



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2024

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

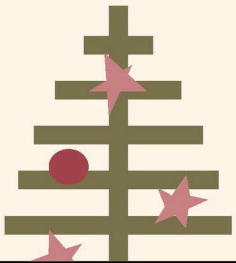
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:	2	3	4 Pizza Lunch 	5 Dress Rehearsal and Christmas Concert 	6 	We are an Angel Tree drop off site. Can you help a family in need?
8 <i>Luke 3:1-6</i>	9 Kindergarten to Galt Museum 	10 Kindergarten to Galt Museum	11 School Council Meeting @ 6:30	12	13 Advent Celebration lead by 6L 	14
15 <i>Luke 3: 10-18</i>	16 Jan 8th pizza order opens	17  Choirs perform at St. Michael's Health Centre 	18 Turkey Lunch Winter Wonderland  Divisional Board Meeting	19 Advent Mass @ St. Martha's Church Christmas Social at Children of St. Martha's	20  Last Day of School before Christmas Break	21
22 <i>Luke 1: 39-45</i>	23 	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
						
29 <i>Luke 2: 41-52</i>	30	31 New Year's Eve 				

SPFA Christmas Spirit Week

Join us for a fun filled week of celebration from December 16-20. In addition to the activities below, there will be an optional scavenger hunt throughout the school. Enjoy the festivities!

Monday

**Christmas
Hats and Socks**
Name that
Tune and Sing



Tuesday

**Shirts and
Sweaters**
Games and
Sing



Wednesday

**Christmas
Explosion**
Turkey
Dinner



Thursday

**Red and
Green**
Mass and Social
with
St Martha's



Friday

**Christmas
Comfy Cozy**
BINGO





ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2025

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gos- pel readings listed below:			1	2	3	4
						
5 Jan 8 pizza order closes <i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i>	6 1st day back to school 	7	8 Pizza Lunch Artist Workshops Round 1 begins School Council Meeting @ 6:30	9 	10	11
12 <i>Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22</i>	13 1M to the Galt Museum 	14	15	16 Hot Lunch	17	18
19 <i>John 2: 1-11</i>	20 Jan 24 pizza order opens	21 4SF to the Galt Museum 	22	23	24	25
26 Jan 29 pizza order closes <i>Luke 1: 1-4, 4:14-21</i>	27	28	29 Pizza Lunch 	30 Wellness Day / Jump Rope for Heart Safety Patrol skate with the Hurricanes	31 Professional Development Day—no school for students	



December 2024 ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS

LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca 403.327.4386

Facebook/Instagram: @spfaschool #hs4

Message from the Principal, Kathy Jones-Husch

Welcome to December and Advent! Like you, I am finding the transition to December a bit overwhelming...where did November go!? Thanks in part to our faith, the comfort that comes with focusing on waiting for Jesus' birth and emphasizing giving over receiving makes all of the hectic nature of December easier. When things seem too much, if you have your tree up, make some tea and just enjoy the lights for a little while.

Speaking of giving, we have been talking with students about how important it is to use manners at every turn. 'Please', 'thank you' and responding when someone says, 'Good morning', or 'How are you?' go such a long way and confirm that each of us has a role to play in a healthy school community.

It would be amazing to have a full-on effort at school and at home prioritizing habits around manners this month. You can help by modeling manners at every turn and positively recognize when the kids offer manners to others. If the kids ask why we carry out some manners, explain them if you can. Of course, every family operates differently, but I think everyone would agree that moving through life with manners makes a difference to help everyone see one another and show that everyone is worthy of care and kind attention. Manners matter and are an easy way to give!

December is busy with our Christmas concert on Thursday, Dec. 5. Please review the details in this newsletter carefully so you feel prepared. In the following weeks, we celebrate the season with our Turkey dinner lunch on Dec. 18 (provided for all staff and students) and a Winter Wonderland festival that evening featuring hot chocolate and horse and wagon rides around RiverStone. Our choirs will sing at St. Michael's Health Centre on the 17th and we will have caroling and dress up fun during the last week of school with a Spirit Week. We will celebrate an Advent mass at St. Martha's parish on Dec. 19 followed by some social time with the students at Children of St. Martha's School. This is a great new tradition of connection for our students. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who make these things possible!

Looking ahead to January, our grade 4, 5, and 6 students will begin Artist Workshop classes, where they explore a new branch of art, technology, or athletics with a focus on creativity and sharing their learning with others. These are very popular and over three rounds until mid-June, the kids will have some very rich experiences in addition to their 'regular' learning. Some classes will bring in community member guest teachers, so thank you in advance for those who will be helping out!

From my family to yours, a most Merry Christmas and a Happy start to the New Year!

Please send your thoughts/feedback to spfaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca



It's not too late - please bring in your Angel Tree gifts before December 18.

Growing in Faith

As we enter the holy season of Advent, our school community prepares our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, where we are invited to pause amidst the busyness of life, reflect on God's promises, and renew our commitment to live as His disciples.

Each week, classes will lead us in an Advent Liturgy on Fridays at 8:45 am, where we will light a new candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love. These candles remind us of the light of Christ, which grows brighter as we draw closer to Christmas. This season is not just about waiting but about preparing – in our classrooms, in our homes, and in our hearts – for the miraculous gift of God's love made flesh in Jesus.

In our school, we are weaving the message of Advent into daily prayer, liturgies, and acts of service. Our participation in Coats for Kids through the Knights of Columbus and in Lethbridge Family Services' Angel Tree, once again helps thousands of children and families in our city. Students are also reflecting on how they can share Christ's love through kindness, generosity, and care for one another in our school community. We continue to recognize their efforts on morning announcements through Project Proclaim.

Want a faith boost for Advent?

- Join us at our Advent Mass at St. Martha's Parish on Thursday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. followed by fellowship at Children of St. Martha's school.
- Visit St. Martha's Parish for a Saint Nicholas Party on Saturday, December 7th following the 5:00 p.m. mass.
- Use this [Advent Calendar for Families](#) to help your family stay focused on the true spirit of the season and to prepare your hearts for the coming of our Saviour.

Let us walk together through Advent, focusing on the true meaning of this season – the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us." May this time of waiting and preparation bring peace to your hearts and joy to your homes.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,
Carla Ferrari



**St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary
Christmas Concert 2024**

A PODCAST CHRISTMAS

Proclaiming
the Good
News!



Southminster United Church - December 5, 2024

The kids and their teachers have been busy preparing for our annual Christmas concert all about proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth! Hopefully you already have **Thursday, Dec. 5** marked on your calendars. Our concert is at **Southminster United Church** downtown. All students are expected to attend school that day and be present for the evening concert.

Parents are to **drop off their children to the Auditorium doors on 10th Street between 6:00 and 6:15 that evening**. Teachers have sent home notes about clothing requirements for the concert, and we ask that you help your child be prepared to perform. **The front doors will be open to audience members at 6:15 pm.**

A sign-up for parents to help with audience seating and backstage helpers for the afternoon and evening shows has been sent out and is [here](#). You can imagine it is quite a bit to help everyone have a good show experience, so please sign up if you can. After the show, the kids will return to the stage class by class for pickup by a parent. Thanks for your patience in that process!

Every audience member requires a ticket for the evening show, however, there is also a no-cost matinee at 12:30 for you and guests to enjoy. It is a dress rehearsal, so it may be a bit bumpy! Doors for this performance will open at 12:15 and all are welcome. Please spread the word!

For the December 5 learning day, students are asked to be on time so they can board the bus to go to the church at about 8:45 am. They should have their concert clothes on and bring a simple bagged lunch and a labelled water bottle with them. They will watch their schoolmates perform in the morning and then wait backstage for their cue to go onstage in the afternoon and evening. The school will bring along activities for the waiting time, so there is no need to send anything personal unless requested by the teacher. We will return to the school before 3 pm for the end of the day.

If you have any questions about the concert itself, buying tickets, or anything else related to it all, please call the school at 403-327-4386 or connect with your child's teacher. We want you (and especially your child) to feel confident about this amazing tradition in our Catholic school.



School Council Update



Happy December SPFAE Families!

This month we've got some amazing opportunities for you and your family to connect and celebrate!

Our regular school council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm. Join us at the school for a little Christmas social as we receive our Principal's report and discuss how we can advocate for and support our students and staff. If you're unable to attend in person you can still be part of the conversation by joining virtually through the following link:

<http://meet.google.com/esi-gwiq-uhz>.

Thank you to everyone who purchased Boxes of Bacon from our fall fundraiser! Your support means School Council can host fun events and support our school community. Pick up will be on Tuesday, December 17th from 3:30-5:30pm. Please make arrangements with the office if you are unable to pick up on this day.

Whole School Christmas Hot Lunch is happening on Wednesday, December 18th. Watch School Cash Online to purchase lunch for your student. Knowing everyone's situation is different, we also have the opportunity to "gift a plate." Your support helps to offset the costs of ensuring that every student and staff member can enjoy this celebration together.

Finally, join us on Wednesday, December 18th from 6:00-8:00pm for Winter Wonderland at the school. Santa will be joining us and we'll have wagon rides for \$2/person. Bring items to donate to the Interfaith Food Bank and enjoy some hot chocolate with us!

I hope during the busyness of this time of year that you and your family also experience peace that surpasses all understanding and great joy!

Catherine Furukawa
School Council, Chair





YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Winter Wonderland

Wednesday, December 18th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

IN THE SCHOOL GYM WITH WAGON RIDES OUTSIDE

HOT CHOCOLATE. SANTA. HORSE WAGONS.

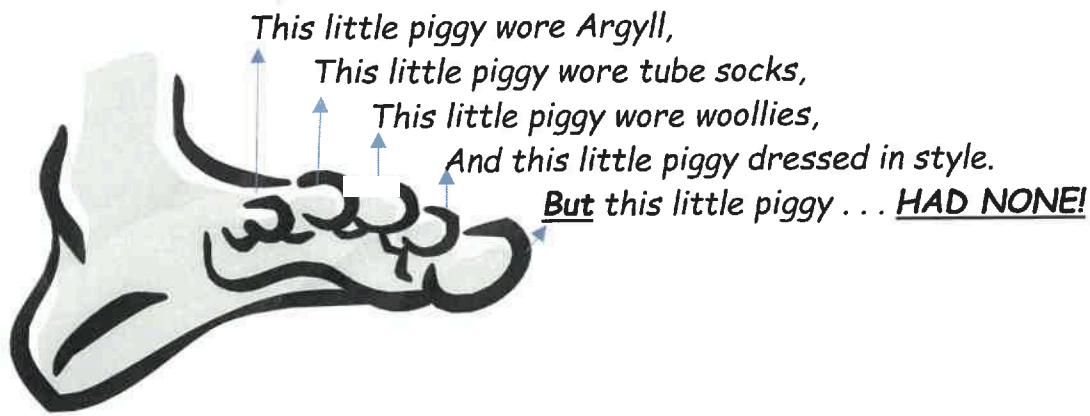
Wagon Rides will be
\$2/person

Santa Claus will be collecting
non-perishable food items by donation



Thank you
Galaxy
Cineplex
Lethbridge

For your generous
popcorn donation
During our school
community movie
night



This little piggy wore Argyle,

This little piggy wore tube socks,

This little piggy wore woollies,

And this little piggy dressed in style.

*But this little piggy . . . **HAD NONE!***

It's time for 24th ANNUAL OPERATION:

SOCK IT TO 'EM

From November 1 to December 11, 2024

**Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, the Caretakers,
Maintenance & Support staff in Lethbridge & Area
schools are collecting *NEW SOCKS* to be
donated to local charities and those less
Fortunate for Christmas.**

***Please join them and make Someone's Christmas
a little bit warmer!***

**To donate, contact any Custodial staff at
your local school.**

QUESTIONS?

Call Gail Petrie (403) 327-6520

Charlene Kocken (403) 329-3222

-Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre

-Lethbridge School Division

-Holy Spirit School

-Palliser Regional School



Our school is once again serving as a drop-off location for the Lethbridge Family Service Angel Tree. Each family has received a donation angel, and we hope you will consider supporting those in need. While you're welcome to shop for the age on your angel, you are also free to choose any age group for which to donate a gift. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

Did you miss out on registration in the Fall for Sacraments?

**No problem we will be running a Boot Camp for
First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation**

The First Reconciliation Boot Camp will run:

**Saturday 11 Jan. AND Sunday 12 Jan. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 18 Jan. AND Sunday 19 Jan. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church .
Snacks will be provided.**

The First Eucharist Boot Camp will run:

**Saturday 1 Feb. AND Sunday 2 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 8 Feb. AND Sunday 9 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church.
Snacks will be provided.**

The Confirmation Boot Camp will run:

**Saturday 15 Feb. AND Sunday 16 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 22 Feb. AND Sunday 23 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church .
Snacks will be provided.**

Registration forms available on line at:

www.allsaintslethbridge.org

**There is no cost for this class and for more information please email Cyndi at
educationallsaints@shaw.ca**

Pre-registration is required

Advent

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

St. Ambrose's, Coaldale:

Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm

St. Augustine's, Taber:

Thursday, December 12 at 7pm

St. Catherine's, Picture Butte:

Friday, December 13 at 7pm

Assumption:

Saturday, December 14 at 10am

St. Peter's, Milk River:

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm

St. Martha's:

Thursday, December 19 at 7:00pm

St. Augustine's, Vauxhall:

Friday, December 20 at 7:00pm





Christmas & New Year Mass times

Tuesday, December 24

Vigil Mass: 5 pm

Vigil Mass: 8 pm

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass: 10 am

Tuesday, December 31

Adoration : 4 pm

Mass: 5 pm



Wednesday, January 1

***Mary Mother of
God Mass: 10 am***

December

"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

St. Odilia 662-720 (Feast Day: December 13)

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



Odile of Alsace, also referred to as Odilia or Otilia, was born to a noble family in the Alsace area of what is today France. According to tradition, her family did not want her as she was born without sight, and she was raised by peasants in the area. Upon being baptised around the age of 12, she miraculously recovered her sight. She then moved around the area of what is today France, Switzerland, and Germany fleeing from her father. At one point, she is said to have lived in a cave that opened from the face of a cliff and hid her inside. Eventually, when her father fell ill, Odilia returned to the family to take care of him. It was then that he founded a monastery and convent. The convent, Niedermunster Abbey, was where Odilia died in about 720, after spending the rest of her life serving the poor and sick.

Almost immediately upon her death, both ordinary and noble people made pilgrimages to these locations seeking cures for the blind and partially sighted. Many miraculous cures were reported, which led to her sainthood. Despite her physical impairment, her faith, devotion to God, and service to those around her are a powerful witness to all of us. Holy Spirit actually has two connections to St. Odilia! The first is our ongoing project with Chalice supporting St. Odilia School in Zambia with their construction of a new school classroom block. Donations are still being accepted [here](#). This school is one of the few schools in Zambia that serves children with visual impairments, physical disabilities, and albinism. We also have recently hosted an exchange program that welcomes students from Alsace, of which St. Odilia is the patron saint.

The Apostles' Creed

"... [He] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried..."

Have you ever noticed that in the Creed, we skip over all of the life of Christ to his death? The reason for this is likely because for the original disciples and apostles, these details were clear and recent, and addressed in other New Testament sources. This gap is especially striking in contrast to the specific and explicit historical reference to Pontius Pilate; which makes sense when you think of the function of the Creed in response to doctrinal confusion or disagreement. Finally, the reference to Christ's death is an important punctuation to his life. As Janet Schaeffler writes:

Jesus' death is an exclamation point of his profound love for us and of his unwavering obedience to the Father — the exclamation point to the way he lived his whole life.

What do we profess about Christ when we proclaim the Apostles' Creed?

- Christ was crucified — he suffered and was shamed, just as we suffer in our own lives;

- Christ died — Christ died for us; to be a follower of Christ is to die every day, and rise every day;
- Christ was buried — he shared fully in our human nature; like us, he was born, and died.

While in this season of Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives, we might also think about his ultimate destiny — born into actual history, to die for for us, and by so doing creating the promise of everlasting life with him.

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

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

This month, we will be joining with the rest of the universal Church in beginning our celebration of the Jubilee Year — Pilgrims of Hope 2025. A jubilee year is historically significant to us going all the way back to our roots in Judaism. This year was to be marked every fifty years as an extra year (after every seven sets of seven years). The name derives from the instrument (a yobel, or ram's horn) which proclaimed the beginning of that year. The time was intended as a special time to right relationships with God, one another, and all of creation, involving the forgiveness of debts and leaving land fallow. The first Catholic Jubilee was declared in 1300, and our most recent Jubilee was a special year in 2015 declared by Pope Francis. The Jubilee will start with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve. For more information, you can visit the official website [here](#).



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Gospel Readings

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." — 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-13

All of us anticipate this time of year when Advent begins, looking forward to all the fun that is to come at Christmas time. But Advent is supposed to be about getting ready for Jesus, not just getting presents, going to Christmas parties, decorating, or baking. It's fine to do all that too, and enjoy it, but Advent calls us to stop to think of those around us and how we can share Jesus with them. It means sharing his love with those you know and those who need it most this time of year: shut-ins, people who are ill or sad, and those who can't afford all the things we can for Christmas. Let's use Advent to let our love increase and abound for one another and for all.

What are some ways we as a family can reach out those in need this Advent?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the chance to prepare our hearts for your coming each year in Advent. Please help us to share your love with those who need it most this year.

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

"...the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." — Philippians 1:6

What is a "good work" in us? When we are baptized into the Catholic faith, we receive the Holy Spirit in a very special way. God begins working in us even when we are tiny babies! At each step of our lives, God remains with us and helps us be all that he created us to be. We do the best we can to follow Jesus' teachings, and God helps us by working in us — because we can't make ourselves good all by ourselves. It isn't up to us to do it all by ourselves! God will continue to be with us along the journey of life, always helping us, whether we can feel it at the time or not. Our God loves us so very much!

Do we know when the Holy Spirit is trying to guide us in our decisions? How can we become more open to God's leading?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and being patient with us as your Holy Spirit continues to form and mold us into people who are pleasing to you. Please help us to follow those promptings and to follow your will.

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



[Home Page](#)

Gospel Readings

December 9, 2024

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." — Luke 1:30-31

Mary was very special to God. She found favor with him. We don't know anything about her before the angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of Jesus, but she must have been a very good person to be asked to do that. She must have had a lot of practice doing the right things and saying "yes" to God if she was able to say yes for such a big thing. You can't do a big, great thing if you aren't used to doing small good things. She is a great example for all of us to model our own lives after. May we too find favor with God by practicing saying yes and doing the right things in all of our small daily decisions.

How does Mary's example encourage us in our faith? Is there something God is asking from us now that requires a "YES?"

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please show us how to find favor with you by the way we live our lives. Help us to always say "YES" to all you ask of us, out of our love for you.



December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" — Philippians 4:4

We are in the middle of Advent now, and during this time before the holidays, our many plans and preparations can easily overwhelm us. Even before Christmas, we may be ready for a break! St. Paul reminds us to find our joy in the Lord, rather than in the plans, parties, or presents that are to come. Those are all good things, but Jesus is the real reason for this season. He is the reason for all our other blessings, and we must focus our rejoicing on the birth of the Christ child. Let's do what we can to bring joy to others for whom this season may not be so joyful.

How are we feeling about the upcoming Christmas season? What can we do this week to help us to slow down and find time to rejoice in the simple gifts of this season?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to simplify our lives this week as we approach Christmas. Give us joy in our hearts for the simple gift of the Christ child and his mother; and let this joy radiate to our family and friends this Christmas season.



December 22, 2024

4th Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

"Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" — Luke 1:30

When Mary found out she was pregnant with Jesus, she was probably excited, nervous, scared, worried, and happy all at the same time. She needed to tell someone how she felt so she went to visit her friend and relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth was probably feeling all the same things since she was pregnant with John the Baptist! God knows that we need other people in our life to talk to and share what we are thinking and feeling. When we share with others what is really going on for us and we listen when others share with us, then we are like Mary, visiting others to share Christ and the Holy Spirit. Sharing ourselves is sharing Christ which can be a wonderful gift for someone else — at this time of year and all year round.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, send me your Holy Spirit to make me like Mary, who will help me to bring Jesus to all those I meet.



December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

"The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." — John 1:10-12

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the abundant love you always have for me. I am sorry for the times I do not return that love. Please Lord, open my heart so that I can make room for you and accept your light.

Sources:

I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed by Alister McGrath
The Creed: A Catechist's Guide by Janet Schaeffler
The Apostles' Creed by Ben Myers
What Christians Ought to Believe by Michael Bird
The Quest for the Creed by Fr. Dwight Longenecker
The Creed by Timothy O'Malley



LETHBRIDGE FAMILY LIFE



Come and Join Us For

St Nicholas PARTY

December
07

6:00pm

St Martha Parish
355 Columbia Blvd W,
Lethbridge





Family Movie Night



HOME  ALONE

December 14th 2024

At 6:15pm

Assumption Hall

2405 12 ave s Lethbridge



**LETHBRIDGE
FAMILY LIFE**

PROCLAIM

Adoration Praise & Worship

Hosted at:

St. Marthas Parish

355 Columbia Blvd W, Lethbridge

**NOV | 29th | 7:00
8:00 PM**

Special Guest NET Team 1

ALL ARE WELCOME

