



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 2024

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

FOOD BANK DRIVE until Nov 4th (hosted by Gr. 6)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:			Book your School Interviews via Conference Manager			2 Bacon Fundraiser order opens
3 <i>Mark 12:28b-34</i> Daylight Savings 	4 Nov 13th pizza order opens Chopped Leaf Hot Lunch order opens	5	6 School Interviews 	7 School Interviews Remembrance Day Assembly hosted by 6D	8 Wellness Day— School Closed 	9
10 <i>Mark 12: 38-44 or 12: 41-44</i> Nov 13th pizza order closes	11 Remembrance Day— School Closed 	12 Divisional Collaboration Day— No School for Students 	13 Pizza Lunch School Council Meeting @ 6:30 LPS Town Hall @ 6:00 pm	14 Chopped Leaf Hot Lunch order closes	15 Rock your Mocs 	16
17 <i>Mark 13: 24-32</i>	18 Alberta Musical Theatre presents "Rapunzel" 	19	20 Kindergarten to Helen Schuler Nature Centre 	21 Kindergarten Interviews No School for Kindergarten Students	22 Kindergarten Interviews Movie Night @ 6:00 pm	23
24 <i>John 18: 33b-37</i>	25 Dec 4th pizza order opens	26 Kindergarten to Helen Schuler Nature Centre 	27 Choirs perform with Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra Chopped Leaf Hot Lunch Divisional Board Meeting	28 	29 Advent Celebration lead by 2/3N 	30 Bacon Fundraiser order closes



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below: <i>Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36</i>	2	3	4 Pizza Lunch 	5 Dress Rehearsal and Christmas Concert 	6 	7 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	18 Turkey Lunch  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 				



November 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

Even before Halloween came upon us, you could see that Christmas was not far off. Some enthusiastic people even have their trees up already! I personally follow the rule of 'no Christmas until after Remembrance Day', but there are some aspects to the Advent season we can always keep front of mind earlier than others. One key one is to adopt an attitude of gratitude and invest in the spirit of giving that is so pivotal this time of year.

In the last days of October, our grade 6 students led the charge for a Food Bank drive. We collected gently used winter clothing for the Knights of Columbus and will again be an Angel Tree drop off site thanks to Lethbridge Family Services. This program sees donations become Christmas gifts for thousands of children and adults for whom the kids of purchasing gifts in their families may be too much to ask. An amazing team of students at Catholic Central continue the Santa's Anonymous project, striving to raise \$30 000 for food and gift hampers to go to as many division families in need as possible. You can support Santa's Anonymous by visiting [this site](#) and selecting the project in the dropdown menu. Angel Tree giving information will come soon. There are so many places we are called to serve through the Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

This month, we welcome our new Superintendent, Ms. Chantel Axani, to Lethbridge. She comes from Lakeland Catholic further north in Alberta, and is looking forward to continuing the strong tradition of Catholic education in our division. I hope you will be able to meet her at future events or through the parish!

We will also enjoy the buzz of community with our first set of Parent/Teacher/Student interviews early this month. You are significant partners in your child's learning, and these meetings are an important time to ask questions about your child's student skills, challenges, goals and ways you can help to achieve them from home. Stay connected through opening Spaces, reading e-mails, and most of all, asking your child about what is being learned at school. Being curious is one of the best ways to see the day through your child's eyes! If you haven't booked an appointment yet, it may not be too late. Call the office for any help if needed. As of Monday, Nov. 4, look for a great summary of your child's initial student skills in 'Growth as a Learner' reports on Spaces. There are so many ways you can help strengthen these skills through your at-home routines.

Finally, you are all invited to attend the Lethbridge Regional Police Service Open House on Nov. 13 between 6-8 pm. Meet Chief Mehdizadeh and other officers to hear about how they are supporting west side citizens. This is a public event hosted in our beautiful school!

We are very much settled into the school year, and continue to be so grateful for all of you!



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

Growing in Faith



Proclaim! We are committed to sharing our faith in every part of our school community. Each staff member and student at St. Patrick Fine Arts School has joyfully pledged to live and share their faith in meaningful ways. As you visit the school during interviews, take a moment to celebrate these commitments with us. Be sure to ask your child to show you their commitment; it's something we are all very proud of!

I am grateful for the leadership shown by our Grade 6 students this month as they promoted their mission project "Feed the Need" and collected items for the Interfaith Food Bank. Their efforts contribute to our mission to proclaim Jesus' love to others and to build a strong and caring school community by modelling ways to serve those in need in our larger community. Well done!

Our commitment to proclaiming our faith and building a vibrant, Christ-centered community was beautifully fostered during our Reconciliation Retreat at St. Martha's Church. Grade 2F and 2/3M, together with students from CSM and FLVT, gathered to deepen their understanding of forgiveness; learning how it heals relationships and draws us closer to God. This special retreat allowed students to make new friends and experience the joy of our greater Catholic community, celebrating our faith together.



Last month, we celebrated Catholic Education Week, during which GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education) launched their new website. GrACE's mission is grounded in the belief that publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community, we are called to respond with gratitude, faith, and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools. Please take some time to explore their website to learn how you can get involved and advocate for publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta.



Classes for First Reconciliation and First Communion have recently started. For more information about how to get your child involved please contact Carla Ferrari (ferraric@holyspirit.ab.ca), or Zachary Hampton (sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca).

General Information

Food Bank Drive

Grade 6 students are hosting a Food Bank Drive from October 21st to November 4th. Please consider donating any non-perishable items during this time. Let's try for as much weight in donations as possible. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Interfaith Food Bank instead, that would be great! Visit their site at <https://interfaithfoodbank.ca/>



School Fees Email Notifications



If you have not been receiving emails when a new item has been added to your School Cash Online account, please follow the steps below in your School Cash Online account:

- At the top of the screen, please click on MY ACCOUNT.
- Go to MANAGE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS.
- Please make sure that the box is checked for "I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student".
- Once checked, you should now start receiving email notifications when something new has been added to your student's account. This is for fundraisers, pizza lunch, hot lunch and school fees. We don't want you to miss anything, so please correct your notifications today.

Remembrance Day



Please join the grade 6D class as they present the Remembrance Day Ceremony on Thursday, **November 7th** at 10:45 am. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Poppies are on sale by donation in the office from November 1st to 7th.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Reminder: Grade 1 to 6 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews take place on November 6th and 7th from 4:15 - 7:45 pm. Kindergarten interviews take place on November 21st from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm and November 22nd from 8:30 - 11:30 am (Note there is no school for Kinder students on the 21st).

For all interviews, book via your Conference Manager account or call the office at 403-327-4386.



Christmas Wreaths



Once again, St. Pat's is offering 20-22" 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 Grade 6 field trips. The order **deadline is Thursday, November 14th** and the wreaths will be available in early December. You can purchase via your SchoolCash Online account.

General Information



“A Podcast Christmas: Proclaiming the Good News!”



Mark this on your calendars!

Our annual Christmas concert “*A Podcast Christmas: Proclaiming the Good News!*” is on **December 5th @ 6:30 pm at the Southminster United Church**. Tickets will be available for purchase soon on your SchoolCash Online account. More information regarding the concert requirements will be sent home with your students in the coming weeks. It is expected that all students attend the concert, so please notify your evening activity leaders.



Alberta Foundations for the Arts: Travelling Arts Exhibitions 2024-2025

The AFA's Travelling Exhibition (TREX) program aims to provide every Albertan with the chance to experience well-curated exhibitions in schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and smaller rural institutions and galleries across the province. Through the TREX program, both the AFA's rich art collection and the creations of contemporary Alberta artists are made accessible to the people of Alberta. Three times a year, St. Patrick Fine Arts School showcases the collection supplied by TREX, allowing students to engage with the visual arts.

Women Gone Wild! Nov 14 - Dec 11, 2024



While animals have long been a subject for visual artists, in the annals of Euro-North American art history, any exploration of wild animals that has been undertaken has almost exclusively been by male artists. Beginning in the 20th century this began to change as the roles of women in society broadened. This exhibition explores the subject of wild creatures as expressed in the work of three contemporary women artists from Edmonton. The depictions of wild creatures presented range from realistic representations to more abstract and surrealistic impressions. Whatever their artistic approach and intentions, all three artists reveal a love and respect for nature in their works, and through their works, invite viewers to “go wild” as well.



School Council Update



Happy November SPFA Families!

School Council has lots of opportunities for you and your children to get involved this month! First of all, our Bacon Box fundraiser is back! Watch SchoolCash Online to order 11lbs of fresh bacon between November 1-30. Bacon will be ready for pick up on December 17th. This fundraiser helps School Council provide whole school hot lunches and host several social events throughout the year!

The Social Wellness Committee will be hosting a Movie Night at the school on Friday, November 22nd. Students will have the opportunity to vote on the movie to help get us ready for the holidays. Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun, family night! The first Hot Lunch is coming on Wednesday, November 27th. Watch SchoolCash Online to order lunch from The Chopped Leaf.

Did you know that as a parent of a child at SPFAE, you're already a member of School Council? Our November meeting is on Wednesday, November 13th at 6:30pm. You can join us in person or virtually at <http://meet.google.com/esi-gwiq-uhz>. This month, we will have a closer look at our Student Conduct Guidelines. We'd love to have you join us as we work to make this school year a fun and memorable one for our school community and advocate on behalf of our students and the staff.

Here's to a great November!

~Catherine Furukawa
School Council, Chair



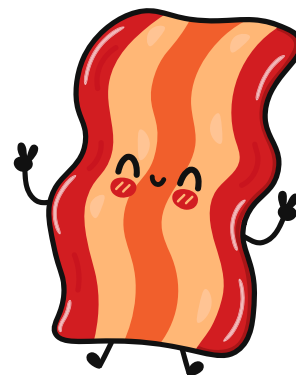
Movie Night

Friday, Nov 22 @ 6:30 pm

Hosted by School Council in the Gym
Come in PJ's , bring a blanket, pillow &
water bottle (water only)

Popcorn will be provided!

(Parents must attend with their children.)



Bacon Fundraiser

5 Kg Fresh Bacon

Thick Slices

\$85.00 per box

Order from Nov 1 - 30

Delivery on Dec 17 3:30-5:30 pm

Order via SchoolCash Online

Supplied by Gordon Food Services

November

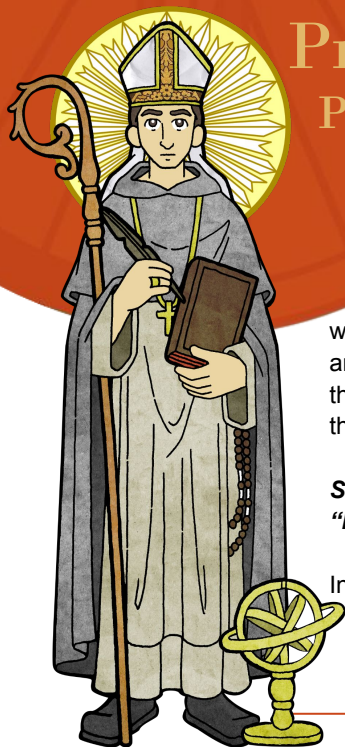
"It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to man and man to God."

- St. Albert the Great

St. Albert Magnus 1200-1280 (Feast Day: November 15)

Proclaim!

Pilgrims of Hope



Albertus Magnus (Magnus meaning 'Great') was born in what is today Germany around the year 1200. His family was likely of the nobility, which led to him having more formal education than many people of that time. His studies, largely in theology, led him to enter the Dominican order, and in that order he traveled to various locations around Germany to instruct as a lecturer. Eventually he moved to the University of Paris, where he has among his students a young Thomas Aquinas. He returned eventually to Germany as a Bishop, but continued his academic instruction as well until his death in 1280.

St. Albert is well known for his academic prowess - he was a scientist, philosopher, theologian, spiritual writer, and diplomat in his time. He wrote a great deal, with his collected works reaching over 35 volumes. He was an expert in many fields, including law, ethics, natural sciences and minerals. One key area in which he influenced the medieval world was in the area of faith and science. St. Albert showed that faith and science were not at odds; that we can look into the mysteries of creation and in them find holiness. As Pope Benedict XVI said in 2010:

Saint Albert shows us that faith is not opposed to reason, and that the created world can be seen as a "book" written by God and capable of being "read" in its own way by the various sciences.

In many ways, he set the stage for others like St. Thomas Aquinas to refine and deepen Catholic theology. For these reasons, St. Albert the Great was canonized in 1931 and named Doctor of the Church.

The Apostles' Creed

"... and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary..."

The second section of the Apostles' Creed shifts our focus from God to Jesus. In it, we attest to our belief in the Incarnation; the union of divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ. This simple statement belies endless complexity and questions. Many of these were questions that the early Church wrestled with. However, we know from both Scripture and from early historians such as Josephus and Tacitus that there are historical records of the existence of Jesus.

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

- We proclaim our belief in Christ as the only Son of God - one unique relationship with God, in contrast to those who suggested otherwise.
- We profess Christ as Lord - the same title often used in the era of the Old Testament to describe Yahweh with respect.

- We profess belief in the immaculate conception.

Jesus' humanity allows us to identify closely with him, who also had fears, happiness, hunger, and fatigue. And it is in his Incarnation that we too have hope that we can be children of God in his Kingdom.

As we seek to become Pilgrims of Hope this year, let us contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.

FORMED - [Why did God become man?](#)

FORMED - [Was Jesus a Real Person \(or Really God\)?](#)

FORMED - [What does it mean to have a relationship with God?](#)

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

Every November, as Holy Spirit, we gather together to offer a Mass for our retired staff. This month, the Mass will be held on **Tuesday, November 5, 5:00 at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre**. This is an important opportunity for us to gather together with our colleagues and to also remember those colleagues who have passed away. We recall their faithful service and witness in proclaiming the Gospel message to so many of us, former students and co-workers, and the lasting impact they have had on our communities. Please consider joining us this year!



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Anyone Who Has Lost a Child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Readings

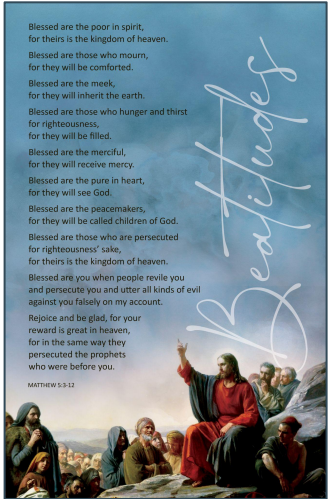


Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12a

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven...” — Matthew 5:11-12

When Jesus taught us the Beatitudes, he said that we are blessed when we are insulted and persecuted because of our faith in him. In his time and culture, and still in some countries today, people were and are treated terribly for being Christians. Jesus wanted them to know that they weren’t alone when this happened, and that ultimately they would be rewarded for being faithful to him. This is hard to understand because we normally think that we are blessed when we are approved and honored, not when we are insulted and persecuted. Jesus turned a lot of thinking upside down like this. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand Jesus’ words and help us to live more like Jesus taught.

Does our family follow the Beatitudes as a way of life, giving special care and respect for the ones our society usually looks down upon? Read the Beatitudes today and focus on one or more to live out in your family.



View The Beatitudes poster [here](#)

Prayer:
Dear Holy Spirit, help us to live for Jesus and to live according to the Beatitudes.

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28b-34

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself’. There is no other commandment greater than these.” — Mark 12:30-31

The scribe asked Jesus, “Which is the greatest commandment?” Because he understood the answer, Jesus told him that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

Do I understand Jesus’ words? Do I love God with all my soul, mind and strength? When we love what is good and strive to do what is right, then we are loving God. Do I love my neighbor as myself? Is my neighbor’s well-being as important as my own? It’s not selfish to be good to ourselves, but we are asked to treat others just as well. For some people, it is harder to be as good to themselves as they are to others. Jesus asks us to try to do both. Love others AND love ourselves.

Do we care about our neighbor as much as we care about ourselves? How can we do better?



Prayer:
Dear Lord, we want to understand your words. We want to live your commandments with all our heart. Holy Spirit, please help us to know how to express our love for God, others, and ourselves.

Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Albert the Great
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:38-44

“Do not be afraid...first, make a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.” — 1 Kings 17:13

The poor widow did not refuse the prophet Elijah's request, even though she barely had enough flour and oil to prepare one meal for her own family. She made a cake for Elijah, and afterwards, the Lord blessed her family with enough to eat for a full year. It must have been so hard for her to offer the last of her food to someone else when she didn't know where any more would come from. This is one of many stories in the Bible when God provides for people when they are self-less and share what they have with others. Do I trust God this much—enough to put others' needs before my own?

How can our family show our trust in God and our gratitude for all God has given us?
This week, can our family give one item to the poor that we would rather keep for ourselves?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please give us the faith and trust to put the needs of others before our own. Help us to see you in the poor and to care for them as we would care for our own family. Help us remember that everything we have is a gift from you for us to share. Please give us the grace we need to trust you in all things.



Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-32

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” — Mark 13:31-32

Jesus told us that one day everything as we know it will end and that we will not know the time when this will happen. That might seem a little bit scary. At the same time, we know that some people die suddenly every day in accidents or from heart attacks or other unforeseen occurrences. Jesus is trying to tell us that we should be living every day as if this is our last. If I were to die today, would I be satisfied with how I lived my life or would I regret doing something or not doing something? What should I take from Jesus' stories and teachings to apply to my life today?

If I knew today was my last day on earth, how would I want to spend it?
What would I want to do or say?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we do not know when we will meet you face to face, but we hope that when that day comes, you will be pleased with the way we tried to live our lives for you. Please give us the grace to always make choices that will lead us to you.



Gospel Reading: John 18:33b-37

...Son of Man received dominion, glory and kingship... — Daniel 7:14 | Jesus Christ is the faithful witness...and ruler of the kings of earth. — Revelation 1:5 | “My kingdom does not belong to this world...My kingdom is not here.” — John 18:36

Jesus is the KING OF KINGS! Jesus is the KING OF HEAVEN AND EARTH! Yet Jesus isn't like earthly kings who are wealthy and powerful and can make people do whatever they want them to. Jesus wants what is good and right for everyone in the world. He doesn't want power for himself - he wants everyone to be treated with justice and to have what they need to live joyful lives. Can Jesus be the King of your heart? He wants to be. He wants to work together with us to bring about a Kingdom of love and equality.

What are some ways that I can live as though Jesus is the king of my heart? If Jesus came to visit our home today, what kind of “royal treatment” would we give him to celebrate his presence?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for being an awesome God. You are the most gentle, loving, just, kind, glorious, powerful king in all of heaven and earth. We love you and invite you into our hearts.



Sources:
[Stories of Saints | St. Albert the Great](#)
[How St. Albert was known as “the Great” even during his life](#)



GrACE Website

<https://www.gracealberta.org/home>

Message from GrACE's Executive Director

Dear GrACE Apostles,

I am excited to announce the soft launch of our new GrACE website, now available at www.gracealberta.org/home.

This launch is intentionally aligned with Catholic Education Sunday and Week (October 19-25, 2024). Over the coming weeks, I will be enhancing the site with additional resources and updated information.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Bryan Szumlas and Archbishop Smith for their pivotal roles and support in initiating this project. Special acknowledgment is due to Dr. Szumlas for his relentless drive and vision, to His Grace for his guidance, and to both Grant Gay and the entire GrACE Board for their invaluable advice and contributions. Additionally, a heartfelt thank you to Greg Verhappen for his technical expertise, which has been essential in bringing this project to fruition.

Your feedback and contributions are immensely valuable and always appreciated as we continue to grow and improve this platform.

Please take a moment to subscribe to the website to stay connected and informed.

Thank you all for your unwavering dedication to the cause of Catholic education!

Blessings and much love.

'Jesus, I trust in You!'

Kate

Executive Director | GrACE



ROCK YOUR MOCS

⇒ November 15, 2024 ⇐

#ROCKYOURMOCS



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division