



St. Michael the Archangel
Our Angel of Protection

St. Michael's School January 2024

"A Community of Faith Devoted to Students"



Congratulation

We would sincerely like to thank the Auction Committee for all their hard work again this year. The night was another great success raising over \$30,000 for the school. The money raised will help with several programs including art, music, options, field trips breakfast program and so much more. Congratulations on another wonderful night.

Growing Great Kids

It is always nice to see the number of students called up each month at our Birthday Assemblies for doing good deeds. The winner of the \$20 Medicine Hat Mall Gift Card was Victoria Burgess who always helps put away the dodge balls on Fridays.. Great Job Victoria. Thank you to the Conquerville Community Hall for sponsoring the gift card each month. Thank you to all of the students who are recognized each month. Your kindness and helpfulness are essential to making St. Michael's School GREAT.

Hot Lunches

Peter's Pizza Day is set for January 18.

Parent Council will be serving a FREE hot lunch to all students and staff on January 25. On the menu is hamburger soup, biscuit and veggies. Thank you School Council for always looking after us.

January 30 is set for Popcorn Day.

The concession will not be available on Hot Lunch days except for beverages.

Mission Mexico

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Mission Mexico Collection. We were able to raise \$108. Thank you everyone for your support of Mission Mexico

Christmas Concert



Thank you once again to Mrs. Pollock for another successful Christmas Concert. Congratulations to all the participants for another great evening. Everyone enjoyed your performances a great deal.

Exam Schedule

An exam schedule will be sent out in the new year. Please note the following dates for Diploma Exams:

January 11	Social 30-1 Part A
January 24	Social 30-1 Part B
January 26	Chemistry 30

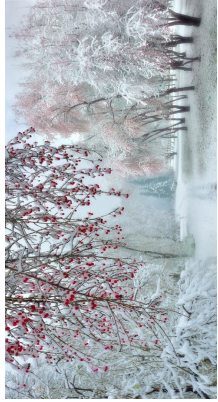
School Council

The next School Council meeting will be held January 17 at 5:30. Everyone is invited to attend. Free babysitting is available upon request.

Family ART Night

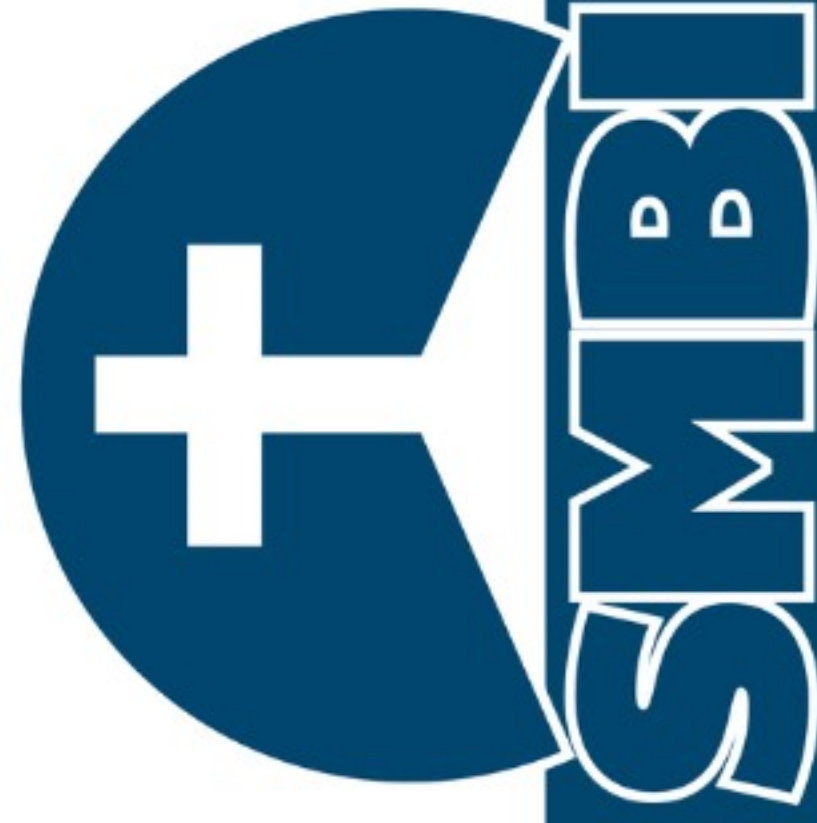


School Council will be holding a free Family Art Night on February 7 for all students and their families. Please see the attached poster for more details.



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Welcome Back		SMILE Time	Social 30-1 Part A Diploma	NO SCHOOL Non Operational Day	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			SMILE Time School Council Meeting 5:30	Peter's Pizza Day Birthday Assembly 12:15	NO SCHOOL Non Operational Day	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			SMILE Time Social 30-1 Part B Diploma Division Board Meeting	School Council FREE HOT LUNCH	NO SCHOOL Staff PD Day Chemistry 30 Diploma	
28	29	30	31			
		Popcorn Day	SMILE Time Semester Break No School for Grade 10-12			



St. Michael's School

A Community of Faith Devoted to Students

Family ART Night

Wed. Feb. 7 - 6-8 pm

St. Michael's School

All ages welcome!

**Kids must be accompanied
by an adult.**

RSVP to

(403) 545- 2131

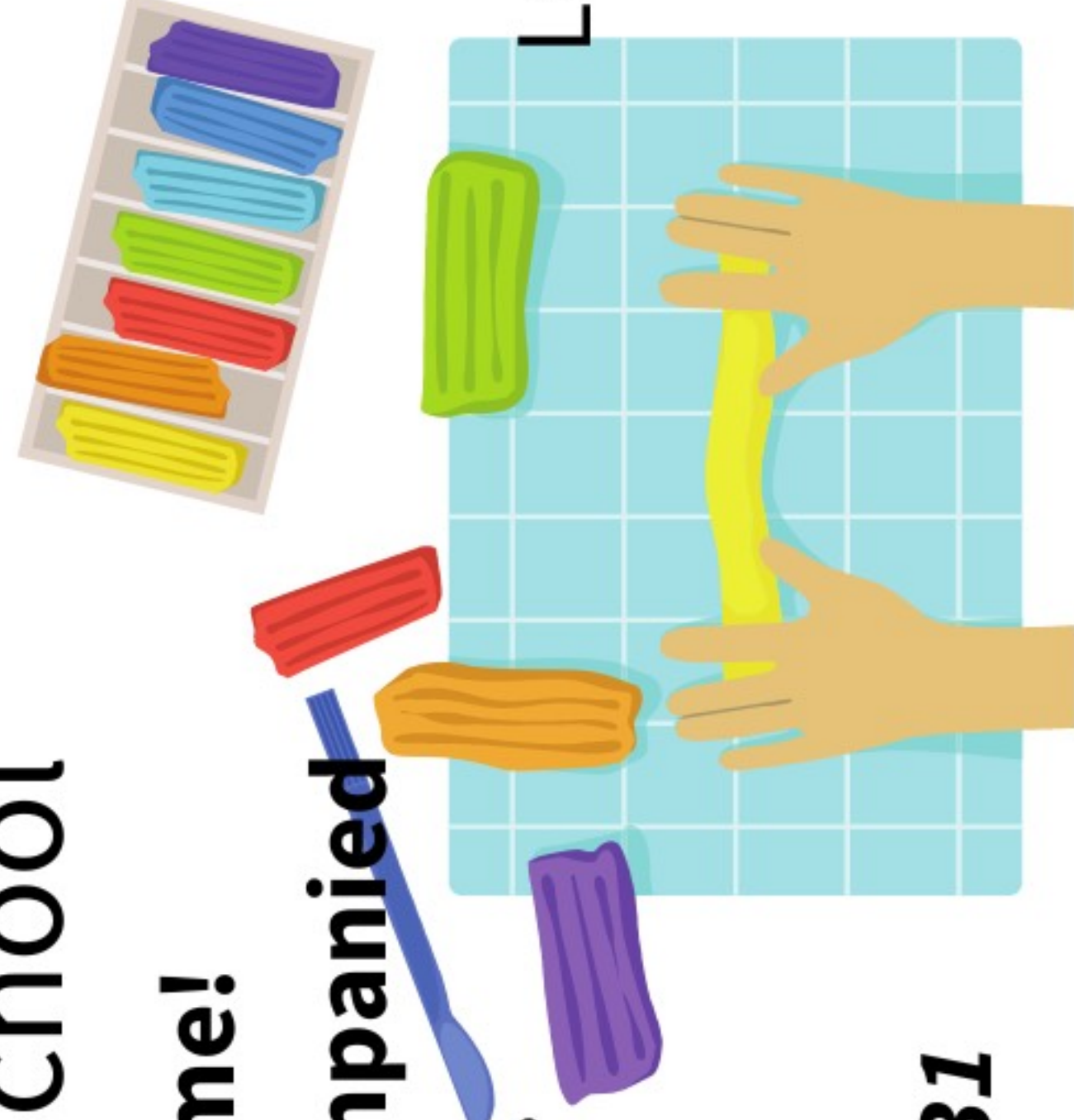
Free Family Plastercine

Art Night.

*Inspired by Canadian
author & Illustrator*

Barbara Reid.

**Led by Erin Stelmaschuk
Biegel.**



Door Prize!

January

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"

James 2:15-16

St. Martin de Porres 1579-1639 (Feast Day: November 3)

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. His father, a Spanish nobleman, abandoned the family, and so Martin was raised by his mother, a former enslaved person from Panama. Martin grew up in poverty and eventually became an apprentice to a barber-surgeon. During this time, there was prejudice and discrimination against those of mixed racial heritage, which made Martin's life very difficult. This even extended to the religious life, as he was not allowed to become a full member of a religious order and could serve only as a lay volunteer.

Martin, however, was not deterred by this discrimination. He joined the Dominicans as a volunteer, taking on kitchen work, cleaning, and laundry in addition to his barbering so that he could live in the religious community. He considered all of this work to be holy, and during this time many miracles occurred. At the age of 34, Martin was placed in charge of the infirmary, where he cared for both the sick of the Dominicans as well as the larger community of Lima. He was known for his patience and compassion in this role. During his life he also was well known for the collection of funds to serve the poor and hungry, and he also founded a residence for orphans in Lima. He was also well known for his care for animals, and is often shown with them in his imagery. When he was canonized in 1962, he became the first black saint of the Americas.

"Building" In Our Schools

This past month, our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division joined together to celebrate the season of Advent through our Advent Blessing videos. For each week of Advent, a video was created that included a Gospel reading, reflection, artwork, and music, all provided by students within the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. The videos were a shining representation of staff and students joining together in remembrance and celebration of the arrival of Jesus, and in the hope of his return.



Corporal Works of Mercy — Give Drink to the Thirsty —

While often connected to Feed the Hungry, the Corporal Work of Giving Drink to the Thirsty is actually a separate work. If we think about the context of Christ's time, we recognize the scarcity and importance of water in the arid land He inhabited (something we know about in our area as well!). Water is often referred to in scripture, both in concrete and spiritual ways. If we think about the concrete action of giving drink to another, we can see in it a gracious act of hospitality, a thoughtful expression of love, and a desire to seek the good of the other. We all know the importance of water to our bodies, how clean water impacts health, and how access to water is limited, not just in far away places but also very close to home.

Consider one of the following practical suggestions from the USCCB:

- We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need.
- Organize a group to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families.
- Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

"Always consider others as more holy and more worthy than you, at the same time strive to be as holy as you can be." (St. Martin de Porres)

Catholic Social Teaching — Preferential Option for the Poor —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at participation - the belief that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives. This supports subsidiarity, the dignity of the human person, and the pursuit of the common good.

This month, we are considering the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, also known as the Preferential Option for the Poor. As Development and Peace Canada suggests,

The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable people are treated. God loves all people, but prioritizes and calls us to a unique concern for the poor.

Throughout scripture, we see constantly that God is keenly interested in those at the margins, and He calls us to live in solidarity with them, prioritizing their needs so that they can fully participate in society and have hope for a better future. Each of our recent Popes, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, have written extensively about this - and we see it constantly lived out by the saints, including St. Martin de Porres.

Learn more about the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable with one of these resources:

[Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) (YouTube)
[Preferential Option for the Poor](#)
[Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) (USCBC)



Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star...” — Matthew 2:10

The Magi were called to find the child that had come into the world as a king. They knew that he was the chosen one. They made many sacrifices in order to find him, and most likely encountered hardships on their journey. They didn't quit. They didn't give up. They persevered. Can you imagine their joy in finally arriving at their destination, the place where the child lay in his mother's arms? It must have been the greatest blessing they'd ever known. We can have that same joy when we seek out Jesus in our lives and find him.

How do you seek Jesus in your life? When you find him, how does it make you feel?

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to look and search for you in our lives with the same desire that the Magi had when they set out on their journey.

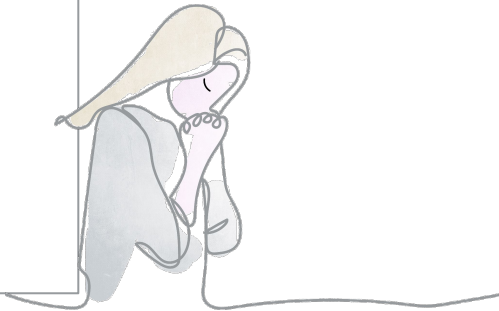


Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” — 1 Samuel 3:10

Many times we enter into prayer with a long list of requests—things we think God should do for us because we know what's best. But in today's scripture, God is the one calling out to Samuel. When Samuel realizes that it is the Lord speaking to him, he doesn't say what he wants. Instead, he says that he is ready to hear what God wants of him. As usual, the Bible is setting an example for how we should live our own lives to grow closer to God. The next time you feel like sitting down with your list for God in prayer, try something new. Sit and listen to what God wants to say to you.

What are some places where you like to pray? Do they help you quiet yourself enough for you to hear God speaking to you?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to quiet myself in prayer to hear what you want to say to me.

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Martin de Porres



Gospel Readings

January 21, 2024

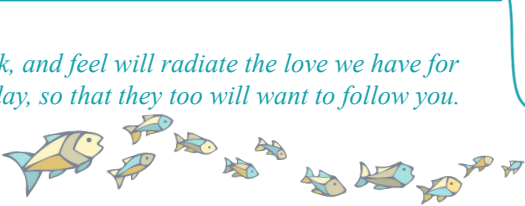
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." — Mark 1:17

This is a little confusing, isn't it? The men that Jesus called to follow him were fishers of fish. What did he mean when he said he would make them fishers of men? Jesus hoped that these men he chose would set such a beautiful example of their faith in God that it would attract other people to also want to follow Jesus. This is something that we are all called to do. If we love Jesus and try to live our lives reflecting his light, then we too will become "fishers of men."

What is one thing Jesus' disciples did then that we can still do today to help people know and follow Jesus?



COME
AFTER
ME and I will
make you
FISHERS
of **MEN.**
MARK 1:17

Prayer:

Lord, help us to love you so much that all we do, say, think, and feel will radiate the love we have for you. Please allow that light to touch those we meet each day, so that they too will want to follow you.

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

"A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." — Mark 1:27

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt the presence of evil? Maybe a TV show scared you, or you met someone who was really mean. In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us that if we ask anything in Jesus' name, especially against evil, that he can make that evil go away. What an awesome God! All we have to do is ask! So the next time you are feeling afraid or hurt, call on the name of Jesus and see what happens.

When do you feel most fearful? Remember to call on Jesus and he will help you!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, your name is above all names. You are Lord, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lamb of God. We love you and praise you for your powerful presence in our lives.



Sources:

[St. Martin de Porres Quotes](#)
[Story of Saint Martin de Porres](#)
[Saint Martin de Porres](#)

[7 fascinating facts about St. Martin de Porres, the first black saint of the Americas](#)
[Martin de Porres](#)



Holy Spirit Catholic Division
Presents:

Resiliency & Self-Care

January 16th, 5:30 pm

Essie's Ballroom

Sandman Signature, 320
Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge Ab

Join us as Lethbridge Family Services will
present for a night of learning and good (free)
food!

Please RSVP at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>



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Lethbridge Family Services

Lethbridge Family Services provides highly-accredited health and social services to over 9,000 individuals and families in more than 30 communities in southwestern Alberta. The Outreach and Education team works with individuals, caregivers and professional to facilitate insight, awareness and enhance skills.

This is a FREE event.

Intended audience: parents, guardians, caregivers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, childcare providers, all school staff, bus drivers, parishioner's

Please RSVP at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>

