



## Newsletter December 2025

### Finding Peace, Hope and Love in the Holidays

To many people, Christmas is just a holiday – and a stressful one at that. It's a time for buying gifts that do not need to be bought out of a budget that cannot really afford it. It's a time for squeezing concerts, parties, craft sales, and extra events into a schedule that is already too full. It's a time when many feel rushed and overcommitted, when what we really need to do is to slow down and enjoy the season.

Christmas should be a time of peace, not of fear and unrest. We fear we may overlook someone on our gift list, or that they may not like what we bought them. For some, Christmas brings the added tension of bringing together fractured families. Instead of peace, they dread the inevitable conflicts. Yet, Christmas should be a time of peace.

Christmas should be a time of hope. Christmas is positioned at the end of one year and the beginning of the next – at the crossroads of the past and the future. A previous year, with its blessings and its trials, is gone, and a new year, full of uncertainty, looms ahead. Yet, here is Christmas – the celebration of a birth that took place over 2000 years ago – a perennial bright spot on our calendars – because God has given us hope. Christmas should be a time of hope.

Christmas should be a time of love centered around the greatest love story ever told – the story of God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Christmas is the story of God's greatest gift given to meet our greatest need. Christmas should be a time of love.





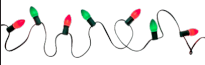


The Christmas story – a tale retold year after year, never loses its majesty and never ceases to fill our hearts with wonder. These are certainties, that if you will let them find room in your heart, they will fill your Christmas with joy - peace, hope, and love.

Some say that Christmas is for children. There may be truth in that. When you look at the holidays through the eyes of a child there is wonder and anticipation. There is a simple joy and appreciation for the shiny brightness, the beauty, and the music. The time spent together as a family. Years from now you and your children will not remember the gifts received - toys and things now at the bottom of a box or closet. What will stay with you are the traditions created and shared together. Placing the angel on the tree, the smell of cookies baking, the terrible taste of fruit cake, tobogganing, hay rides, hot chocolate, Christmas light tours, putting out carrots for Rudolf, and most importantly observing your faith together.

On behalf of St. Joseph students and staff I would like to wish each of you a quiet Christmas, filled with family, friends, and fun; in which you make special memories to be treasured in years to come.

Continued Blessings,

Brent Christensen  
*Principal*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 30</b> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 	<b>1</b> <i>1st Advent Celebration</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal</b> @ 1:00pm 	<b>4</b> <b>Christmas Concert</b> 1:00pm and 6:30pm	<b>5</b> SJS Coordinated youth mass practice @ St. Ambrose 12:30pm-2:00pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 	<b>8</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <b>2nd Advent Celebration</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Deadline for FOOD DONATIONS	<b>11</b> <b>Grade 4-6 Mass</b> St. Ambrose Church 8:45am-9:15am	<b>12</b> <b>11:00am School Assembly</b> SJS Coordinated youth mass practice @ St. Ambrose 12:30pm-2:00pm	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <b>YOUTH LED CHOIR</b> 4:00pm St. Ambrose Church 5:00pm SJS Youth Christmas Party	<b>15</b> <i>3rd Advent Celebration</i> Wear Christmas Hats & Socks	<b>16</b> <b>UGLY SWEATER DAY</b> 	<b>17</b>  <b>WEAR Red &amp; White DAY</b>	<b>18</b> Christmas School Mass @ 8:45am & Turkey Dinner @ 1:00pm <b>DRESS your BEST</b> Christmas Lunch Served	<b>19</b> Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break Leadership Event Pajama Day	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
	<b>Christmas Break</b> December 19th to January 4th Return to School...Monday, January 5th					





## December Athletic Report

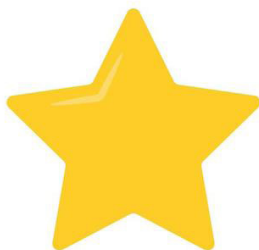
The volleyball season officially wrapped up on November 22nd with a great deal to celebrate for our St. Joseph teams. Both boys and girls junior varsity teams had very strong finishes to the season and showed well at the year end COLJHAA tournaments. Even with the abbreviated season, both teams showed improvement and represented our school very well. Our senior varsity girls team had two very impressive year end tournaments, finishing second in both zones and our league tournament. The girls showed determination and should be very proud of their accomplishments. Finally, our senior varsity boys team won two banners, a very impressive accomplishment! A zone banner and a COLJHAA banner which we are looking forward to displaying in our gym. As always, I want to thank all of the coaches and staff who volunteered their time to make this season a success and allowing our students the opportunity to compete. I would also like to thank all of the students, staff, referees and parents who contributed to ensuring that the year end SV girl's tournament ran smoothly. With the volleyball season now over, we turn our attention to basketball with practices starting the last week of November.

Go Jags Go!

Bruce Gal



CONGRATULATIONS!







SJS PRESENTS

# THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER

4

2025

*Afternoon Performance 1:00 PM*

*Evening Performance 6:30 PM*

*In the SJS Gymnasium*



# Youth Led Mass – Sunday, December 14, 2025



*St. Joseph School will be coordinating the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Church for Sunday, December 14, 2025!*



We need readers, greeters, gift bearers, ushers, altar servers, and singers. If YOU would like to participate, please complete the volunteer form below and email it to [mastelp5657@gmail.com](mailto:mastelp5657@gmail.com), or text it to Mrs. Mastel at 403-892-4207, or return it to the school office by Monday, December 1, 2025

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

The choir will only have 2 practices in preparation for this special Mass: Friday's, December 5 and 12, 12:20-1:10 pm at church.

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

**\*\*YOU are also welcome to join us at St. Joseph School after Mass.**

**We will sing carols, enjoy hot dogs, munchies, hot chocolate, and enjoy sweet treats from a very jolly visitor.\*\***

**\*Please RSVP by email [mastelp5657@gmail.com](mailto:mastelp5657@gmail.com), or call Mrs. Mastel, 403-892-4207.**



## SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please list the number family members planning to attend the Family Celebration at St. Joseph School after the Youth Mass:***

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

**♥Please bring a nonperishable food item that will be donated to the Coaldale Food Bank♥**





*A huge THANK YOU to EVERYONE who volunteered for our  
SJS coordinated Youth led Mass on November 29!*

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

*We all ENJOYED good food and fellowship after Mass at the Pot Luck Supper♥*



**The next SJS coordinated Youth led Mass will be on  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025, 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, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:20 to 1:10 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.\**

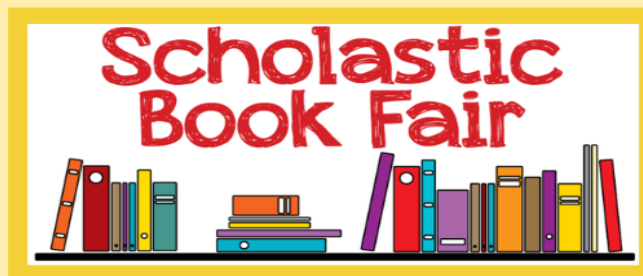
*If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Mastel at 403-892-4207.*

**\*\*YOU are also welcome to join us at St. Joseph School after Mass.\*\***

**We will sing carols, enjoy hot dogs, munchies, hot chocolate,  
and enjoy sweet treats from a very jolly visitor!**

**\*\*Please RSVP by email to [mastelp5657@gmail.com](mailto:mastelp5657@gmail.com), or call Mrs. Mastel, 403-892-4207  
with a list of adults and children planning to attend the Family Celebration after Mass.\*\***

# THANK YOU SJS FAMILY



**Total Sales**

**\$5432.00**

**Thank you for your SUPPORT!**





## Christmas Food Drive

Starts November 18th

### ITEMS WE NEED

SOUP-CRACKERS-PASTA-JAM-RICE-CEREAL-PEANUT  
BUTTER-CANNED VEGETABLES-CANNED FRUIT

A DONATION table will be set up outside the office at  
St. Joseph School.

Your generous donations will be distributed to families in need.



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

All parents & grandparents are welcome to attend.

Please see mass times below:

Thursday, December 4 - Grade 1-3

Thursday, December 11 - Grade 4-6

Thursday, December 18 - SJS Christmas School Mass

Pastor—Fr. Iqbal Khurshid: [pastor@stambroseparish.ca](mailto:pastor@stambroseparish.ca)

Deacon—Peter Lilienthal: [deacon@stambroseparish.ca](mailto:deacon@stambroseparish.ca)

## 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

Saturday ....3:30-4:30 pm

†

### Sunny South Lodge

Mass—starting Sept.

1st & 3rd Thur at 2:30 pm

## St. Ambrose Parish

1513 - 23 Avenue, Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2

website—[www.stambroseparish.ca](http://www.stambroseparish.ca)

email—[office@stambroseparish.ca](mailto: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



## St. Ambrose Mass Times for Christmas

*Christmas Eve Mass:* December 24th @ 5:00pm

*Christmas Day Mass:* December 25th @ 9:00am



*"Blessed are all who wait for  
the Lord."*

*(Psalm 147)*



# Persistence in Prayer

Luke 11:5-13







*Award  
Winning  
Skate  
Library*



# Skate

**Civic Plaza  
Outdoor Rink**

**NIGHT**

**Saturday, Dec 6 5:30-8pm**

Hot chocolate, pizza, prizes & music  
Skating with an ice princess



\*Library will be open special hours : 12pm - 8pm



# 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						

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

O – 22 (47)  
I – 20 (29)

OCTOBER '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	

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			

Feb 16 Family Day  
Feb 17 & 18 Non-operational Days  
Feb 19 & 20 SNACKA  
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

Apr 2 Last day before Easter break  
Apr 3 Good Friday  
Apr 4 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		

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				

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)

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 (45)  
I – 17 (56)

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 28 School PD Day  
Jan 29 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (100)  
I – 19 (90)

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 (128)  
I – 21 (124)

MAY '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					

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

O – 20 (175)  
I – 19 (161)

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