



Newsletter October 2025

OCTOBER 2025

I was at Costco last week and noticed shelves filled with Halloween decorations, costumes, toys and candy . . . lots of Costco sized candy. Halloween has grown into a major secular holiday in North America, much the same way Christmas has. As with Christmas, let us not forget the Christian Catholic origins and traditions of 'All Hallows Eve.' Hallow is the same word for 'holy' that we find in the Lord's Prayer, and e'en is a contraction for evening. Halloween is the eve, or vigil, before All Saints Day. All Saints Day is a Holy Day of obligation that celebrates all the saints, known and unknown. It is the day we are in communion with the saints. Halloween is a Christian celebration that is almost 1,300 years old. This holiday, properly understood and explained, can be celebrated with all of its fun of dressing up, carving pumpkins, and Trick or Treating. It can also be a way for us to deepen our understanding of our faith.

At St. Joseph School we will be celebrating Halloween. Students, staff and visitors will be dressing up. A costume parade, and assembly will be held in the morning followed by Halloween Parties in home rooms for students. During the month of October teachers will be teaching about Halloween or 'All Hallows Eve' and All Saints Day on November 1. The two days go hand in hand, one does not make sense without the other, similar to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In the end, it is a parental choice to participate or not. School will be as routine as we can make it until the costume parade so please send your student to school dressed in their costume if they will be participating. Make Halloween a teaching moment; explain the Christian / Catholic origins of Halloween to your student / child. Tie the vigil, Halloween, to the Feast of All Saints, and explain to students why we celebrate this feast so that they won't view All Saints Day as "the boring day of obligation when we have to go to church before we can eat more candy."

Have a Blessed Halloween

Brent Christensen
Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Grade 4-5 Mass St. Ambrose Church 8:45am-9:15am "To Fran, With Love" Gr. 6-9	3 SV Boys /Girls VBall Tournament @ SMS Taber  @ 11:00am Wear Family Colours	4 SV Boys /Girls VBall Tournament @ SMS Taber
5 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6 Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary	7	8	9	10 SJS Thanksgiving Liturgy 9:05am-10:35am	11
12 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	13  NO SCHOOL for Staff and Students	14 Spiritual Development Day NO SCHOOL Students	15 Division Collaboration Day NO SCHOOL Students	16 NO Class Kindergarten	17 Barnwell Vball Tournament JV Boys (Friday ONLY) SV Boys and Girls @ Prairie Winds	18 Barnwell Vball Tournament SV Girls (Saturday ONLY)
19 Catholic Education Sunday YOUTH LED CHOIR 4:00pm St. Ambrose Church	20 VOTE TODAY Municipal Elections 	21 Catholic Education Week Wear Blue Friends of SJS Meeting 6:30pm ALL WELCOME	22 Board Meeting	23 Grade 6-9 Mass St. Ambrose Church 8:45am-9:15am	24 Barnwell Vball Tournament SV Boys (Friday ONLY) Assembly-Pep Rally @ 10:45am Wear Family Colours	25 Barnwell Vball Tournament SV Girls (Saturday ONLY)
26 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	27	28	29	30 Grade 1-3 Mass St. Ambrose Church 8:45am-9:15am School Photo Lifetouch Retakes Office Hours @ 3:30pm	31 Happy Halloween Parade @ 9:00am 	 All Saints' Day

KICK OFF TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



October Athletic Report

What a great start to our Jaguar year! We got started right away in the month of September with our grade 6-9 athletes having open gyms for volleyball. I was so impressed with the number of students who showed up and eagerly participated in tryouts. Early September also saw our school host the second annual Jaguar Jamboree Volleyball Tournament for our SV Boys and Girls teams. Both teams represented our school really well with the girls finishing third and narrowly missing out on a chance to play in the championship game. Our boys team was able to win the tournament and got contributions from every player on the team! Our JV teams are getting ready for their first tournament of the season as they will be competing at Prairie Winds the weekend of September 26-27. Good luck to both teams! As well, Cross Country running practices have been taking place for the last few weeks as our athletes prepare for the Zone Meet in Medicine Hat on October 2nd. We are hoping for great weather and for our athletes to enjoy the competition of running with their peers from across the south zone. Thanks to all of the coaches and staff who make our athletic program such a success and help our St. Joseph athletes improve in every sport they participate in. Go Jags Go!

Sincerely,
Bruce Gal
Associate Principal



OCTOBERFEST

ST AMBROSE PARISH HALL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 4th, 4-11 pm
Coaldale Civic Square

FOOD FUN MUSIC GAMES

Fun for the whole FAMILY.

Tickets \$10

Free for kids under 12

4-6 pm: Accordion Music, Town Atrium

4-11pm: Food Concessions (*extra cost for food*)

7-11pm: DJ Archie, Applaud Entertainment

Contact: Tracey 403-393-4381 Ellen 403-634-7677
Denise 403-894-5215



St. Ambrose Mass Times

Mass

Sunday 9 am & 4 pm

Mon & Thur.....8:45 am

Tuesday..... 7 pm

Saturday 5 pm

(starting Aug 30th)

Adoration

Friday..... 7-8 pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday..... 6-6:45 pm

Friday..... 7-8 pm

Saturday3:30-4:30 pm

†

Sunny South Lodge

Mass—starting Sept.

1st & 3rd Thur at 2:30 pm

Pastor—Fr. Iqbal Khurshid: pastor@stambroseparish.ca

Deacon—Peter Lilienthal: deacon@stambroseparish.ca

St. Ambrose Parish

1513 - 23 Avenue, Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2

website—www.stambroseparish.ca

email—office@stambroseparish.ca

St. Ambrose Office Hours

Tuesday ... 9 am-4:30 pm

Thursday.. 9 am-4:30 pm

Friday..... 10 am-4:30 pm

Phone: 403-345-3400

After hours / emergency

Fr. Iqbal: 587-434-1937



Mass at St. Ambrose Church starts at 8:45am.

All parents, grandparents are welcome to attend.

Please see mass times below:

Thursday, October 2 - Grade 4-5

Thursday, October 23 - Grade 6-9

Thursday, October 30 - Grade 1-3



*"...let your light shine
before others, so that
they may see your
good works and give
glory to your
Father in heaven."*

(Matthew 5:16)

Join us in welcoming our Practicum Student Teachers



Mr. Fjordbotten

Hello, my name is Ryan Fjordbotten, most students know me as Mr. F. I am completing my final professional semester and am pleased to be an intern teacher here at SJS. I teach Health 6, Science 7, PE 8, and Science 9 until Christmas break, and am also co-coaching the JV girls' volleyball team with Ms. Niemand. I completed my B.Sc. in chemistry at the University of Lethbridge in 2024 before applying to the University's Education After-Degree program. During my chemistry degree I had the opportunity to work in the university research labs and completed two research projects. I will graduate with my B.Ed. in December and look forward to officially joining the teaching profession. I have a passion for science, chemistry especially, and a love for learning, both of which I hope to share with my students. I grew up here in southern Alberta and love to get out to the mountains when I can. In my spare time I enjoy basketball, hiking, skiing, and quality time with family and friends. I am delighted to join the teachers, students, parents, and community members that make SJS such a wonderful place.



Ms. Niemand

"Hello! My name is Charlotte Niemand, and I am thrilled to be completing my final professional semester as an intern teacher here at St. Joseph's School. This year, I will be teaching ELA 8, ELA 9, Art 9, and Mindfulness, and I am so excited to learn alongside the students. Before pursuing my Education degree at the University of Lethbridge, I studied business in sales and marketing at The King's University and Red Deer Polytechnic, and I look forward to bringing those skills into the classroom in creative ways. As a Drama major, the arts have always been close to my heart. I love singing, dancing, and acting, and I enjoy sharing that passion with others. Outside of school, I can often be found exploring the outdoors or spending time on new adventures. I was born in South Africa and immigrated to Canada at a young age. I grew up in Sylvan Lake and have called Lethbridge home for the past three years. I am very excited to see what this year brings and to build meaningful connections with the students and community of St. Joseph's!"

YOU ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE
EVERY
day.

THE
designer
TEACHER

POEDs at SJS

Definitions:

POED: **Personally Owned Electronic Devices** we are referring to personally owned cell phones, tablets, laptops, and wearable technology such as smartwatches or earbud.

The following will be the policy followed at SJS:

Grade 1-5

Students are not to bring personally owned electronic devices to school.

Grade 6-9

Students are required to leave their devices in their lockers unless explicitly given permission by their classroom teacher.

Cell Phones are **never allowed** in washrooms or changerooms. If parents/guardians need to get ahold of their child during the school day, they must do so by contacting the office.

Cell phones may be stored in the locker but **NOT IN POCKETS**.

POEDs Permitted during the following:

- 8:00am-8:20am: school is open for the Breakfast Program
- **Personally Owned Electronic Devices** are not permitted during the 1st half of lunch hour while students are eating.
- Students will have access to their devices during the second half of lunch as well as during the two, 10 minute breaks during the day.



A telephone for student use is provided in the office. If the parents/guardian need to contact the student, please call our school office at **403-345-3373**. The office staff will relay only messages to students, which originate from parents/guardians.



PULL TOGETHER

We are collecting pop tabs to help purchase wheel chairs for those in need. A community volunteer Diane Kerr will be collecting them from our school. If you have tabs to donated please drop them off at our SJS office.

We appreciate your support to this community project.

COMMUNITY : “A small act of kindness can have a very large impact on someone else.”

Order School Clothing

If you are looking to orders some SJS Jagwear clothing online store is open.

You go to the following link, you will be able to place an order for your Jagwear. The store will close on Oct. 10, 2025. <https://st-josephfallstore2025.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

Store closes on October 10th, 2025.

All items will be completed approximately 5 weeks from the stores close date and will be available for pick up at the School Office.

Please note that there are no refunds or returns.

Sale is based on product availability from the suppliers and store minimums being met, all purchases will be reviewed when the store is closed.

**Men's Sizing Chart to be used for Adult Sizing.
Youth XL similar in size to Adult XS.**





*A huge **THANK YOU** to **EVERYONE** who volunteerd for our first SJS coordinated Youth led Mass on September 13, 2025!
Your enthusiasm in sharing your precious time and talents is such a Blessing for our community!
FOOD, FUN and FELLOWSHIP was enjoyed by everyone who joined us for the Parish Picnic after Mass!*

**The next SJS coordinated Youth led Mass will be on
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Church,
where we will celebrate Catholic Education Sunday!**



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.

The choir will have two practices on Fridays:

October 10, and 17, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m. in the Choir Loft at St. Ambrose Church.

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

Become an Altar Server

All Ages Welcome!



Altar Servers play a special role during the celebration of the Mass by assisting Fr. Iqbal: carrying the cross and candles, preparing the altar, and ringing the bell during the Consecration.

We welcome **youth** (Grade 3 and up), **families**, and **adults** who have received their First Holy Communion. No experience needed! All current and new altar servers are invited to a training session with Fr. Iqbal:.

St. Catherine's: Friday, Oct. 17th , 7 pm

St. Ambrose: Saturday, Oct. 18th , 10 am

Youth Led Mass—Sunday, October 19, 2025



*St. Joseph School will be coordinating the
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Church for
Sunday, October 19, 2025!*

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

**If YOU would like to participate,
please complete the attached volunteer form and
email it to Mrs. Pat Mastel, mastelp5657@gmail.com
or text it to her at 403-892-4207,**

or return it to the school office by Friday, October 3, 2025.

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

The choir will have 2 practices in preparation for this special Mass:

Fridays, Oct. 10 & Oct. 17, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m. in the Choir Loft at St. Ambrose Church.

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



OCTOBER 19, 2025 YOUTH LED 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:

_____ Reader	_____ Altar Server
_____ Greeter	_____ Usher
_____ Gift Bearer	_____ Choir Member



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



*Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.
Saint Teresa of Calcutta*



St. Luke



Birthplace

Antioch

Feast Day

October 18

Born

Between 1 and 16 AD

Died

Between 84 and 100 AD

Canonized

Pre-Congregation

Patron Saint of

Physicians, Artists, Notaries
and Butchers

Coaldale Clothing Fest

Clear Out Your Closet!



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

When? Sat. October 18, 2025 (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 of all sizes in good condition are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the Coaldale Mennonite Church
weekdays from 9am-12pm, starting September 30th – Oct 16th.

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

COALDALETHUNDER.CA

WANTED

U15 GIRLS
FEW SPOTS
LEFT
2011/2012/2013



Contact thunderfc404@gmail.com / 403-894-6937

Junior Curling Program

By Coaldale Granite Club

Presented by:



October 21-March 16
Cost:\$122 per child

-helmets required
-sliders/brooms provided

register online at
Coaldale Granite Curling Club

Saturday, October 4 1:00pm



Plant Workshop

This 2-hour workshop explores the powerful connection between plants and our wellbeing, offering care tips and insights on mindfulness, empathy, and connection through the lens of plant care. Attendees will take part in a hands-on planting exercise, potting their own 4" plant to nurture and grow. All supplies provided.

\$25

Register by Sept 24th. Call 403-345-1340 or email help@coaldalelibrary.ca

LEGO club.



Children ages 5-12 are invited to join us to build, create, and play with Lego. Snack provided.

Tuesdays
3:45-4:30pm

HOLY SPIRIT SC & SJ 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 25 First day for staff
Aug 29 Opening Mass

O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept 1 Labour Day
Sept 2 First day for students
Sept 24 Div. Board Meeting
Sept 29 Div. PD Day
Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O – 20 (25)
I – 19 (19)

Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 14 Spiritual Dev. Day
Oct 15 Div. Collaboration Day
Oct 29 Div. Board Meeting

O – 22 (47)
I – 20 (39)

OCTOBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Nov 7 School PD Day
Nov 10 Wellness Day
Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 18 (65)
I – 17 (56)

Dec 17 Div. Board Meeting
Dec 19 Last day before break
Dec 20-31 Christmas break
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Boxing Day

O – 15 (80)
I – 15 (71)

DECEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 2-4 Christmas break
Jan 5 First day after break
Jan 26 School PD Day
Jan 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (100)
I – 19 (90)

Feb 16 Family Day
Feb 17 & 18 Non-operational Days
Feb 19 & 20 SWATCA
Feb 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 17 (117)
I – 15 (105)

FEBRUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar 13 Div. Collab Day
Mar 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 22 (139)
I – 21 (126)

Apr 2 Last day before Easter break
Apr 3 Good Friday
Apr 6 Easter Monday
Apr 7-10 Easter break
Apr 13 First day after break
Apr 22 Div. Board Meeting

O – 16 (155)
I – 16 (142)

APRIL '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 15 School PD Day
May 18 Victoria Day
May 27 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (175)
I – 19 (161)

Jun 24 Div. Board Meeting
Jun 25 Last day students
Jun 26 Last day for teachers

O – 20 (195)
I – 19 (180)

JUNE '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

No students
Stat Holidays
School PD/Div. PD/Spiritual Dev./Collab. Days
Div. Board Meetings
First and last days for students
First and last days for teachers



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools