



February 2024

Newsletter

As February marks the conclusion of Semester 1 and the start of Semester 2 for our Junior High Family Day looms on the horizon. At this time we are reminded of the importance of Family. As a potter molds clay to form a beautiful creation, so does the strong bond of family and good values.

Family bonds are a link to our past and a guide to our future. Early influences are fundamental to individual development and growth. Families come in all shapes and sizes and can be generally defined as two or more people who share goals and values, have long-term commitments to one another, and usually live in the same place.

We all want to “belong” and feel accepted. A sense of belonging is derived from the strong bond of family. Family is where our roots take hold and from there we grow. We are molded within a unit, which prepares us for what we will experience in the world and how we react to those experiences. Values are taught at an early age and are carried with us throughout our life. Family is the first and primary educator.

A close family bond is like a safe harbor where we find refuge. From trusting that someone will pick us up when we fall, to someone being there for us as we experience the storms in life - family bonds help to instill trust and hope in the world around us and belief in ourselves. Rituals such as liturgies, holidays, school routines, bedtime stories, and daily meals shared together; provide a sense of warmth, structure and safety. These rituals and traditions, not only create memories and leave a family legacy, but create our first path in life - one that is positive.
At St. Joseph School – We are Family.

February is a very busy month with Shrove Tuesday the 13th and Ash Wednesday on the 14th signifying the beginning of Lent. Family week runs from Monday, February 19th through to Friday, February 23rd. If you received a Survey in the mail from Alberta Learning, please take the time to fill it out and return it. We receive feedback from many sources but we require feedback from you, good and bad, in order to improve on what we are doing at SJS. Re-registration for existing SJS students has begun and registration for new families for the 2023-2024 school year will open on February 1st. Online registration forms can be found on the SJS homepage, please contact the office if you have any questions or need any assistance with the registration process. Again remember that at St. Joseph School– We are Family – and there is no problem we cannot solve together.

God Bless,
Brent Christensen



Principal - Mr. Brent Christensen

Associate Principal - Mr. Bruce Gal

Parents/Guardian our monthly newsletters are available on our website: sjs.holyspirit.ab.ca

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Coaldale, AB
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February 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Grades 1-3 Mass 8:45am-9:45am	2 <i>Presentation of Jesus at the Temple</i> JV Girls League Tournament @ SCPB JV Boys League Tournament @ RI Baker	3
4 Youth Led Mass St. Ambrose Church 4:00pm-5:00pm ALL our WELCOME	5	6	7 CCH Grade 9 Parent Night 7:00pm-7:30pm CCH Campus East	8 Grades 4-5 Mass 8:45am-9:45am	9 PD Day SJS No School SV Boys League Tournament @ CCS SV Girls League Tournament @ HOME	10
11	12	13 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> Free Pancake Hot Lunch Valentine's Day Activities	14 Lenten Liturgy 12:15pm-1:15pm 	15 Office Hours 5:00pm-6:30pm	16	17
18 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	19 <i>Family Day</i> No School	20	21	22 Convention Day	23 Convention Day	24
No School for Students February 19- 23, 2024						
25 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	26	27	28 Edo of Japan Hot Lunch "PINK Shirt Day" Board Meeting	29		

Come join us for our
Youth Led Mass-Sunday, February 4th, 2024 at 4:00pm.

St. Joseph School will be coordinating Mass at
St. Ambrose Church. Knights of Columbus will be serving donuts and
juice after Mass. All families are welcome to attend.



February Athletic Report

As we begin the month of February, we look forward to some more exciting basketball and our league championships. The JV boys will close their season out with a tournament at RI Baker on February 2nd and 3rd. The JV girls will also be playing their final tournament that weekend as they head to St. Catherines in Picture Butte. Both teams have had excellent seasons with a lot of growth as athletes. We wish both teams well in this final championship tournament! As for our SV teams, they will play their final league championship tournament the following weekend.

The boys will be at Coaldale Christian on Feb. 9-10, while the girls will have home court advantage, playing the final tournament at St. Joseph on Feb. 10th. Depending on how our SV teams do at these tournaments, they may have the opportunity to compete in the Zone Championship on March 1-2. Good luck to our SV teams! At this time I would like to thank all of our referees and scorekeepers for all of their hard work ensuring that the season ran smoothly. I would also like to thank the following coaches and staff volunteers for dedicating their time and talents to our St. Joseph athletes.

- JV and SV Girls: Mrs. Baron and Jim Bosch
- JV Boys: Raegan Abrey and Darcee Abrey Mckeown
- SV Boys: Evan Mayo and Ken Coles
- School Liaison for Boys teams: Mrs. Robison

Also, I would like to thank our parents for all of the effort put into shuttling the athletes to tournaments and games, to providing food for our coaches rooms and riding the bus to Vulcan. To our grade 9 athletes as they venture on to high school next year, we wish them all the best in their future basketball pursuits!

Sincerely,

Bruce Gal

The Coaldale Figure Skating Club
Presents

LOOK IN A BOOK

Tickets sold at the doors

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

1pm @ the Coaldale Arena

Entrance Fee...\$5.00

cash only

Children 5 and under...FREE

Program and Door Prize Entry...\$3.00



We are in your community!

PARENT/CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Petra.....403-795-3328

Need Support?

COUNSELLING SUPPORT

Mike.....587-370-3728

YOUTH SUPPORT

Kaitlynn.....403-795-4627

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

Christie.....403-915-7530

SENIOR SUPPORT

Renee.....587-370-8518

With support from your municipalities, services are **FREE of CHARGE.**

February

Build!

Pilgrims of Hope



"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people."

Matthew 4:23

St. Dulce Lopes Pontes 1914-1992 (Feast Day: August 13)

When Maria de Souza Pontes was 13, her aunt took her on a trip to the poor area of her hometown. She was struck by the poverty and need that she encountered, and began to start to care for the homeless in her own neighbourhood. At 18, she joined a missionary order and became known as Dulce. Immediately, she began to serve the neediest in Salvador, supporting workers and housing those in need. Initially, this was done in abandoned homes and buildings, but each time they were evicted. Finally, she asked the permission of the convent to convert their chicken coop - which over time became a hospital. That hospital today serves more than 3,000 patients per day and is the largest free hospital in Brazil.

In 1959, she created a foundation known as OSID, which oversees the hospital, as well as other welfare and education services, and is a well known and respected organization in Brazil. It serves the homeless, elderly, children, those with addictions and disabilities and other marginalized groups. Dulce was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, and lived the last years of her life with respiratory problems prior to her death in 1992. St. Dulce Lopes Pontes was canonized by Pope Francis in 2019, becoming the first Brazilian female saint.

"Building" In Our Schools

At St. Joseph School in Coaldale, their Leadership class is spearheading a fundraising campaign for our divisional Chalice campaign. As they raise funds, through ice cream float and hot chocolate sales, they are visually tracking their contributions by adding bricks to their school diagram - building a school of kindness. What a great way to show solidarity with St. Odilia!



Corporal Works of Mercy

– Visit the Sick –

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them. Consider one or more of these practical ways to show this work:

- Give blood.
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbour.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.
- Spend quality time with those who are sick or homebound.
- Take the time to call, send a card or an e-mail to someone who is sick.

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



"We are like a pencil with which God writes the texts He wants said in the hearts of men."

(St. Dulce Lopes Pontes)

Catholic Social Teaching

– Solidarity –

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 the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. We saw how keenly interested God is in those at the margins. When we act in ways that align with this, recognizing our interdependence, seeing ourselves in others and seeking to secure the good of others, we are showing solidarity. As St. Pope John Paul II wrote,

"[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

Learn more about Solidarity with one of these resources:

CST 101 - [Solidarity](#)

Development and Peace - [Solidarity](#)

USCCB - [Solidarity](#)



Gospel Readings

February 4, 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

"All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it." — 1 Corinthians 9:23

Do **WHAT** for the sake of the gospel? In today's scripture verse, we are called to do **EVERYTHING** for the glory of God. The Gospel tells of Jesus' life and how he tried to please God with all he did and said, the way he loved, the way he treated others, the way he did everything! We too are called to do everything in our lives to live out the Gospel. The word "gospel" means "good news." We want to have a share of this Good News, just like St. Paul did. All we have to do is live the Gospel in our own lives. So listen carefully to the scripture readings at Mass. They will guide you to live for God!

What do you think it would be like to have a share of the Good News?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, we want to experience your Good News today and be with you in heaven someday! Please help us to learn what we need to do to have a share in that gift.

February 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40-45

"...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." — 1 Corinthians 10:31

How could what I eat or drink glorify God? St. Paul reminds us in this reading to remember God and give him glory for all the normal, everyday things we do in our lives. It's easy to forget and take things for granted, but everything is a gift from God. Paul also reminds us to be kind to others in everyday situations. We can make choices like holding the door for others, when all we want to do is get into the place we are going. We can choose to be last in line, allowing others to go before us and offering that as a prayer. These are all small ways we can give glory to God—and show God's love—in our daily lives.

What are some ways you can show glory to God in your life every day?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, I don't always feel like I can do great things to show you my love. Please help me to find small ways every day in my own life to give you glory.

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Dulce Lopes Pontes



Gospel Readings

February 18, 2024

1st Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:12-15

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan." — Mark 1:12

Even Jesus was called for forty days to fast and pray. It was not easy for him. Satan was there whispering in his ear to try to get him to stop fasting and walk away from his prayer. He could have done that. He was God. But he chose the harder way. He chose to offer up his discomfort to glorify God and grow closer to him. We too are called to forty days of fasting and praying. We may even be tempted as Jesus was to walk away from the sacrifices. But just as the Spirit gave Jesus the strength to keep going, he will give us what we need to continue and grow closer to him.

What are some ways that you can fight off temptations? What are your favourite ways to pray?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the opportunity to join with you in this time of fasting and praying during Lent. Please give us the grace not to give in to temptation.

February 25, 2024

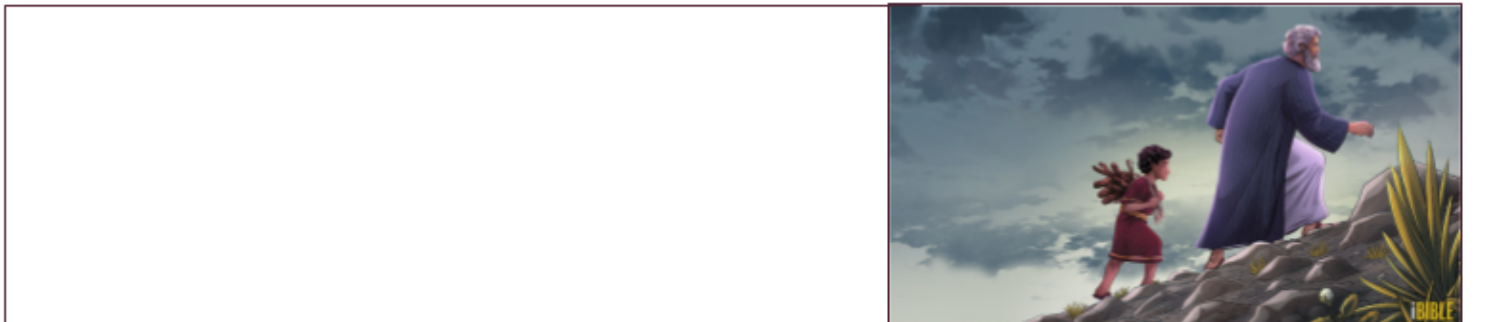
2nd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10

"Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love...there you shall offer him up as a holocaust..." — Genesis 22:2

Think of the one person you love the most in the world. Is it your mom, dad, a brother or sister? Maybe it's a best friend or a cousin. Can you imagine if you heard God ask you to give them up forever? That would be the hardest thing you'd ever have to do. Yet, in today's scripture, that is what God asks Abraham to do. Abraham is a great example of faith and trust in God. He didn't understand why God wanted him to give up his only son, whom he loved with all his heart. But he trusted in God. In the end, we learn that God didn't want him to give up his son, he just wanted to test Abraham's faith and trust. I think he passed the test, what about you?

Are there things in your life that God may want you to give up that would help you grow closer to him?



Prayer:

Lord, may we learn to have the same faith and trust in you that Abraham had, even when we don't understand your ways.

Sources:

[All about Blessed Dulce Lopes Pontes – the Good Angel of Brazil](#)
[Irmã Dulce](#)
[Dulce Lopes Pontes: From serving the sick to Nobel nominee](#)

[History, Prayer, and Phrases of Saint Dulce of the Poor](#)
Image Source: [The Life of Isaac \(Part Two: The Sacrifice\)](#)



(I)SWAG Presents:

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Join us as Lethbridge Family Services presents while
you enjoy a complimentary dinner at a night of
exciting learning

Location
Anton's Ballroom

Sandman Signature, 320
Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge AB

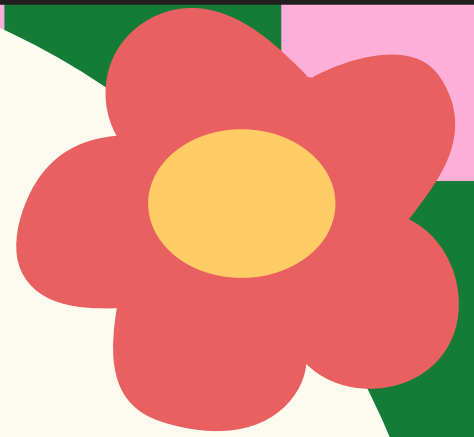
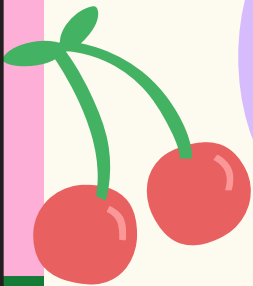
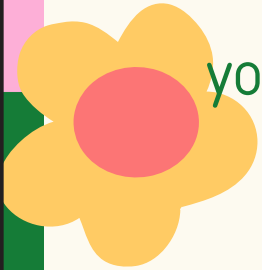
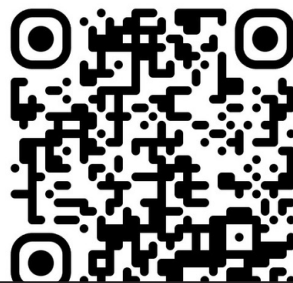
February

15

5:30 - 8:00pm

Please RSVP at:

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





Take the next step with...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2024/2025 REGISTRATION

Re-Registration Starts January 15, 2024

Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 15-19, 2024 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2024/2025 school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.



New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2024

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to register online starting on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

- Through play, our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- **Grade 1** registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- **French Immersion** is also available. Enrollment starts:
 - in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
 - in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.



For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
1513 - 23 Avenue
Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2

Phone : 403-345-3400
Email : office@stambroseparish.ca

The CHOSEN

Presenting season one of **The CHOSEN**, rated Parental Guidance, portraying the life of Jesus Christ and the calling of his initial disciples.

Starting, Sunday, **February 25th** and running every Sunday until **March 17th**, sponsored by St. Ambrose Hall Committee.

Place: St. Joseph School- 1413 23 Avenue - Coaldale, aB

Time: Doors open 5:00 pm - Show starts at 5:45 pm

Admission: \$2/person or \$10/family

Snacks will be available; hotdog/drink/bag of popcorn for an extra **\$5/person**.

Approximate running time for the movie is 90 minutes.

Come join us this Lenten Season. **You are Called, You Matter, You Belong!**