November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ***Sunday gospel readings listed below:*** *Matthew 5:1-12a* **Bacon Fundraiser opens**	2 Christmas Concert ticket order opens	3	4	5 Nov 18th Hot Lunch order closes **5M to Galt Museum** School Council Meeting @ 7pm	6 School Assembly at 8:50 am	7
8 *Matthew 25:1-13*	9	10 Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:45 am	11 Remembrance Day - School closed	12 **PD Day - no school for students** Cuppers Coffee and Christmas Wreath order closes	13 Professional Development Day - no school for students	14
15 *Matthew 25:14-30*	16 Alberta Musical Theatre presents "Rumpelstiltskin" **Nov 26th pizza order opens**	17 Grade 3 to Helen Schuler Nature Centre	18 **Sports / Jersey Day** K-M/W to Helen Schuler Nature Centre **BP's Hot Lunch**	19 K-T/Th to Helen Schuler Nature Centre **Gr. 1 - 6 School Interviews 4:30-7:30 pm**	20 Volleyball Jamboree (more info to come)	21
22 Nov 26th pizza order closes **Christmas Concert ticket order closes** *Luke 20:27-40*	23	24	25 **Div I & II Choir Performance with the LSO** Divisional Board Meeting	26 Pizza Lunch **Gr. 1 - 6 School Interviews 4:30-7:30 pm**	27 **Term 1 Report Cards Posted / Distributed** Dec 16th Christmas Lunch order opens	28
29 *Luke 21:34-36*	30 Gr. 2 to the Galt Museum **Bacon Fundraiser closes**					

December 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:		1	2 Advent Mass at St. Martha's Church @ 9:00 am 	3 School Council Meeting @ 7pm	4 Dec 16th Christmas Lunch order closes School Assembly @ 8:50 am	5
6 *Mark 1:1-18*	7	8 Time Travel Day 	9	10 Kindergarten Christmas Concert @ 6 pm 	11	12
13 School Council's Winter Wonderland *John 1:6-8, 19-28*	14 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal a the school Kindergarten to the Galt Museum	15 **Christmas Matinee @ 12:30 pm** **Christmas Concert @ 6:30 pm** Kindergarten to the Galt Museum	16 **Christmas Turkey Lunch**  Divisional Board Meeting	17 Grade 1 & 4 to the Movie Mill **Div II Choir performs @ St. Michael's Health Centre**	18 Last day of school before Christmas break	19 **SPIRIT WEEK DEC 14-18TH**
20 *Luke 1:26-38*	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day
CHRISTMAS BREAK - DEC 19TH TO JAN 3RD						
27 *Luke 2:22-40*	28 January 7th pizza order opens	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 		

December 2026

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS

LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca 403.327.4386

Facebook/Instagram: @spfaschool #hs4

Christensen's Corner

AS WE WRAP UP OUR HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS AND MOVE CLOSER TO ADVENT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE A MOMENT TO SLOW DOWN AND TAKE THE TIME TO CELEBRATE AND HONOUR REMEMBRANCE DAY.

FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF US, OUR EXPERIENCE WITH WAR IS LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE MINUTE SEGMENTS OF DARKNESS AND DEVASTATION AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF A TELEVISION CAMERA OR THROUGH A JOURNALIST'S ACCOUNT OF FIGHTING IN DISTANT PARTS OF THE WORLD. FOR THOSE OF US BORN DURING PEACETIME, ALL WARS SEEM FAR REMOVED FROM OUR DAILY LIVES. THE MINUTE THE IMAGES MAKE US UNCOMFORTABLE, IT IS AS EASY AS PUSHING A BUTTON, TO SWITCH THE CHANNEL AND TUNE IT OUT.

ONCE A YEAR WE SET ASIDE A DAY TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE, REMEMBER, AND GIVE THANKS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE WE ARE FREE TO ATTEND SCHOOL, VOTE, SPEAK OUR MIND, PLAY, AND WORSHIP. ONCE A YEAR WE ARE ASKED NOT TO SWITCH THE CHANNEL. WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED OUR CANADIAN VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS, OUR FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL AND POLITICAL EVENTS, AND OUR RIGHT TO LIVE UNDER A GOVERNMENT OF OUR CHOICE. THE CANADIANS WHO WENT OFF TO WAR IN DISTANT LANDS WENT IN THE BELIEF THAT THE VALUES AND BELIEFS ENJOYED BY CANADIANS WERE BEING THREATENED. THEY TRULY BELIEVED THAT "WITHOUT FREEDOM THERE CAN BE NO ENSURING PEACE AND WITHOUT PEACE, NO ENDURING FREEDOM."



credit @STRUDELBRAND

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

December 2026

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS

LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

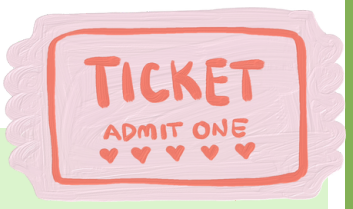
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Christensen's Corner

THESE WARS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF CANADIANS OF ALL AGES, ALL RACES, AND ALL SOCIAL CLASSES. FATHERS, MOTHERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS: THEY WERE KILLED IN ACTION, THEY WERE WOUNDED, AND THOUSANDS WHO RETURNED WERE FORCED TO LIVE THE REST OF THEIR LIVES WITH THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SCARS OF WAR. THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED IN CANADA ALSO SERVED - IN FACTORIES, IN VOLUNTARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, WHEREVER THEY WERE NEEDED. BY REMEMBERING THEIR SERVICE AND THEIR SACRIFICE, WE RECOGNIZE THE TRADITION OF FREEDOM THESE MEN AND WOMEN FOUGHT TO PRESERVE. THEY BELIEVED THAT THEIR ACTIONS IN THE PRESENT WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FOR THE FUTURE, BUT IT IS UP TO US TO ENSURE THAT THEIR DREAM OF PEACE IS REALIZED. ON REMEMBRANCE DAY, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK FOR THE PEACE THEY FOUGHT HARD TO ACHIEVE.

IT IS IN REMEMBERING AND TELLING THE STORY THAT WE DISCOVER WHO WE ARE AND THE MEANING OF OUR LIVES. IT IS IN RECALLING THE PAST THAT WE BEST SEE WHAT THE WAY INTO THE FUTURE IS. IT IS IN REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY IT HAPPENED, THAT WE FIND THE PRINCIPLES AND THE GUIDELINES BY WHICH OUR LIVES SHOULD BE GOVERNED. AS I INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS COMMUNITY ON NOVEMBER 10, 2026 AT 10:45 AM FOR OUR REMEMBRANCE DAY LITURGY, WHICH WILL BE LED BY OUR GRADE 6D CLASS, I AM REMINDED OF SOMEONE ELSE WHO DIED FOR US – DIED SO THAT WE MIGHT ENJOY ETERNAL FREEDOM - OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.

HAVE A BLESSED NOVEMBER,
BRENT CHRISTENSEN



Christmas Concert Tickets

Tickets are now available on your SchoolCash Online account until **November 22nd**. Limit of 4 tickets per family. To request extra tickets, please email spfaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca with your name, your student's name and the number of tickets you would like. You will be added to a waitlist on a first come, first serve basis (you will be notified if there are extra tickets to purchase).

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

Growing in Faith

November 2026 Newsletter

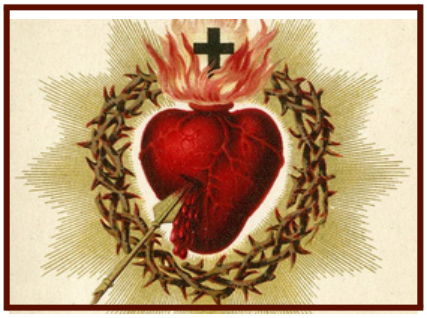
As we enter November, our school community pauses in remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

On Remembrance Day, we honour the brave men and women who sacrificed for our peace and freedom, remembering the words of Scripture: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). Their courage calls us to build peace in our own daily lives through kindness, patience, and compassion.

This month, our students are participating in our Cupper's Coffee Contest! The winning student artwork will be featured on this year’s label for our annual fundraiser. Bags can be purchased until November 12 through School Cash Online, with all proceeds supporting CCHS’ Santa’s Anonymous to help brighten the Christmas season for families in need across the Holy Spirit School Division.

Our contest theme, "Brewed in Grace, Shared in Kindness - A Sacred Heart in Every Start." connects directly to this year’s faith plan focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- His Heart & The Cross: Show us His deep, personal love and the incredible sacrifices He made for us.
- The Flame, Rays & Light: Remind us that His love is warm, bright, and never goes out. When we allow His light to shine into our hearts, it fills us with strength, joy, and peace.



Just as a morning cup of coffee gives adults energy for the day, Jesus’ Sacred Heart gives us something even greater: the spiritual energy and grace to share warmth and kindness with others.

May we all take time this month to make Christ’s warmth and love visible through simple acts of service and kindness.

Wishing all our families a blessed month filled with faith, warmth, and hope!

Carla Ferrari
Associate Principal

General Information

Remembrance Day



Please join the grade 6D class as they present the Remembrance Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 10th at 10:45 am.
Poppies are on sale by donation in the office from November 1st to 10th.

School Interviews - Grades 1 to 6



Parent Teacher interviews for grades 1 to 6 will take place during the evenings of **Thursday, November 19th** and **Thursday, November 26th**. Book your time slot via your Conference Manger account. An e-mail will be sent out prior to let you know when the booking window is open. If you need help booking a time slot please call the school office at 403-327-4386.

Christmas Wreaths



Once again, St. Pat's is offering fresh, long-lasting, hand crafted, balsam fir wreaths with clusters of red berries, pine cone accents and red bows for $35. This year proceeds will go towards the Grade 6 year-end field trip. The order deadline is right around the corner on **Thursday, November 12th** and the wreaths will be delivered in early December. You can purchase a wreath via your SchoolCash Online account. Thank you for your support!

Mark these dates on your calendars!



The grades 1 to 6 Christmas concert is on **Tuesday**, **December 15th @ 6:30 pm at the Southminster United Church with a matinee at 12:30 pm.**
The Kindergarten Christmas Concert will take place on **Thursday, December 10th from 6:00-7:00 pm at the school**.
Tickets for the grades 1 to 6 concert are available for purchase on your SchoolCashOnline account. It is expected that all students attend the concert, so please make plans with your other child's other activity leaders.

School Council Update

November Brings:
A blend of cozy autumn warmth, changing leaves, and early signs of winter. Do you prefer the reds and oranges of fall leaves or the brilliant white of winter snow? The beautiful thing about November is that you can see both!

Get Involved in School Council.
Our next meeting will be held **November 5 at 7PM.**
Our meeting date for December is on **December 3 at 7PM.**
We'd love your voice and ideas! All SPFA parents are welcome—no experience necessary!
If you can't attend but have creative ideas, attend virtually at meet.google.com/esi-gwiq-uhz.

Did You Know?
Having a child at St. Pat's automatically makes you part of our School Council. Each month we come together to: Advocate for students and staff, plan fundraiser initiatives, organize social and wellness events, create Hot Lunch programs. Together we ensure all students have a memorable school year.

Thank you!
We would like to extend our thanks to Galaxy Cinemas Lethbridge for the wonderful donation of popcorn for our school movie night. Thank you also to all those that donated to the CCH Santa's Anonymous program.

Looking Ahead
November: **Bacon is Back**! Fundraiser for Relationships and Belonging. Opening **Nov 1-30**, with delivery set for in December. Please keep a look out on School Cash Online.
December 13: **Winter Wonderland** 5:30-7:30 PM. More details about this family event will be coming soon.

With your support, we're planning community building social nights and events and some new fundraising campaigns for school resources. We are currently looking for parent volunteers to help with these wonderful school community events. Please reach out to spfasc@holyspirit.ab.ca or beccainnes02@gmail.com for more information. Stay tuned for detailed event dates in our next newsletter.



Becca Innes
School Council Chair.



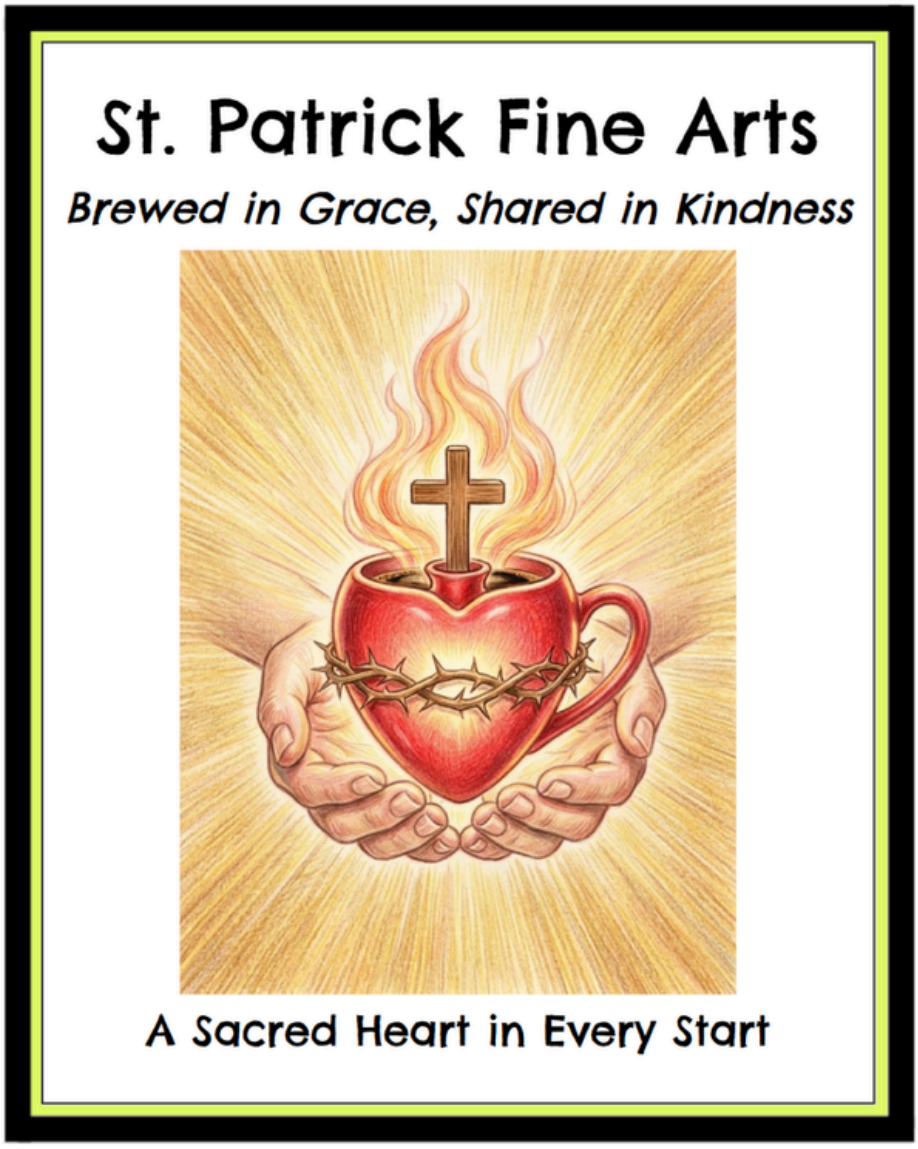
Please be considerate when parking on the street in the school neighbourhood. Remember not to block any driveways or pathways. Thank you.

Cupper's Coffee Fundraiser

Purchase coffee between

October 19 to November 12 to support

CCH's Santa's Anonymous.



Original student art will be featured on the label once our contest winner is selected!

Visit School Cash Online to order yours.

$23 for one ¾ lbs bag

Winter WONDERLAND at SPFA

Sunday, December 13th

5:30pm - 7:30pm



Horse carriage rides
$2/ride



Hot chocolate bar

Games & Crafts

SPFA School Gym

With horse rides around riverstone

School Bus Reminder

School Bus routes are posted here:
https://southland.ca/lethbridge/



For live school bus updates:
Check your child's bus location on mybusstop.ca

Contact the administrative team at your school for the code on your mybusstop.ca app

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD — Hearing God's Voice

At Mass, we have a special time when we listen to stories and teachings from the Bible. This is called the *Liturgy of the Word*. When the Bible is read at Mass, we believe that God is speaking to us through His Word. We listen carefully because God still has something to say to us today.

The First Reading
The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. It helps prepare us to hear the Gospel and learn more about Jesus. The Old Testament tells us about God's love and His relationship with His people. It also gives us many signs that prepare us for Jesus. After the first reading, we respond: "*Thanks be to God.*"

The Psalm
Next, we hear or sing a Responsorial Psalm. The Psalms are very old prayers and songs from the Bible. The Psalms talk about many different feelings. They can express joy, sadness, fear, hope, thankfulness, and trust in God. Jesus knew and prayed the Psalms too! When we pray them at Mass, we are using some of the same words that Jesus would have prayed. We listen to the response and join in together.

The Second Reading
On Sundays, we usually hear a second reading from the New Testament. This reading often comes from a letter written to one of the early Christian communities. These early Christians faced many of the same challenges we

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD — Hearing God's Voice cont'd

face today. The letters teach them how to follow Jesus and live as Christians. Their lessons can still help us today. After the second reading, we respond: "*Thanks be to God.*"

The Gospel
The Gospel is a very special part of the Liturgy of the Word. When we are ready to hear the Gospel, we stand. We sing the Gospel Acclamation, often including the word "*Alleluia*!" This is a joyful way of welcoming Jesus and preparing to hear His Word.

The priest or deacon then brings the Book of the Gospels to the ambo, where the Gospel is proclaimed. Before the Gospel is read, we make a small cross on our forehead, lips, and heart. As we do this, we can pray: "*May God's Word be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.*"

We want God's Word to help us think like Jesus, speak like Jesus, and love like Jesus. At the end of the Gospel, the priest or deacon says: "*The Gospel of the Lord.*" We respond: "*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The Homily
After the Gospel, we sit and listen to the homily. The priest or deacon helps us understand what we have just heard in the Bible. He helps us think about what God's Word means for our lives and how we can follow Jesus.

Growing in Faith - Family Learning

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD — Hearing God's Voice cont'd

After the homily, there is often a short moment of silence. This gives us time to think about what we have heard and to ask: "*What is God saying to me today?*"

The Three-Year Gospel Cycle
On Sundays, the Church follows a three-year pattern for the Gospel readings:
Year A — Gospel of Matthew
Year B — Gospel of Mark
Year C — Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of John is also used at special times, especially during the Easter season. This means that over three years, we hear many different stories and teachings from the life of Jesus and the early Church.





St. Jerome and The Liturgy of the Word

St. Jerome loved the Bible because he knew that God speaks to us through His Word. He spent many years reading, studying, and translating the Bible so that more people could understand it.

At Mass, we have a special time to listen to God's Word. We hear stories from the Bible and listen to the teachings of Jesus. We are not just listening to an old story — God's Word is still speaking to us today.

St. Jerome reminds us to listen carefully when the Bible is read at Mass. We can ask ourselves, "What is God saying to me?" and "How is Jesus asking me to live?"

The Liturgy of the Word helps prepare us to meet Jesus in the Eucharist. First, we listen to God's Word, and then we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Both help us grow closer to God and learn how to live as His followers.



Saint of the Month - St. Jerome

St. Jerome — Born between 342-347 (Feast Day: September 30)



St. Jerome was born around the year 347 and grew up in a Christian family. He became a priest and spent much of his life studying, praying, and learning about the Bible. He loved God's Word and wanted people to be able to understand it.

Jerome learned several languages so that he could study the Bible carefully. He translated much of the Bible into Latin, the language that many people in the Church could understand at the time. His work became known as the Vulgate and helped people read and hear Scripture for many centuries.

St. Jerome believed that the Bible was not just an old book. He knew that through Scripture, God speaks to His people. He spent many years studying the words of Scripture so that he could better understand God's message.

St. Jerome reminds us that when we hear the Bible at Mass, we should listen carefully. God speaks to us through His Word, inviting us to know Him, love Him, and follow Him.

St. Jerome Prayer

A Prayer for Jesus' Mercy — Inspired by St. Jerome

Jesus, please show me Your mercy
and fill my heart with joy.

Sometimes I am like the person
who was hurt and left alone.
Jesus, You are like the Good Samaritan.
Come to help me when I am hurting
and remind me that I am never alone.

Sometimes I am like a lost sheep.
Jesus, You are my Good Shepherd.
Come and find me when I feel lost
and lead me back to You.

Help me to follow You
and stay close to You each day.
May I live with You and praise You forever.
Amen.

St. Jerome — Pray for us!