



February 2025 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

FEB 4 – Tech Talk Night 6-7:30 pm

FEB 5 – Global Play Day

FEB 11 – Gr 6 Panago Pizza Fundraiser

FEB 12 – 100th Day!

FEB 13 – Valentine's Dance – 6-7:30 pm

NO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 17-21 for Reading Week

FEB 24 – Grade 2 Retreat @ Assumption

FEB 26 – Pink Shirt Day

FEB 26 - Division Board Meeting

FEB 27 – Hot Dog Sale

FEB 28 – Camo and Animal Print Day

MARCH 1 – Gr 6 Girls BB Bottle Drive West

MARCH 5 – Ash Wednesday Mass @9:30 5BI

MARCH 8 – Daylight Savings Time

Piitaiki'soom
(Eagle Moon)



February

February Greetings from Mme. Bouchard

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, it's a great time to reflect on our accomplishments, check in on our goals, and look ahead to all that's still to come.

In mid-January, our school district shared news of an accident involving Holy Spirit students. Among those affected were two students from our ESM community. With the family's permission, I share this with you so that we may come together as a Catholic faith community in prayer. Let us lift up the Bucud family in our hearts, praying for strength, healing, and comfort during this difficult time. Their journey of recovery will take time, and they deeply appreciate the support of our prayers. May God's grace surround them, bringing peace and restoration.

There has been a lot happening in January! We have had Lacrosse lessons. The iSwag team has supported bringing lacrosse, and Family Bingo to our school. After school skating was a lot of fun and has wrapped up for the year. The grade 6 basketball season is in full swing. **Go Bobcats!** Our January School Council meeting was a success, thanks to the dedicated parents and guardians who take time from their busy schedules to enhance our school community.

We are thrilled to invite you to our **Family Valentine's Dance** on **Thursday, February 13th, from 6:00–7:30 PM**. Join us for an evening of fun, music, and community! Glow sticks and candy bags will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting our School Committees (Leadership, Wellness, Faith, and Sports). There is a **\$1 entrance fee, but everyone is welcome, regardless of contribution**. Don't forget to bring your water bottle—we can't wait to see you there!

February is shaping up to be a lively month:

-  Grade 6 Basketball is in full swing.
-  **100 Days of School** Celebration – February 12th
-  **Valentine's (Red, Pink & Heart) Day** – February 14th
-  **Pink Shirt Day** – February 26th
-  **No School** (Family Day Week) – February 17th–21st

New student registration begins **February 1st!** We are excited to welcome new families into our incredible school community, where faith is at the heart of all we do. ESM is a place of learning, belonging, and kindness—a wonderful environment for students to grow. **"Love is spoken here."** If you have not filled out your re-registration, please so so, it helps us to plan for the upcoming school year. We are honored to journey with you and your family.

Additionally, Alberta Education is conducting its **annual Assurance Surveys**. Parents of Grade 4 students will receive a mailed survey, while Grade 4 students and staff will complete theirs online at school. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of our school, and we truly appreciate your participation.

February is a time for **friendship, kindness, acceptance, family, and love**. Wishing you a joyful and blessed month ahead!

Sincerely,
Mme. Bouchard

February Greetings from Mr. Harper

Greetings to the École St. Mary community as we step into February! We hope this month brings warmth, joy, and continued growth in faith for all.

In January, students deepened their understanding of prayer, focusing on prayers of petition and learning how the Saints can guide us in our faith life. In February, our Gospel Time will focus on prayers of blessing, offering students the opportunity to reflect on the many ways we seek and share God's grace. We also explored the Apostles' Creed, reflecting on how we proclaim our beliefs.

As we look ahead, Lent begins early this year. Shrove Tuesday falls on March 4th, giving students a chance to learn about its significance as we prepare for the Lenten season. Keep an eye out for a possible request for volunteers to help with this special day. The next morning, Ash Wednesday Mass will take place on March 5th at 9:30 AM at École St. Mary, led by Father Kevin and our 5BI class. We invite families to join us if they are able.

Later this month, on February 24th, our Grade 2 students will participate in a retreat at Assumption Parish. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in their faith, and we are grateful to Assumption Parish for hosting and to the Catholic Women's League for providing lunch and snacks for the students.

As we continue this season of faith and reflection, the École St. Mary community is praying for the wellness, healing, and well-being of all. May this month bring renewal, peace, and strength to each of you.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." - Numbers 6:24-26

Blessings to you all

A Prayer by St Ignatius of Loyola

O Christ Jesus,
when all is darkness
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,
give us the sense of Your presence,
Your love, and Your strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
in Your protecting love
and strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,
for, living close to You,
we shall see Your hand,
Your purpose, Your will through all things.

WINTER Drop Off REMINDERS



With our cold weather season upon us, it is important to remember some safety guidelines for getting your student into the school safely:

- Slow Down! Walk like a penguin in slippery areas
- Park in properly designated areas
- Remind your students to use crosswalks and avoid ice if possible
- Ensure that your student has proper winter attire, from head to toe!



Understanding Anxiety in Children



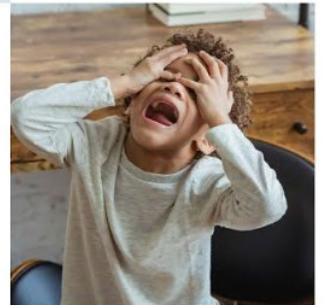
Wednesday,
February 12
6:00pm-8:00pm
Child care by
donation

Register online:
famcentre.ca/programs
Call: 403-320-4232

A workshop to help parents:

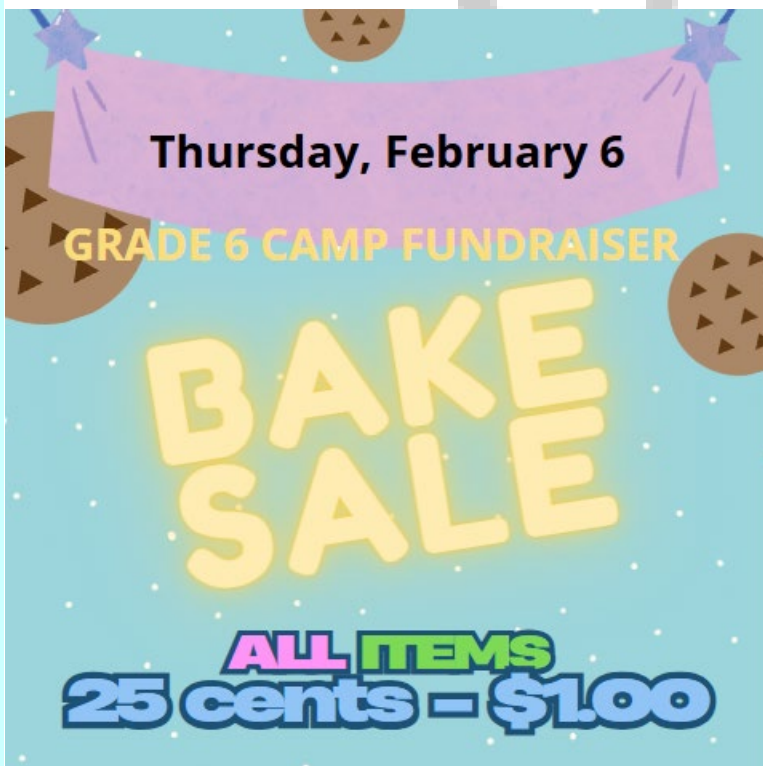
- understand what anxiety looks like
- develop strategies to help children cope
- learn about resources in the community
- find support

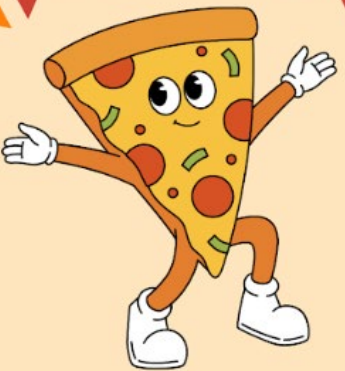
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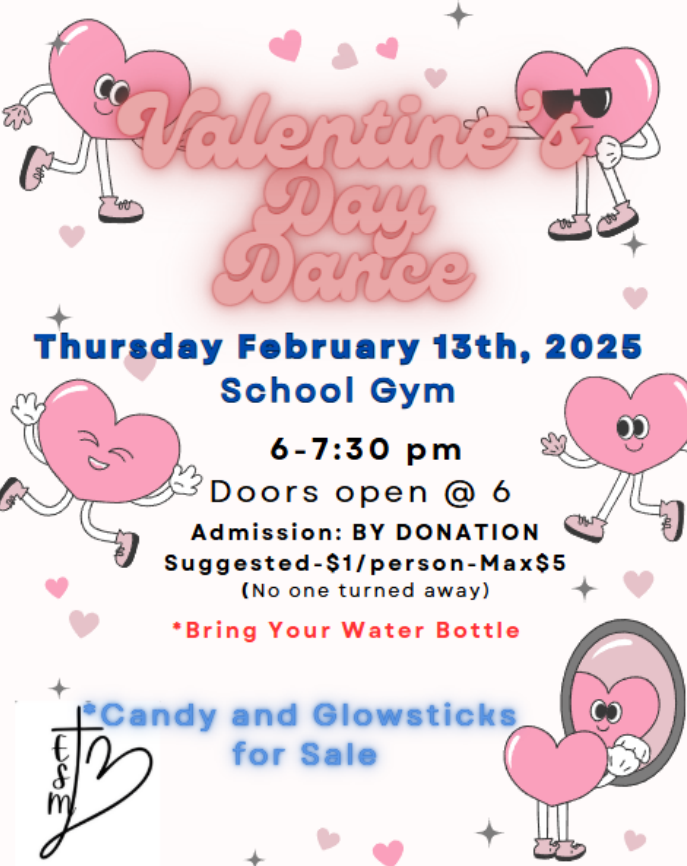
Family Centre
Suite 225, 200 - 4 Ave. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C9
403-320-4232

- Website: www.famcentre.ca
- Facebook: [@familycentreyq](https://www.facebook.com/familycentreyq)
- Instagram: [@familycentreyq](https://www.instagram.com/familycentreyq)
- LinkedIn: [Family Centre Society of Southern Alberta](https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-centre-society-of-southern-alberta)





ECOLE ST. MARY GRADE 6 CAMP
PANAGO PIZZA FUNDRAISER
PANAGO PIZZA NORTH: #30
2667 SCENIC DRIVE N, LETH
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025 ALL ORDERS PLACED DURING THE HOURS OF 11-11 OUR GRADE 6 CAMP WILL RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF SALES. DO NOT ORDER THROUGH SKIP/DOORDASH/UBER DELIVERY.
 CALL 403-310-0001 OR USE THE APP OR HEAD TO THEIR WEBSITE WWW.PANAGO.COM TO PLACE YOUR ORDER. IT'S BEST TO PRE-ORDER.



Valentine's Day Dance
Thursday February 13th, 2025
School Gym
6-7:30 pm
 Doors open @ 6
 Admission: BY DONATION
 Suggested-\$1/person-Max\$5
 (No one turned away)
***Bring Your Water Bottle**
***Candy and Glowsticks for Sale**

SAVE THE DATE!!

JULY 14-18, 2025

COMING ALIVE!

summer CAMP

- ✓ Outdoor activities
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Stories and prayer
- ✓ Snacks

Assumption Church Hall
 More details on registration to follow

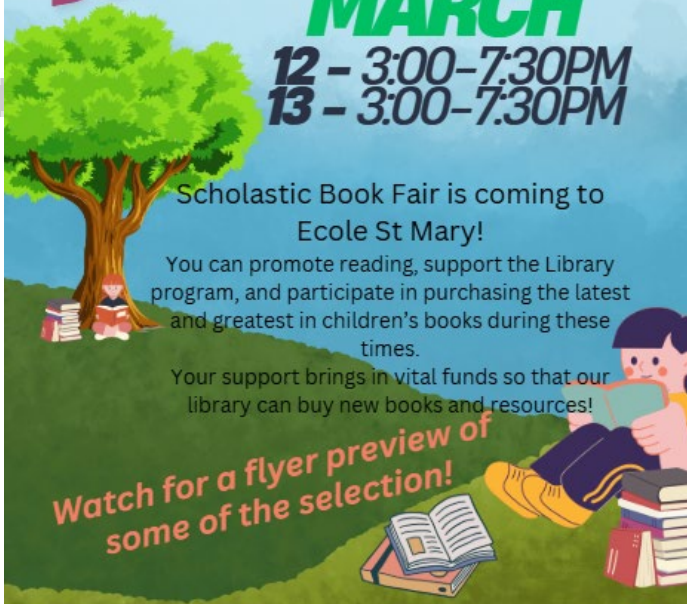


Scholastic Book Fair

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!





2025/2026 REGISTRATION



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

Bright Futures Begin Here

- Re-registration for **CURRENT** students starts **January 13, 2025**
- Registration for **NEW** students starts **February 3, 2025**



ACADEMIES



ATHLETICS



EARLY LEARNING



FINE ARTS



FRENCH
IMMERSION



INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE



www.holyspirit.ab.ca

REGISTER FOR SOFTBALL!

REGISTER AT:

www.lethbridgeminorsoftball.com

REGISTRATION RUNS JAN - MAR

Lethbridge Minor Softballs goal is to grow the sport of softball while providing a great experience for kids.

We also offer a competitive provincial team for players interested in challenging themselves further.

We believe you are never too old to play and regardless of experience we welcome you to come out and learn the sport of softball that provides fun with physical activity!



LETHBRIDGE BULLS

"CITY CONNECT"

3RD JERSEY DESIGN CONTEST



ENTER YOUR DESIGN FOR A CHANCE TO WIN SEASON TICKETS AND MUCH MORE!

2025 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL SOCCER REGISTRATION INFORMATION							
www.lethbridgesoccer.com - 403-320-5425 (KICK)							
ONLINE ONLY:		Saturday February 1st - Sunday March 23rd <i>"all registration must be done online" REGISTER YOUR PLAYER BY THEIR BIRTH YEAR</i> <i>"payments must be made online using RAMP"</i>					
IF YOU ARE USING KIDSPORT OR JUMPSTART YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR PLAYER AND PAY ONLINE WWW.LETHBRIDGESOCCER.COM BEFORE APPLYING FOR FUNDING THROUGH JUMPSTART, KIDSPORT OR CITY OF LETHBRIDGE FAP							
REGISTER:		www.lethbridgesoccer.com Request Fee covers 2 PLAYERS ONLY - \$40.00 - Payable at office or over the phone - Player requests MUST be sent by email to kirsty@lethbridgesoccer.com					
Age Group	Birthyear	Fee	# of sessions	***Days Playing***	***Fields***	***Times will alternate***	
U4 - CoEd/ Parent & Tot	2021	\$150.00	10 (30 min sessions)	Monday	Servus Sports Centre Indoor Field	5:00pm &/ or 5:45pm	
U5 - CoEd	2020	\$150.00	10 (45 min sessions)	Monday	Outdoor Servus Sports Centre Field	5:00pm &/ or 6:00pm	
U6 - CoEd	2019	\$150.00	10 (45 min sessions)	Wednesday	Outdoor Servus Sports Centre Field	5:00 &/ or 6:00pm	
U8 Boys	2017 & 2018	\$225.00	18 (55 min sessions)	Monday & Wednesday	College Field	5:00pm &/ or 6:00pm &/ or 7:00pm	
U8/ U10 Girls	2015, 2016, 2017, & 2018	\$225.00	18 (55 min sessions)	Monday & Wednesday	College Field	6:00pm	
U10 Boys	2015 & 2016	\$225.00	18 (1 hr sessions)	Tuesday & Thursday	College Field	5:00pm &/ or 6:00pm &/ or 7:00pm	
U12 Boys	2013 & 2014	\$225.00	18 (1hr sessions)	Monday & Wednesday	St. Teresa School (North)	5:00pm &/ or 7:00pm	
U12/ U14 Girls	2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014	\$225.00	18 (1hr sessions)	Monday & Wednesday	St. Teresa School (North)	6:00pm	
U14 Boys	2011 & 2012	\$225.00	18 (1 hr sessions)	Tuesday & Thursday	Gilbert Paterson School (South)	5:00pm &/ or 6:00pm &/ or 7:00pm	
U16 CoEd	2009 & 2010	\$225.00	18 (1 hr 10 min sessions)	Monday & Wednesday	Winston Churchill School (North)	6pm & 7:30pm	
U18 - CoEd	2007 & 2008	\$225.00	18 (1 hr 20 minute sessions)	Tuesday & Thursday	Alto Towaawa Park (West)	6pm & 7:30pm	
*** START TIMES CANNOT BE REQUESTED AS TIMES WILL ROTATE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON *** Sessions will be scheduled during the Victoria Day long weekend (Monday evening) ***SEASON STARTS MONDAY APRIL 28 and be complete SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2025***							
Jersey kits included in Registration price- Jersey, shorts and socks							
U4-U6 Tinkits: An introduction to soccer. All sessions run by USA Staff Coaches, with activities based around players exploring the soccer ball and getting comfortable with an invasion sport. Some small sided scrimmages may be played, but this environment is purely about the players gaining their first touches of a soccer ball.							
U8-U10 Fundamental: Individual development is paramount by building a love of the ball. Sessions will challenge players creative side as well introduce them to skills needed in the game such as dribbling, passing and shooting. Scrimmages will be played, but no scores will be kept, and all players will be asked to experience all positions of a soccer match (goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, striker).							
U12-U14 Learning The Game: This age is classed as "The Golden Age Of Learning" where skills learnt in the earlier stages are now enhanced as well as an introduction to the tactical side of the game. Scrimmages will be played and although scores will be kept during the game, coaches and players are asked to keep games meaningful, competitive and to avoid blowouts at all costs. There will be no league standings.							
U16-U18 Excel In The Game: Utilizing the technical understanding and tactical skills learnt in the previous three phases to excel in the game. Like the previous "Learning the Game" phase, coaches are asked to avoid blowouts and keep games competitive throughout.							



As part of the **Diocesan Pastoral Renewal** in this 2025 **Jubilee Year of Hope**, all civilly married couples are warmly invited to celebrate of the Sacrament of Matrimony, presided over by Bishop William T. McGrattan on **Saturday, September. 13, 2025 at 1:30 pm, at St. Mary's Cathedral.**

Your marriage is a Gift - Make it a Sacrament.

<https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/sacredgrace.html>

January Samaritan Superstars



Amir 3ME



Sebastian 1KI

Winning House Team for January



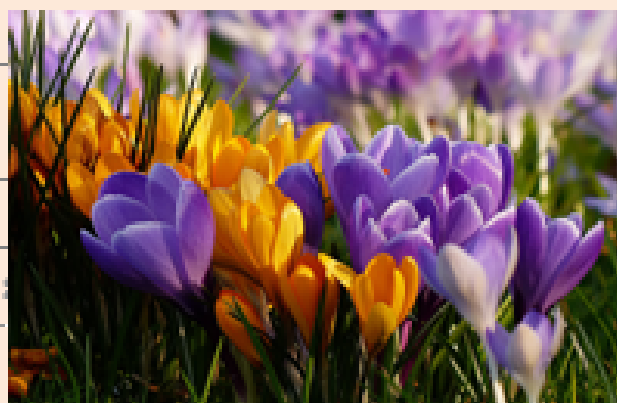
FEBRUARY 2025

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

1 Corinthians 16:14



				THU	FRI	SAT
				30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Girls' BB ESM@SPFA	Lacrosse iSwag Boys' ESM@FLVT TECH TALK 6 PM	Global Play Day Girls Basketball Practice	Gr 6 Bake Sale Boys' STC@ESM		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Lacrosse iSwag Boys' BB SPFA@ESM Gr 6 Fundraiser Panago	100 th Day! Girls' BB FLVT@ESM	Valentine's Dance 6-7:30 Boys' BB 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' BB ESM@St. Paul	Lacrosse iSwag Boys' BB ESM@CSM	Pink Shirt Day Girls' ESM@CSM Divisional Board Meeting	Hot Dog Sale Boys' BB ESM@OLA	Camo & Animal Print Day February Assembly	Gr 6 Girls BB Bottle Drive West



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	SFJH Play Celebration of Learning		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
 St Patrick's Day NO SCHOOL- PD DAY		NO SCHOOL Spiritual Development Day		CAP is in house Lenten Celebration 3 @ 2 pm 3DI/3ME		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Divisional Board Meeting	Hot Lunch	Lenten Celebration 4 @ 10:30 4CI	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	ASSEMBLY Grade 6 Retreat @ Assumption					

February

Proclaim!
Pilgrims of
Hope



*"He took what is mine in order that He might impart to me what is His.
He took it not to overturn it but to fill it."*
- St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose 339-397 (Feast Day: December 7)

St. Ambrose was born in the year 339 in the northern part of the Roman Empire. It is said that as a baby, a swarm of bees settled on his face while he was in a cradle, leaving the touch of honey on him. This is why bees are often represented with him as a symbol. To have a honeyed tongue means to be persuasive or sweet speaking — which Ambrose turned out to be as a preacher later in his life. He moved to Rome to study, and then worked in the government of the Roman Empire, becoming the governor of an area of what is today northern Italy in 372.

At some point in his adult life, Ambrose became a Christian, but he had not been baptized nor trained in theology when in 374, he suddenly became the Bishop of Milan! How did this happen? In the 300s, there was a priest named Arius who began to teach that (in very brief) God created Jesus, which meant that Jesus was lesser than (and unique from) God. These beliefs, known as Arianism, threatened to divide the church. In large part, this is why we have the Nicene Creed today. Ambrose was known to both sides of the conflict as charitable and seeking unity amongst Christians — which is why he was popularly installed. He was quickly baptized and ordained and became not only the Governor, but the Bishop. From there, he sought both unity and correct doctrine. He wrote extensively, corrected the Arians, and oversaw his diocese seeking to promote Christian unity — in fact, our popular saying today "When in Rome, do as the Romans" derives from St. Ambrose, as he responded to a controversy about local customs in the church. He died in 397, was popularly canonized, and is known today as one of the first four Doctors of the Church.



The Apostles' Creed

"...[He] ascended into heaven..."

For many of us, this section of the Creed might reinforce a perception that we have about Jesus flying away, up into heaven at the Ascension. It might be worth questioning this perception. When we examine Jesus' bodily resurrection and ascension, we recognize that in this we too have hope for our own ascent to the Father; but what might that mean? We could consider that as closer union with God; not a change of physical location. We know also that Christ told the disciples that he would be with them until the end of the age — not away from them. So rather than thinking about him flying away into absence from us, we could ponder him remaining with us, present to us in every moment. In doing so, we can shift our question from "What Would Jesus Do?" to "What is Jesus Doing?"

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.



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

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

This month, we will be joined by Trustees, clergy, senior administration and staff and students from our schools as we embark on the planning for a new three year faith plan. Continuing on in our decade-long tradition, your representatives will **Arise**, reflect on what we have **Built**, and think about how we can best **Proclaim** our faith in this next cycle. Please pray for the success of our time together and the influence of the Holy Spirit to guide the development of the plan. We want to thank all those of you who took time to watch our consultation video to provide feedback that guided this work, and we look forward to sharing the results with you later this spring!



Pope's Prayer Intentions — For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



[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 Moris 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