSwag Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	 Family Skate at Logan Boulet BBBS with OCH Girls' STC@ESM	Student Retreat Assembly Boys Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	NO SCHOOL PD Day	

**"Let all that you do be
done in love."**

1 Corinthians 16:14



FEBRUARY 2025

				THU	FRI	SAT
				30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Girls' ESM@SPFA	Lacrosse iSwag Boys' ESM@FLVT TECH TALK 6 PM	Global Play Day Girls Basketball Practice 3-4 pm	Boys' STC@ESM		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Lacrosse iSwag Boys' SPFA@ESM	100 th Day! Girls' FLVT@ESM	Valentine's Dance Boys' St. Paul@ESM	Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	NO SCHOOL - Reading week					
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	Grade 2 Retreat@ Assumption Girls' ESM@St. Paul	Lacrosse iSwag Boys' ESM@CSM	Girls' ESM@CSM Divisional Board Meeting	Boys' ESM@OLA	February Assembly	

January



Proclaim!
Pilgrims of
Hope

"In this life no one can fulfill his longing, nor can any creature satisfy man's desire. Only God satisfies, he infinitely exceeds all other pleasures. That is why man can rest in nothing but God."

- St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas 1225-1274 (Feast Day: January 28)

St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of academics, students, and Catholic schools and Doctor of the Church, is widely considered to be one of the most influential theologians in Catholic history. Living in the 1200s, Aquinas was born in what is now Italy, into a powerful and wealthy family. He had an extensive education in his youth, and at the age of 19 decided to join the Dominican Order. His family made many efforts to prevent him from following through on this choice, but his persistence was unstoppable. In 1245, he went to continue his studies at the University of Paris, where he met Dominican scholar St. Albert the Great. He completed his education there, becoming a prolific writer as well. For the remainder of his life, he continued to teach and to write, composing hymns that are still sung today alongside many philosophical volumes. The largest and most well known of these is his *Summa Theologica* (Summary of Theology), which was written as a guide of the Catholic theological basics. This gave rise to the theological approach known as Thomism. Thomism focuses on the complementary nature of faith and reason, the virtues as a framework for moral life, and uses logical reasoning for the existence of God. G.K. Chesterton referred to this view as a philosophy of common sense. St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274, with his *Summa Theologica* left unfinished after a mystical experience caused him to abandon it. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1323, and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

The Apostles' Creed

"...[He] descended into hell..."

In the biblical word, 'hell' is the scriptural description for the place of all the dead. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains (CCC 633-634) that Jesus had to "free the just who had gone before him." This meant that he was able to spread salvation and redemption to the holy men and women who had gone before him in time. His death and resurrection, which we profess at Mass and which are the cornerstone of our faith, were shared as much with those who died before him as with us today. Further, when Christ is resurrected, he arises in a whole new way — just look at some of the things that he does. The Gospels report that people like Mary Magdalene and Clopas did not at first recognize him, that he bore the marks of his crucifixion wounds, and that he ate with his disciples after the resurrection! This might seem like a little thing, but as Janet Schaeffler writes,

Perhaps the problem with the years of Jesus' physical life on earth was that he seemed so human that people couldn't

believe he was God. Now, in his risen state, it is tremendously important that people remember that he is human...the resurrection doesn't mean that finally Jesus went back to being God again. He never ceased being God. But he never ceases being human.

As St. Athanasius said, "we no longer die as those condemned but as those who will arise." This gives our three year faith plan theme — *Arise! Pilgrims of Hope* — a whole new meaning.

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

In late November, Pope Francis announced that during this year the Church will be canonizing two new saints, who you will be familiar with from our journeys with the saints in the past two years. Both Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati are going to be joining the ranks of the saints! Throughout this year, there will be Jubilee celebrations for many different groups within our Catholic communities, from police to deacons, marching bands to migrants. Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized during the Jubilee of Teenagers (April 27), and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonized during the Jubilee of Young People (August 3). Both of these saints-to-be are great witnesses to our faith and models for us all. For more information on the Jubilee, you can visit the official website [here](http://www.jubilee2020.org).



Pope's Prayer Intentions — For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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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. 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