



March 2024

Newsletter

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I shall want.
He lets me rest in fields of green pastures and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.
He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.
Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord,
for you are with me. Your shepherd’s rod and staff protect me.” (Psalm 23: 1-4)

As we continue into the Lenten season and approach Easter, the most important season in the church’s calendar, we are constantly reminded of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus paid. Giving up his own life, in order for us to be freed from sin. What an amazing gift to each and every one of us!

What will YOU do with this gift?

As a Catholic community during Lent we focus on the three practices of fasting, praying, and almsgiving.

Fasting can take on many forms: getting rid of those things in our lives that drag us down and fracture our relationship with God (selfishness, pride, anger and bitterness) to consciously abstaining from eating certain foods. The value in fasting can be found in helping us become more open and sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s operations, guidance, and strengthening of our spiritual life.

Praying is a time in which we can strengthen the relationship between God and ourselves. Daily prayer can bless you, your family, and those you pray for. It can also invite more peace into your life, help you learn more about God’s plan for you, and more.

Alms are the essence of charity-giving without thought of return or personal gain. Giving or sharing our time, treasure (food, money, or other gifts), or talent with others in our community is yet another calling. The impact on our community because of these acts is significant and long lasting.

Like Jesus in the desert for forty days and nights praying, fasting, and preparing for the work that He would soon do, we too must get ready and plan for Easter. Let us all be standing and ready to meet the resurrected-Christ on Easter Sunday.

May your Lenten journey be rewarding.

God Bless and Happy Easter,

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

1413 23 Avenue
Coaldale, AB
T1M 1M6
Phone: 403-345-3373 Fax: 403-345-3789

March 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Girls basketball clinic will be running for girls Grade 4-5 every Friday March 1- April 19. Thank you Mrs. Baron for your time and commitment.		1 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> Spirit Day- Jagwear Day SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	2 Basketball Zones
3 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	4	5	6	7 Grades1-3 Mass 8:45am-9:45am Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE 10:00am-5:00pm	8 School Assembly Wear TEAM colours SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	9
10 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	11 Division Collaboration Day No School for Students	12	13 Wiebe's Delicatessen Hot Lunch	14 Grades 4-5 Mass 8:45am-9:45am	15 Junior High Band Festival 8:30am-12:00pm SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	16
17 YOUTH LED MASS <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Feast of St. Patrick</i>	18 <i>Spirit Day-Wear Green</i>	19 <i>Feast of St. Joseph</i> 	20	21 Grades 1-3 Mass Grades 6-9 Mass 8:45am-9:45am World Down Syndrome Day	22 25 Hour Famine Stations of the Cross St. Ambrose SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	23 25 Hour Famine
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25	26	27 Booster Juice Hot Lunch Board Meeting	28 <i>Holy Thursday</i> Meager Lunch	29 <i>Good Friday</i> Easter Break Begins	30 <i>Holy Saturday</i>
31 Happy Easter						

A huge *THANK YOU* to *EVERYONE* who volunteered for our first SJS coordinated Youth led Mass on February 4th, and a *SPECIAL THANKS* to the **Knights of Columbus** for serving donuts and juice after Mass!

Your enthusiasm in sharing your precious time and talents is such a Blessing for our community!

March Athletic Report

It is hard to believe but the basketball season is almost over. All of the practices, games and tournaments are, for the most part, behind us. I will take this time to reflect on a great season by all of our teams. To start with, both our boys and girls JV teams competed in the Championship Tournaments on February 2-3 and both teams brought home Gold Medals! This is a huge accomplishment for the athletes and their coaches as the league was very competitive. In talking to both the boys and girls coaches, they reflected on the effort and determination the athletes demonstrated throughout the season, which paid off in the Championship Tournament. Once again, congratulations to our JV Basketball Teams! Our SV Boys and Girls teams also had excellent seasons and performed really well at the league Championship Tournaments. Both teams came away with Silver Medals! I was able to watch the girls game and was impressed with their teamwork and resiliency in the final game. They never gave up and got better as the game progressed, well done girls! Although I wasn't able to watch the boys final game, the reports I received were very positive. The boys competed until the final whistle and played as a team. Unfortunately for the boys they did not qualify for the Zone Championships but they should still feel proud of the great season they had. Congratulations to the girls team, as they did qualify for the zone championship. Although they finished second in our league, they were first among 2J schools which allows them to compete in Zones. We wish them luck as they compete in the Zone Championship on March 1-2. Please continue to check the google calendar as Badminton tryouts/practices begin on March 4. Thanks again to everyone for a great basketball season!

Sincerely,

Bruce Gal

*The next SJS coordinated Youth led Mass will be on
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024, 4:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Church!*

We will need readers, greeters, gift bearers, altar servers, ushers, singers, and musicians!

Volunteer forms will be available at the SJS Office and emailed to all parents.

All students and staff are encouraged to share their precious time and talents for this special celebration.

We will have two practices in preparation for this Mass:

Friday's, March 8th & 15th , 12:22 p.m. to 1:22 p.m. in the
Choir Loft at St. Ambrose Church.

We will meet in the Gathering Space after school and walk to the church together.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Mastel at 403-892-4207.

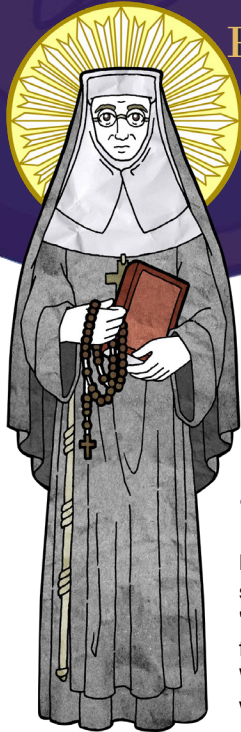


Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

March Build!

Pilgrims of Hope



*“Out of our common todays and yesterdays we are building for eternity.
No thought, no work of ours ever dies. We shall meet them all again,
and in the world to come shall find our gathered harvest.”*

- St. Katharine Drexel

St. Katharine Drexel 1858-1955 (Feast Day: March 3)

Katharine Drexel was born into a wealthy American family, and despite some personal hardship, grew up in relative comfort, with private tutors and the ability to travel widely. Her family was also very dedicated to prayer and service; they supported the poor and needy of their community from their abundant wealth. During a family trip to the western states, Katharine saw the plight of the Indigenous peoples of the west, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud, and began to send financial support to western missionaries.

In a later visit to Europe, Katharine met Pope Leo XIII and, after describing what she had seen and experienced in the western United States, asked him to send more missionaries to that area. She was surprised when the Pope suggested that she become a missionary! After prayer and spiritual direction, Katharine indeed joined a religious order, later founding another order known today as the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She used her wealth to finance the establishment of over 60 schools and missions across the United States that served the various First Nations and African-American communities, never hesitating to speak out against racial injustice and discrimination. Katharine passed away in 1955 at the age of 96. When Katharine was canonized, Pope John Paul II made specific mention of her courage and initiative in addressing social inequality, her perspective on the unity of all peoples, and her love of the Eucharist.

“Building” In Our Schools

Building in our schools and in our communities! On Tuesday, February 13th, students and staff at Children of St. Martha spread love and kindness to the community by hosting a "Take What You Need" event. The students created "heart art", which was placed on the fence in the bus loop. The community was invited to stop by and take whatever they wanted. Whether picking something up, or simply driving by, the art is a creative demonstration that we are all loved by God.



Corporal Works of Mercy — Clothe the Naked —

Living in southern Alberta in the wintertime is a clear reminder of our basic human need for clothing! When we think of Clothing the Naked, we often think of that literal level which is very important - but so also is the wider work of mercy that can be applied. This is outlined by Philip Kosloski in [this article](#) from the National Catholic Register. In it, he notes:

“When we search out the “naked” of our local community, we shouldn’t only be looking for those without clothes. We should also look for those who are rejected, alone, and forgotten. They too are “naked,” without friends or family, stripped of all meaningful human relationships. They are like the man in the parable of the “Good Samaritan.” He was not only stripped of his clothes, beaten and left for dead, but also completely alone. Numerous people passed him by and no one extended a hand. He was treated like he was invisible.”

Consider one of the following suggestions from the McGrath Institute at Notre Dame:

- Give up a particular item that you might normally spend money on and donate the funds to an organization that might be in need.
- Donate clothing (new or in good condition)
- Hold a baby shower for a mom in need.
- Consider reaching out to organizations that help children who might be in foster care or living in a shelter.

Pope’s Prayer Intentions - For New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

For more information: [Works of Mercy](#)

[Home Page](#)

Catholic Social Teaching — Economic Justice —

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.

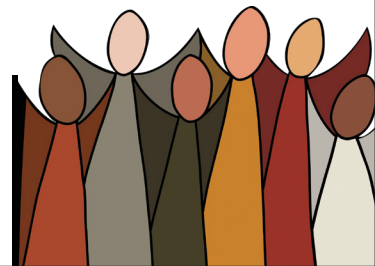
Last month, we looked at solidarity as the need to recognize our interdependence, to see ourselves in others and to seek to secure their good. One area in which we can see this specifically is economic justice. Many papal encyclicals that are now part of the magisterium of the church speak to economic justice. In 1891, with the release of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII responded to the conditions of the Industrial Revolution by highlighting both the need for private property as well as the rights of workers to fair wages and unions. More recently, we have seen Pope Francis write encyclicals such as *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, in which he is critical of our ‘throwaway culture’ and speaks of a need for integral ecology in which to balance economic development with the environment. Throughout all of these encyclicals, we see the Church advocating for just economic systems that are rooted in the need to address both individual human dignity and the common good.

Learn more about economic justice with one of these resources:

[Rerum Novarum](#)
[Laudato Si](#)
[Fratelli Tutti](#)



*“...Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;
and whoever has food must do likewise” (Luke 3:11)*



Gospel Readings

March 3 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-25

“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” — John 2:16

Today in the Gospel we see that Jesus was angry with the way people viewed his Father’s house. It makes me think about how we view God’s house today. Would Jesus be happy with the way we act in church? Do we rush in and out because we have better things planned for our day, or do we take a few extra minutes to speak privately with Jesus? Do we prepare ourselves by the way we dress and quiet ourselves before we enter into the church knowing that Jesus is truly present there in the Eucharist? Do we genuflect out of respect? When we do these things we show God how much we love him.

What are some ways your family prepares for Mass? What could you change to prepare better?”



Prayer:

Dear Lord, we want to honor and worship you when we spend time in your house. Please give us the grace to fight off temptations of distraction so we may love and glorify you by our presence in church.

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” — John 3:17

Some people think God is like an angry judge. They forget that he is a loving parent. He loves each one of us as his own children. Ask your parents how much they love you. It may be hard for them to express all the love they have for you in their hearts. But parents love their children a lot, wanting the best for them. God wants that for us, too. He saw that we needed to know his love, and the best way to show us was to send his Son. But he didn’t stop there. He allowed his Son to show us God’s love all the way to the cross. Jesus laid down his life for us, and then rose from the dead to love us even more. Our God really loves us a lot!

How do you view God? As an angry judge or a loving parent? Are you afraid of him or do you run into God’s arms for love?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for being a Father who is willing to go to any length to show us, your children, that you love us.

Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Katharine Drexel



[Home Page](#)

Gospel Readings

March 17, 2024

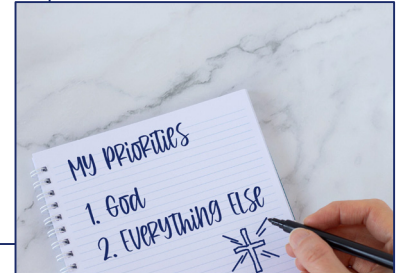
5th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.” — John 12:25

Today’s scripture from the Gospel sounds kind of confusing. Most of us like our lives. It is hard to understand why we would lose it just because we like it. But I think that Jesus is looking deeper than what meets the eye. In different words, “whoever loves his life more than God will lose it and whoever puts God first will gain eternal life.” If we live our lives only to please ourselves, we lose out in the end. But if we learn to put God first in our lives, we take steps closer to being with him forever in heaven.

What are ways I put myself ahead of God? How can I make a change to start putting God before myself?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to put you first, even before all the things I want. Teach me to seek you in all I do.

March 24, 2024

Palm/Passion Sunday

Gospel Reading: Mark 14:1-15:47

“...every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” — Philippians 2:11

Today we reflect on Christ’s passion and death. In the midst of the story it is hard to believe that “every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Most voices at this moment are condemning him. There are only a few people that are standing by him, suffering with him. There are times in life when we have the choice to be a person who stands for God, even it’s really difficult, or to be a person of anger, betrayal, and abandonment.

Which voice will you have in this week before Easter? Which side will you be on, Christ’s or the world’s?

Prayer:

Lord, you suffered because of your great love for us. Give me a voice to tell people how important you are to me!



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

“...he saw and believed.” — John 20:8

Those who went to the tomb to see that Jesus was not there—that he had risen—were indeed blessed. But Jesus said, “Blessed are those who believe without seeing.” That’s us! We believe because of the stories we have been told, the traditions that have been passed down to us, the experiences we have had through Holy Week and Easter. We are blessed to have the gift of faith to hear and believe that: Jesus Christ is Risen today! Alleluia!!!

What does God want to bring to life in you today?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we praise you and thank for this Easter Sunday that reminds us of your gift of salvation. We are forever grateful for such a gift!





Youth Led Mass

Sunday, March 17, 2024

*St. Joseph School will be coordinating the
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Church for
Sunday, March 17, 2024!*

**We need readers, greeters, gift bearers, ushers,
altar servers, singers, and musicians!**

**If YOU would like to participate, please complete the attached volunteer form,
or pick one up at the school office, then email it to Mrs. Pat Mastel,
mastelp5657@gmail.com or snap a picture and text it to her at 403-892-4207,
or drop it off at the school office by Friday, March 1, 2024.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mastel at 403-892-4207.

**We will only have 2 practices in preparation for this special Mass.
Both will be at St. Ambrose Church from 12:22 to 1:22 p.m. on
Friday, March 8, and Friday, March 15, 2024.**

We will meet in the Gathering Space after school & walk to the church together



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 YOUTH MASS VOLUNTEER FORM

Student's Name: _____
Please PRINT First and Last Name *Grade & Teacher*



Parent's Phone/Cell Numbers: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

I would like to share my talent as a:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reader | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Member |

YOU
*shall be
blessed
for
choosing to
serve the
Lord!*

Student's Signature: _____ **Parent's Signature:** _____

(I)SWAG Presents:

ADHD - UNDERSTANDING THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES

Ft. Aleigha from True Balance Counselling

5:30pm to 8pm March 20th, 2024

Join us as Registered Psychologists Aleigha and Ashley from True Balance Counselling presents on ADHD while we enjoy a complimentary dinner and the chance to win some door prizes at a fun night of learning.

Please RSVP @



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

Location:

THE ESSIE'S BALLROOM

Sandman Signature,
320 Scenic Drive S,
Lethbridge AB



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.

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

Approximate running time for the movie is 90 minutes.

Come join us this Lenten Season.

For more information, please contact:

Ellen Wagner 403-345-2610

or at rjwagner@telus.net

You are Called, You Matter, You Belong!



2024 Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club U9 SIGNUP

***IF YOU ARE ENROLLED AT A HOLY SPIRIT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOU ARE INVITED TO
BE APART OF *Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club!*
U9 DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM (GRADE 2'S & 3'S)
LOCATION: **Ecole St. Mary's: 422-20th Street South****

GIRLS U9 PROGRAM WEEKLY ON MONDAYS 4:15 - 5:15 pm	BOYS U9 PROGRAM WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS 4:15 - 5:15 pm
Program Runs April 8th - June 3rd (no sessions on May 20th)	Program Runs April 10th - May 29th

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR U9 PROGRAM:

***PLEASE ARRIVE **5 MINUTES** EARLY**

***BRING YOUR PROPER COURT SHOES, SHORTS,
WATER BOTTLE, AND LCBC JERSEY/SHIRT IF YOU
HAVE ONE.**

**EVERYONE IN GRADE 2 OR 3 IS WELCOME BUT
SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTER FAST. CONTACT**

lethbridgecougarsbasketball@gmail.com

for more information

[Deadline to Register: Sunday April 7th](#) *

TO REGISTER: LETHBRIDGECOUGARS.CA



Building foundations and inspiring athletes to excellence on and off the court.





Coaldale Clothing Fest

Clear Out Your Closet!

Coaldale Mennonite Church
is holding a Spring Clothing Fest ...

When? April 13, 2024 (10:00am - 1pm)

Where? Coaldale Mennonite Church Gym
(2316 – 17 Street)



Why? To help *support our community*

How? From the *generous donations and support of our community*

The clothing fest is a recycling program, which benefits many families in our community.

Pick out clothes at NO CHARGE.

Donations of clean clothing/shoes (of all sizes), toys & books in good condition
are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the Coaldale Mennonite Church
weekdays from 9am-12pm, starting March 25th – April 10th.

Remaining items will be donated to local charities.

For more information or special arrangements or if you would like to help,
contact Jodi Reed at (403) 345-5956



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.