

St. Michael's School November 2021

St. Michael the Archangel
Our Angel of Protection

"A Community of Faith Devoted to Students"

Principal's Message

I sincerely hope and pray folks are doing as well as can be expected during these continuing ever evolving times. We must continue to put our trust inGod with the undying hope 'that this too will end.'

Until we receive the rapid testing apparatus we shall continue to carry on in the current vein, visitors to the school as such. The testing material is expected next week. As soon as this is in place I will send out a bulletin item in that regard.

Halloween takes place tomorrow at the school. Student Council has a number of activities in place for our student body. Hat Day takes place on November 4 which has been outlined previously.

Junior and Senior report cards will be sent out November 5 while Elementary reports will be sent on November 9. Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on November 18 for all. Your options are all encompassing; in person, virtual, over the phone or if you feel one is not necessary that is fine as well. Please contact Mrs. Johnson after receiving the report if an interview is required and let her know the manner of method.

Options Week is approaching and will take place November 22-26. Grades K-9 will not be in attendance. Please see inside the bulletin for details.

We are pleased to announce our first Liturgy will take place on November 2 honoring All Souls. In addition, we have tentatively booked Father to kick off the season of Advent on November 30. We are looking forward to Father's active participation in our school life.

Remembrance Day service will be on November 9 at 11:00 a.m.

School will be closed November 10 for professional day, November 11 in honor of Remembrance Day and November 12 which is a non-operational day.

Please be advised our custodian Bill Kuystermans will be out 30 days, non-COVID related. Custodial staff should be in place by the time you receive this newsletter. Please keep Bill in your prayers.

I Remain Yours Most Assuredly in Christ

Chris Sumner

Halloween

We will again have a Parade of Costumes similar to last year.

Students will parade their costumes outside starting at the front doors by the gym and heading to the front doors by the office. The parade will begin at 1:00 p.m. We encourage all students to dress in their Halloween costumes. Parents and their families are welcome to watch the parade from across the street.

Student council will have a variety of stations set up for students to participate in many games within their family cohorts. Should be a fun afternoon for all.

Remembrance Day

A Remembrance Day service will be held on Tuesday, November 9 beginning at 10:55. This is a time to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made for our freedoms. Thank you to Mr. Allen for organizing this service.

Mental Wellness Program

Over the next few weeks, the Mental Health Capacity Building

Team will be delivering a program called "Kids Have Stress Too" to the Grade 5-12 classrooms. They will be talking to our students about this very important issue in a way that is developmentally appropriate and validated by Canadian Psychologists, educators, and parents. "Kids Have Stress Too" is created by the Psychology Foundation of Canada, in partnership with Pfizer Canada.



All Souls Day is celebrated on November 2 to remember those who have passed



away. A prayer service in the school gym will be held for all students and staff that day beginning at 11:30. Thank you Ms. Matulin for organizing this service.

Catholic Education Sunday

Sunday, November 7 is Catholic Education Sunday. This is a day to celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and the important role



Catholic schools play in our province. "I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord." Jeremiah 30:17 We remember these words as we continue through the challenges the pandemic has created.

Report Cards/Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards for Jr/Sr. High will go out Friday,
November 5 and Kindergarten to Grade 6 report cards
will go home Tuesday, November 9. Parent/Teacher
Interviews can now go back to in-person. If you are not
comfortable attending an in person interview please
note that you are able to have your interview either on
line or by phone. Please see the attached Interview
Form.

School Clothing

School clothing is once again available to purchase through our online store at SportFactor. To view/purchase items please visit:

https://stmichaelsschool2021.itemorder.com/shop/sale/. Copy and paste the address into your web browser. Sale ends November 2nd in order to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Growing Great Kids

to the school bus at the end of

the day. Way to be proactive and

Once again we will be recognizing students who show kindness to others at school. Students who are spotted doing a good deed or lending a helping hand will have their name put into a draw for a \$20 Medicine Hat Mall Gift Card sponsored by the Conquerville Community Hall. One name will be drawn each month at our Birthday Assembly. The winner for the October draw was Levi Nelson who daily helps his Kindergarten Buddy find her way

Options Week

Options Week will run from November 22-26 for all Senior High students. Kindergarten to Grade 9 will not attend school during this time. Thank you to Mrs. Schwab and Ms. Matulin who will be running the CADD (Computer Aided Design & Drafting) program as well to Mrs. Weatherhead who will be running the Food Studies program.

AR Program

The AR Program has been running for 35 school days with 35 out of 76 students participating. Students have taken 357 quizzes passing 326 of the giving the school an average of 89%. Great Job Everyone!





Hot Lunches

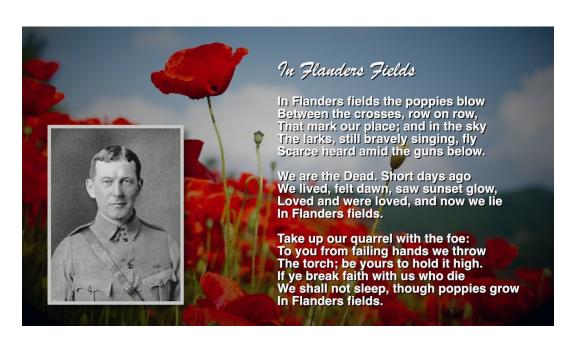
The next Peter's Pizza lunch is set for November 4. Order deadline is Sunday, October 31. Thank you for supporting the Grad Class of '22.

Parent Council is hosting a FREE hot lunch on November 16. Details will be forwarded when complete.

Pita Pit Day is set for November 18. Orders need to be in by November 14. Winners of the free item are: Brooklyn Weatherhead, Mia Klassen, Michael Heinrichs Yuri Numagami and Hunter Nelson.

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts for Athletics.

Hot Dog day is November 30. Orders are due November 17. Funds raised will go toward the Kale Porteous Splash Park. Thank you for your continued support.



November 2021

15
22 Options Week NO SCHOOL for K—Grade 9 29

Parent/Teacher Interview Schedule

In-Person Interviews for K-12 students will be held November 18 from 4:00-8:30 p.m. by appintment. Interviews will be scheduled at 20 minute intervals. Please return this Interview Request Form or contact the school by email at johnsond@holyspirit.ab.ca or telephone (403) 545-2131 by 9:00 a.m. November 17.

Please be respectful of the time alloted for your interview in order to avoid line-ups so that we can maintain social distancing.

Mr. Allen Mrs. Schwab Mr. Sumner			
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SPORTFACTOR





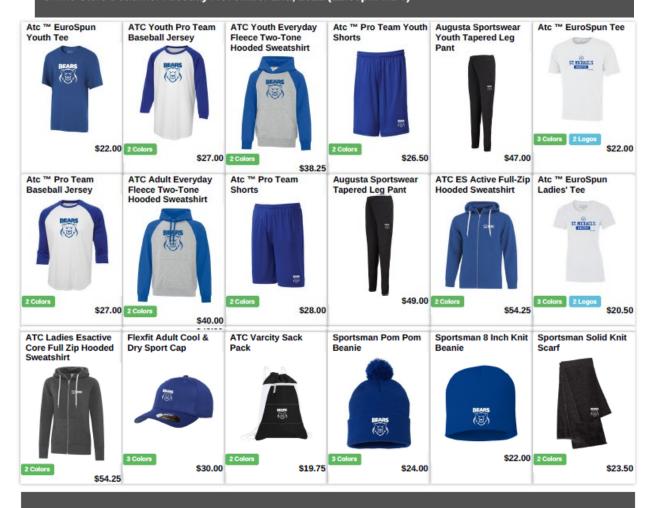
St. Michaels School Spirit Wear 2021 - FALL

This store will be close Nov.2nd at 11:59pm and orders will be delivered to the school in 4-5 weeks after the closing date to ensure all items will arrive to the school before the Winter holidays.

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

- Scan the QR code or go online to https://stmichaelsschool2021.itemorder.com/
 Choose your items and add them to your cart
 Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: Tuesday November 2nd, 2021 (11:59pm MDT)





Questions? Michelle Standing 1-888-989-9090 lyndsy@sportfactor.net http://www.sportfactor.net/

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS



Green Certificate Meeting

Lethbridge College There is a Virtual Information Meeting on November 3 at 7:00pm. for all students and parents who would like to know more about this agricultural based program. Join the meeting at:

https://lethbridgecollege.zoom.us/ i/99785719403? pwd=d0JpQng2cGhBSFpMY3ZhbU5VSEpKdz09

October Hours

All RAP and Work Experience students please remember to hand in or send your October time sheets or pay stubs to



Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr.

Green Certificate Testing

Green Certificate testing will take place on November 23 and 24 at the Lethbridge College. Let Mr. Boschee know ASAP if you are wanting to test on those dates.

Virtual Career Exploration Session

Want to know what is like to be a Dental Hygienist? Join Career Transitions on **November** 25 at 7:00pm to find out. Register at: careersteps.ca/exploration-sessions/

Medicine Hat College Open House

MHC is hosting an On-Campus Open House Event



on Thursday, November 3, 2021 5:30-8:00pm

Register at: https://www.mhc.ab.ca/ FutureStudents/OpenHouse

Virtual Post-Secondary Fair

Career Transitions is hosting a Virtual Fair on November 4th from 6:00-7:30pm. There will be 36 different institutions in attendance and also presentations on Scholarship and Financial Aid and Transitioning to Post-Secondary at 6:00 and 6:45pm.

Register at: www.careersteps.ca/post-secondaryfair

CAREER

U of A Green & Gold **Getaway Weekend**

The University of Alberta is hosting a weekend on May 27 to 29, 2022 for grade 11 students to experience student life at the U of A. Students will stay in residence, check out state-of-the-art facilities, learn about the 200+ programs offered, have tours of the city & campus and much more. There

is also a reimbursement for travel to Edmonton.

Deadline to apply is January 28, 2022. For more information go to:

https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/ undergraduate/tours-and-events/uofagetaway.html

What Is Engineering?

Learn about first-year engineering virtually at The University of Saskatchewan on November 9 from 5:00-7:00pm

Register at:

https://admissions.usask.ca/tours-and-events/ events.php#Undergraduateadmissionsandprograms informationsessions





Your Off-Campus Team

Mark Boschee - Off-Campus Coordinator Cell: 587-220-4258 or Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca Wendy Gurr - Career Practitioner - 403-327-4596 Ext 312 or Email: gurrw@holyspirit.ab.ca



IT'S BASKET TIME, IN COVID TIMES!!!

Hello everyone! The Auction Committee is excited to announce that, the St. Michael's 19th Annual Auction IS ON ... ONLINE!! Given the current challenges of COVID19 and the ongoing changes with Government of Alberta guidelines, the decision was made to have the annual auction ONLINE!! In keeping with tradition, the auction will be completed on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021 – the first Friday of December! More details will follow, so keep watching for ongoing announcements, and look for us on Facebook for all the details!

Last year's basket themes changed due to COVID, and they raised record amounts for supporting the kids and programs for St. Michael's School! This year, given the ongoing COVID times we now live in, we want to continue on with these wonderful GIFT CARD BASKETS!! We are asking that each student DONATE A GIFT CARD for each GIFT CARD BASKET that will be created for each grade/group as outlined below. The GIFT CARD WREATH has continued to be one of the all-time favorite baskets at the St. Michael's Auction, so these will be an incredible draw for all, and will make it super easy for everyone to contribute to!!

As a reminder, all students are asked to contribute to the baskets. All students and staff are welcome to donate to as many baskets as they would like! And, we know students often want to donate an item to help the auction, and they can certainly donate any new items they would like that will go into the online auction – just be sure to contact one of our committee members to make arrangements.

The GIFT BASKET THEMES specific to each grade and staff are as follows:

- 1. Junior high and Senior high students: Just one basket theme this year: THE GIFT CARD WREATH OF ALL GIFT CARD WREATH OF ALL GIFT CARD WREATHS!! I'm sure you know what to do for this basket! © In keeping with auction tradition, gift cards of every and any kind will decorate this incredible wreath! Try to be unique with your choices, not just restaurants. The next time you're at one of your favorite spots, pick up a gift card we can't wait to see all those great choices!
- **2.St. Michael's Staff: 'JUST US GROWN UPS' GIFT CARD BASKET!** For just the staff to contribute to! Think of this one as your ultimate shopping gift card basket. Pick up a gift card from one of your favorite boutiques, shops, activities, restaurants ... it's all about the grown-ups for these ones, so be sure to have some fun with this one!!
- 3. Kindergarten/Grade1/2/3: 'FAMILY TIME' GIFT CARD BASKET!! There are a lot of challenges with COVID, but it's probably allowed us to have more time together as families. For some, maybe this would be a gift card to your favorite book store, toy store or game store! Or maybe someone would have a favorite place to go to and enjoy as a family! We can't wait to see what families are doing or enjoying the most these days, so when you're out and about at your favorite spot, pick up a gift card and share the fun that your family has!
- 4. Grade 4/5/6: 'KIDS ONLY' GIFT CARD BASKET!! We're combining all four classes to create this basket again this year! Just think of all the things you could put into this basket that's for KIDS ONLY!! Gift cards for games, books, cards, CDs, DVDs, headphones, electronics, sports and more!! There is no limit to what gift cards you can put into this one! The only guideline is that it must be a gift card that kids will love!

PLEASE NOTE: All donated items are due by Friday, November 19th, prior to Options Week. The sooner we have auction donations in, the sooner we can add them to the online auction site for everyone to start their browsing and bidding. If you're able to bring in items for the baskets sooner to help get the site together more readily, we will happily accept donations at any time. © If anyone wishes to donate individually to the auction as well, please connect with one of our Auction Committee members to arrange for an item to be picked up as the school cannot house the donations given COVID restrictions. Please be sure to write who donated each item so we know who to thank!

Thanks everyone for all your efforts to make this year's 19th Annual St. Michael's School Auction a great success that will enable our students and programming to be supported!! We always feel so truly appreciative and grateful for everything you do!! If there are any questions, you can email our committee at

(smbiauction@gmail.com) or call/text 403.315.3958. Or, if you wish you can reach out to one of our committee members: Rob Van Roessel, Kelly Thacker, Mildred Thurston, Christa Bueckert, or Cassandra Kielstra.

Thanks again! St. Mike's Auction Committee

SHOW ST. MIKE'S YOUR



Dear Sponsors & Donors, Past and Present,

St. Michael's Parent Council, Bow Island is excited to announce that the 19th Annual Auction Fundraiser is ON!! Given the current challenges of COVID19 and the ongoing changes with Government of Alberta guidelines, the annual auction will be ONLINE!! In keeping with tradition, the online auction will be completed on by 9PM on DECEMBER 3, 2021 – the first Friday of December.

This remains our only major fundraiser of the year, and that's why we wanted to continue moving forward with an ONLINE auction again this year. The funds raised will continue to be used for such things as enhancing the technology program, providing cultural events, and supporting the library program to name just a few of the benefits to our students. We are asking for your support with an item for our auction, a monetary donation or perhaps you would like to consider a sponsorship! Your company then receives advertising mentions in an online auction format, local publication mentions, as well as in the local newspaper directly after the auction occurs.

We also have a LIMITED number of key sponsorships available that offer a great way to promote your company while also supporting our students, our school and our community. There are ONLY 10 sponsorships available with unique ways to promote your business, so act quickly! Please ask the committee representative that provided this letter to you for more information.

A representative of St. Michael's School Auction Committee will contact you within the coming weeks to request your support. Alternatively, donations of new/unused items may be provided to one of our committee members. If you require any assistance, please contact Michelle MacLean (403.315.3958).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Chris Sumner St. Michael's Principal Michelle MacLean Auction Chair

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19th ANNUAL ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL AUCTION SPONSORSHIPS



THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING AUCTION SPONSORSHIP FOR ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL!

All sponsors will receive:

- DONOR WALL RECOGNITION
- Sponsorship mention on AUCTION WEBSITE BANNER PAGE
- Acknowledgement on SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to these forms of promotion for your business, each level of sponsorship will also receive:

ELEMENTARY \$500 (only 5 available)

- Event slide show on Facebook 1 slide
- Social Media 3 mentions
- ALL event PRINT advertising

JUNIOR \$1000+ (only 3 available)

- Event slide show on Facebook 3 slides
- Social Media 5 mentions with link to website
- ALL event PRINT advertising
- Logo on auction website, wherever possible
- ALL event advertising (Facebook, print, posters)
- Mentioned in all press releases

SENIOR \$2000+ (only 2 available)

- Event slide show on Facebook 5 slides
- Social Media 7 mentions with logo and link to website
- ALL event PRINT advertising
- Logo on auction website, wherever possible
- ALL event advertising (Facebook, print, posters)
- Mentioned in all press releases
- Video of sponsor message on the auction Facebook page

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!
THERE WILL ONLY BE 10!!

Be part of a GREAT sponsorship program that provides GREAT exposure for your business, & an even GREATER impact on our students, our school and our community.

*IF COVID RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES SHOULD CHANGE AND AN IN-PERSON EVENT IS POSSIBLE, WE WILL ADD ADDITIONAL EVENT SIGNAGE FOR EACH SPONSORSHIP LEVEL. St. Michael's PAC Meeting---Tuesday October 19, 2021 @ 6:30pm

In attendance: Tara Robertson, Simone Mastel, Jaime Van Ham, Tamara Grol, Stephanie and Rob Hlady, Andrea Lodders, Christina Remijn, Erin Biegel, Miss Crooymans, Mrs. Weatherhead, Bethany (student council rep) and Rebecca Hintz

Minutes taken by Rebecca Hintz

- 1. Call the Meeting to order @6:32pm by Tara
- 2. Opening Prayer was given by Miss Crooyman
- 3. Delegations: n/a
- 4. Approval of Agenda by Jill Weatherhead
- 5. Approval of Minutes: 1st> Rebecca, 2nd> Stephanie
- 6. Correspondence Just programing information that Tara is going to look further into from the AB. School Council association.

7. Reports

- a. Trustee Report None but the body of people in attendance did want it noted that some people felt this gap after the election during these trying times felt greater than in the past.
 - b. Student Council report given by Bethany.
- 1st hat day fundraiser brought in \$77. Next <u>Hat Day is November 4th</u>. Student Council is busy currently organizing fun Halloween activities. With having to set up family activities differently this year they have decided to keep everyone excited and participating that the family at the end of the school year with the highest points accumulated wins a pizza party!!!
 - c. Teacher's Report / d. Principal's Report given by Mrs. Weatherhead

we had a birthday assembly. To give the older students more chance to be leaders Anke- Marie and Peyton were the hosts. We added a new award to the assembly: the leader in me. The ambassador club hosted by our international exchange kids. The theme this time was food and enjoyed by the high school kids. K-2 went to a fieldtrip to Neubauer Farms. Hot lunch which was a baked potato and apple slices went over great. Mr. Summner will be coming out with a better COVID update. Parent Teacher interviews is going to be parents' choice of either in person or virtual on November 18th. Report cards will come out on Jr/Sr.- November 5th, and Elementary on November 9th. Next birthday assembly will be November 18th. Options week November 22-26 1st option is CAD and 2nd option unconfirmed. There was a letter sent out by Mrs. Weatherhead to tell Jr. High parents more about CTF. Gr. 7-9 will be attending 4-5 sessions surrounding mental health. Safety patrol is a go this year.

Athletic Director note from Mrs. Matulin

Volleyball is in full swing. It has been great to see the kids back on the court. We have been Facebook livestreaming the games to keep everyone connected. Mini volleyball with gr. 4-6 will soon be

starting for the year. School clothing store will be soon up and running with an order going in November 2^{nd} .

e. Treasurer's Report: Andrea moved her report be as presented in the email Tara sent out. 2nd by Christina. Passed.

The Gr5-11 warm shirts have been ordered (1 for every sudent)

f. Fundraising Committee Report given by Rob

December 3rd completely online like last year. Please feel free to donate and help fill a basket!

g. Hot lunch program report nothing was available.

- 8. Chair Report:
- a. nothing to report
- 9. Old Business:
 - a. Committee for look at current Constitution was formed by Tara, Stephanie, Jill and Tamara
 - b. Answers to questions from Sept 23 meeting
- 1. Pita Pit profits went toward our year end awards & scholarships. A total of \$1350.61 profit was transferred from our fundraising account to the Scholarship account
- 2. Pizza profits were transferred from Grad Fundraising account to the Grad Account. A total of \$597.10 profits were raised
- 3. The Basketball program has been running a deficit for several years because fees were too low (Trying not to place a larger burden on parents). We have been slowly paying that down with money raised in our concession. Pre COVID the concession is open for our home games.
- 4. The chicken drumsticks were part of the Grad Fundraising account. \$3325.00 profit was realized and transferred into the Grad account last. It was reflected in the September 1/20 to Jan. 15/21 Financial report given to PAC.
- 10. New business
- A. Questions/queries for the school?
- *ATTENTION FAMILIES PLEASE CHECK YOUR JUNKMAIL IN YOUR EMAILS BECAUSE FOR SOME REASON MANY PEOPLE ARE NOT RECEIVING COMMUNICATION AND FINDING IT THERE FROM HOLY SPIRIT, SMBI, AND EVEN PAC.

We would like more clarifications about volunteers not being allowed in concession.

PAC would like to see the school re-distribute information on communication options and the how to's for these options. I.e., School messenger, and power school, etc.

B. Elections

Rebecca is willing to let her name stand to be secretary but we still need someone to step up as <u>vice president</u> and we would love to see more people attend the meetings.

- 11. Next Meeting: Tues Nov 16, 2021 @ 6:30pm
- 12. Adjournment by Tara @ 7:47pm

13. Important Dates:

- Oct 25- no school Mar 21-25- Options week
- Nov 10-12- no school April 1- no school
- Nov 22-26 Options Week
- April 18-22- Easter break
- Dec 3- School Auction May 20 no school
- Dec 20-Jan 3- Christmas break
- Jan 28- no school
- Feb 21-25- Feb break

St. Michael's School &

Preschool

Tuesday

November 16th



Demonstrate Kindness

& WEAR PINK













Accept our Purple Challenge.....

Wear Purple

one day this month in support of Prevention of Family Violence

Challenge co-workers, family, friends or business to see who could collect the most supplies for the Women's Shelter Drop off supplies at the FCSS office by November 30th FCSS office at 403-867-2766

INKSHIRTDAY.CA

you will never regret being kind



Accept our Purple Challenge....

Wear Purple one day during the month of November in support of Prevention of Family Violence

Reach Out. Speak Out. campaign encourages community members to learn where they can turn to receive support for themselves or those they are concerned about. When someone experiences family violence, their

well-being, security and survival are threatened. Anyone who is in, or aware of an abusive situation, is encouraged to reach out for resources in your community.

challenge co-workers, family, friends or business to see who could collect the most supplies. Some of undergarments, PJ's– for all members of families, etc. Drop off supplies at the FCSS Offices , Town Office or CRC by November 30th. For more information contact the FCSS office at 403-545-2200 The Forty Mile Regional FCSS is collecting supplies for the Women's Shelter and we want you to ideas of items could be gift cards, shampoo, body wash, personal hygiene items, socks

Resources available for support:

Family Violence Info Line— Call 310-1818 toll free Available 24/7

Family Violence Info Line Chat— alberta.ca/Safety Chat 8-8 daily

Senare Center 403-548-2717 -www.sanarecentre.ca

Family Violence Info Line—310-1818—www.alberta.ca/endfamilyviolence

Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society—403-223-0483— www.tabersafehaven.ca Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society— 403-583-1091— www.mhwss.csa

Forty Mile Regional FCSS- 403-545-2200 for more information on

other resources.





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The Catholic Bishops Les évêques catholiques Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T780.469.1010 F780.465.3003

'I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord.' Jeremiah 30:17



November 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The fourth wave of this pandemic continues to challenge us. In the midst of illness, uncertainty and insecurity, these prophetic words of Jeremiah resonate deeply: "I will heal your wounds," says the Lord. "I will restore you to health." These words offer comfort and hope to our Catholic school communities here in Alberta as they celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on November 7, 2021. In solidarity with our fellow Ontario Catholic educators, we embrace the theme: Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together.

The difficult circumstances of these past two years have placed upon our families the heavy burden of worry and uncertainty as they strove to support the educational learning of their children. Our Catholic schools worked closely with parents through the dedicated efforts of trustees, superintendents, teachers and staff, all deeply committed to fulfilling the vision of Catholic education for more than 183,500 students in 450 schools across the province of Alberta. The many acts of sacrificial love made for the sake of our students give witness to our faith, and serve to rebuild, restore and renew Catholic education. Together, our parish and school communities encourage parents to continue to choose a Catholic school for their children. We are grateful for the treasure that is Catholic education, and are eager to share it.

Catholic Education Sunday is an annual event that serves to celebrate the important and critical role that our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta. It provides us with an opportunity to recognize the vibrant faith that is the foundation of our Catholic schools, and encourages us to reflect with gratitude on the countless blessings to be found within the Catholic educational community. Catholic Education Sunday also serves to challenge each of us to step forward as advocates, inspired and emboldened to ensure the future of Catholic education as an essential dimension of the mission of the Church.

We, the Bishops of Alberta, recognize the vital role of Catholic education in the life and future of the Church and society. We are deeply committed to ensuring the integrity of our Catholic schools and the gift of faith offered to our students and their families. With hope and boldness, we must rebuild, restore and renew together the wonderful legacy of Catholic education.

As the pandemic continues to challenge us, we encourage all who have worked tirelessly to promote Catholic education to stay strong, continue your good work, pray for inspiration and guidance, and be strengthened in the promise offered to all believers: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast". (1Peter 5:10)

In this Year of St Joseph, during May's Catholic Education Week, we consecrated all of Alberta's Catholic schools to the loving care of St Joseph. As we continue to ask for the intercession of our patron saint, we call all the faithful across our province to unite in a novena prayer for our Catholic Schools. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AStZtrZHjFCgLJEBd-x F4WeioS96MA0/edit

Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift which must not be taken for granted. Our commitment to Catholic education is steadfast. Together with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE), we shall continue our efforts to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

United in prayer, let us humbly and confidently ask our loving God to rebuild, restore and renew all of our Catholic schools through His providential care.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton

Richard S

Most Reverend David Motiuk

Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Hanl Terris

Most Reverend Paul Terrio

Bishop of St. Paul

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan

+ William M. Thur

Bishop of Calgary

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR

Archbishop Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Together on the Journey

"Desire therefore my words; long for them and you will be instructed. Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her."

Wisdom 6:11-12



ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Catherine was born around 287 in Alexandria, Egypt. She was of noble birth, possibly a princess. She was educated and an avid scholar. When the emperor Maxentius began persecuting Christians, Catherine visited him to denounce his cruelty. Maxentius summoned fifty orators and philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defense of her faith. Her words were so moving that several of the pagans converted to Christianity and were immediately executed. Catherine was eventually ordered to be executed on a breaking wheel. When Catherine was presented before the wheel, she touched it and a miracle occurred that caused the wheel to shatter. Unable to torture her to death, the emperor simply ordered her beheaded. One account claimed that angels took her body to Mt. Sinai. In the sixth century, the Emperor Justinian ordered a monastery established in her name. The monastery, Saint Catherine's, remains to this day and is one of the oldest in the world.







The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

St. Catherine was known for her wisdom which is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are bestowed on the faithful when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gifts allow the faithful to become God's special instruments in this world.

Isaiah foretold that the Holy Spirit would rest upon the promised Messiah, Emmanuel, and that he would possess wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2), and piety. As Jesus was blessed with these gifts by his Father, every believer is blessed with the same gifts by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

Wisdom is the first gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the ability to exercise good judgment. It is grounded in common sense and comes from life experience, thoughtful reflection, and learning life's lessons in "The School of Hard Knocks." Wisdom distinguishes between right and wrong, seeks and upholds truth and justice, and balances personal good with the common good.

Understanding is the gift of intelligence and enlightenment. It is the ability to perceive, comprehend, and interpret information; to have insight and discern meaning.

Counsel is good advice. It is the ability to teach and inform, guide and direct, warn and admonish, recommend and encourage. The Holy Spirit offers this special gift to parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, advisors, supervisors, elders, and the like. Counsel is not only the ability to give good advice, but to receive it as well.

Fortitude is an unwavering commitment to God or a proper course of action, and it shows itself in moral strength, courage, determination, patient endurance, long-suffering, a resolute spirit, stamina, and resiliency.

Knowledge is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain, and master a wide spectrum of information; and to put it to good use for constructive purposes.

Fear of the Lord is awe, reverence, and respect for God. It downplays human self-sufficiency and acknowledges that everything comes from God. Consequently, those who "Fear the Lord" gladly offer their praise, worship, and adoration to God alone.

Piety is the only gift not part of Isaiah's original list. Piety is personal holiness, the ability to live a decent life, free of sin, devoted to God, and obedient to God's will.

is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you."

- James 1:5

Click here to view a larger image of The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Together on the Journey



School: St. Catherine

Feast Days and Celebrations November 2021

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Souls' Day
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 14 World Day of the Poor
- 25 Memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria
- 28 1st Sunday of Advent

As you journey with St. Catherine this month...

WEEK ONE

The internet provides us with access to great knowledge and some of the world's best teachers. Take some time to learn more about St. Catherine and her life. What is something that you've learned about St. Catherine that you didn't know before?



WEEK TWO

In her time, St. Catherine spoke against cruelty and stood up for those who were being persecuted. In our day, we pause this week to remember the sacrifices of those who have served our country, for those who have been victims of aggression and inhumanity, and to pray for peace. Take time this week to make a note and pray about how you can participate in bringing God's peace into the world.

WEEK THREE

God answered Catherine's prayers, but not always in ways she expected. Are we prepared to receive God's answers to our prayers, even when they're not what we're expecting? If we are, we will receive, like Catherine, even more joy than we imagined. Write a prayer, or say a prayer in your heart asking God for His help with any problems you are having.

WEEK FOUR

The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. Each time a candle is lit we are one step closer to Christmas. We await with hopeful anticipation the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As we light the first Advent candle, may we put aside all worry and stress and allow our hearts to be open for the day when we celebrate Jesus' birth. What are you hopeful for this Advent season?



Sunday Gospel Readings

Nov. 7th/32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 14th/33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 13:24-32

Nov. 21st/34th Sunday in Ordinary Time John 18:33b-37

> Nov. 28th/1st Sunday of Advent Luke 21:25-28, 34-36





What Are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis