



When Your Child Attends a Catholic School



Christ-centered
learning communities
where students are
cherished and encouraged
to achieve
their potential

Publicly funded
Catholic Education

Have faith
in your children...
We do!

When Your Child Attends a CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic schools are faith-filled learning communities. This booklet briefly explains the basics of our Catholic faith tradition and how you will experience this being lived out in your child's school.

Faith, a life-long gift received in baptism, is in its core, relational. It is not intended to be a purely academic subject taught in religion class. It has two dimensions - the vertical – our relationship with God explored and developed in prayer, and the horizontal - our relationships with one another.

In partnership with parents and the Parish, Catholic schools attend to and nurture the faith of the children and young people entrusted to us within the total lived experience of the school community. We refer to this as permeation of the faith.

God, a mystery beyond human understanding, is revealed by deeds and words gradually through the course of history. Jesus is the fullness of that revelation.

Jesus Christ is the unseen and ever-present teacher in our midst. He is the model for our staff and the inspiration of our students.

God gives the Church the Holy Spirit, the gifts and ministries needed for its mission.

As Catholic Christians we share a Common Creed, or Statement of Faith at the heart of which is our belief in God as Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit which we call the Holy Trinity.



Common Christian Beliefs

- God is creator of heaven and earth. We are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- Christ, the Son of God, Our Lord, is the full, final revelation of God.
- We are saved through Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection.
- The Church is the Body of Christ, the People of God.
- We are sent by Christ to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Celebrating LITURGY

Liturgy is the public prayer of the church.

The highest form of this public prayer is the Mass. When we participate in the Mass we are remembering and participating in the central mystery of our faith - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Mass has two parts - The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the first part we listen to God's word proclaimed from Scripture and in the second part, we remember and make present Jesus' saving event of the



cross and resurrection. Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus is truly made present under the appearance of bread and wine.

Because of this reality, taking Communion in the Catholic Church is a profound moment. The "Amen" at Communion is a faith statement that says: "I believe that Christ is really present in this Eucharist." This is why those students or parents who are members of other Churches are invited to partake in this sacred moment by means of a blessing rather than receiving the host. To indicate desire for a Blessing instead of Communion, one crosses one's hands over the chest as they come forth.

Working Together to Raise Children Within the Catholic Faith

- All students will attend Mass often throughout the school year, at one of our parishes or at school.
- Some school celebrations will take the form of a Liturgy of the Word or Prayer Service.
- It is very important that Catholic parents bring their children to Mass each Sunday. The Church welcomes all families.
- One of the most important things that you can and should do as a Catholic parent is to support and prepare your child to receive the Sacraments.



Celebrating SACRAMENTS

The sacraments can be categorized as:

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION



Eucharist



Baptism



Confirmation

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING



Reconciliation
(Confession)

Anointing of the Sick
(Last Rites)



SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

Holy Orders
(Ordination)



Marriage

Students who are not Catholic or belong to another Denomination or Religion still learn about the Sacraments in their Religious Education classes. However, respecting their own faith tradition they are to receive their Sacraments or Religious rites and rituals in their own Faith Community. Catholic families work with their own parish to prepare children to receive the Sacraments.

Celebrating LITURGICAL YEAR

The Church year has different seasons which help us to celebrate and meditate on the central mysteries of our faith – the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The principal Liturgical Seasons are:

ADVENT

Four weeks before Christmas – start of the Church’s Liturgical Year and with a focus on the “Coming of Christ” and the end of time and his birth at the Feast of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

Birth of Christ

LENT

A word meaning “Spring” a 40 day preparation for Easter marked especially by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

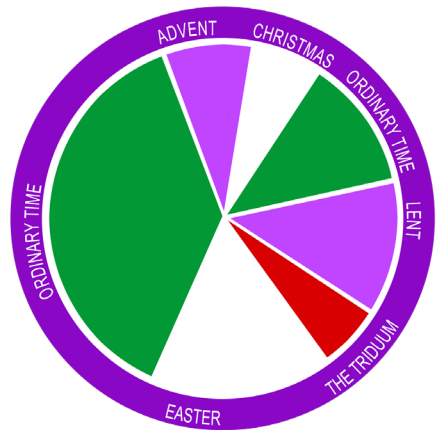
EASTER

Starts on Easter Sunday with the celebration of the most important event for our faith – the Resurrection. The Easter Season lasts until the Feast of Pentecost (50 days). The Triduum begins with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper on

Holy Thursday evening and ends on the evening of Easter Sunday.

ORDINARY TIME

The sequential days and weeks between the major seasons of Easter and Christmas.



Sources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- When You Teach in a Catholic School – Judith Dunlap
- www.loyolapress.com
- www.Lifeteen.com
- Catholicism Confronts Modernity, a Protestant View – Langdon Gilkey
- Catholicism – Richard P. McBrien
- Educating for Life – Thomas Groome
- www.cptryon.org/prayer/sign.html
- Based on preliminary work done by Charles Weckend, Fort McMurray Catholic Schools

Prayer

FORMAL

“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”

- St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

In Catholic Schools, one of our most important goals is for each of our students to develop a close and loving relationship with God. Developing this relationship takes a commitment of spending time in prayer. In our schools, your child will experience many opportunities to pray and will also experience many different ways to pray. While it is common for prayer to occur at the beginning of the day, before meals, and again at the end of the day, children will have the



opportunity to pray at many other times as well. We engage in prayer when we simply spend time with God, sometimes with words and sometimes in silence.

Our students learn formal, traditional Catholic prayers that are like family heirlooms passed on from generation to generation. They include many of the best known Catholic prayers such as The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, and Apostles’ Creed. Also included are Mealtime Prayers, Morning and Evening Prayers, Litanies, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and Prayers Honouring Saints.

The Rosary

The rosary is a form of prayer within the Catholic tradition which is a way for us to meditate on moments in Christ’s life through the eyes of his mother Mary. The events of Christ’s life are divided into four sets of mysteries – Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.



The meditation on the mysteries is accompanied by a series of prayers: The Apostle’s Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, The Hail Mary and The Glory Be. The opening lines of the Hail Mary prayer are Scriptural and taken from the Angel Gabriel’s greeting to Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

Prayer

INFORMAL

“Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God.”

- (YOUCAT 469)

Our students learn that when they spend time with Jesus, there are a variety of ways in which they can be in his presence. Prayers can simply express our feelings through words or actions. Students will learn to pray and ask for God to care for others. They will learn to ask God for help and forgiveness, as well as learn to offer prayers of gratitude.

Students will also experience Meditative Prayer where they reflect on or think about God. They may use Scripture, holy writings, the Rosary, icons, photos, or nature as



springboards to meditation. The goal is to help them learn to keep their focus on God so that they can recognize God's presence in their life and respond to what God is asking of them.

Opportunities to rest quietly in God's presence are important as well when our students will engage in contemplation. In contemplation, we spend time with God in wordless silence, aware that he is with us, feeling his love.

The Sign of the Cross

In the Catholic Church and other Christian churches, the Sign of the Cross is an important part of personal and public prayer. It originated in the earliest days of Christianity and so it is centuries old. It is the first sign made on us at Baptism and the last sign made as we pass to our future life. It is a vital part of liturgical prayer and the

sacraments. We begin and end our prayers with the Sign of the Cross. When we bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross we remember the One who blesses us: the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Anyone who believes in the triune God can make this prayer their own.



We Honour Mary

MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

- John 19:26-27

When Catholics pray to Mary they are not worshipping her, rather they are honoring her and asking for her intercession on their behalf — in fact, more than praying “to” her, we pray “with” Mary, asking her to pray with and for us.

We honor Mary, not only because she is our mother, but because God, himself, honored her.



Out of all the women in the world, God chose Mary to bring his Son into this world. Mary gave God her unwavering yes, becoming a vessel for God's plan for Salvation. From the moment of conception to the foot of the cross, she is the perfect embodiment of the obedience of faith (CCC 144). It is for this, that we hold Mary in such high esteem.

The Bible and Tradition



We see the Bible primarily as the Word of God and secondarily as a book of personal inspiration. To interpret it, we turn to the Church.

We believe the Spirit has guided the Church's interpretation over the centuries. We trust that Tradition.

We believe that the books of the Bible teach us many truths about who we are as a people of God and about how God has been wanting to

save us from the beginning of time. We recognize and acknowledge that the many books of the Bible have various literary forms—some historical, some mythological, some poetic, some chronological, etc. Scripture is taught in all the religious education programs as well as other programs of study, and is used in the prayer life of the school.

Growing in Faith Together

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As faith is the organizing principle for our Catholic school community, all students are expected to respectfully participate in religion classes to learn about Jesus and to understand the Catholic Church's tradition and teaching.

Religious education is an essential and integral part of the life and culture of a Catholic school. Religious Education has four essential characteristics. It is Trinitarian, recognizing God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is based on Sacred Scripture and on the life experience of the students as they are invited to see signs of God in their daily life. It is presented within the tradition of the Catholic faith community. In Catholic schools, students participate in a religious education program that is authorized by the Bishop of the local diocese.

HOME, PARISH, AND SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

Our Catholic schools work with parents and the parish to educate each child in our faith. Parishes are the basic unit of the Church, with the parish priest as leader. The parish is the life-long faith community for a Catholic believer. Each of our schools is in a parish community.

Schools cooperate with the local parish in many ways, particularly in the area of sacramental preparation. The local parish priest and other parish workers may be present at school celebrations or invited to visit classrooms. More in-depth information about how families can connect with local parishes is available on the Holy Spirit Catholic Schools Website.



PARISHES

Roman Catholic Diocese Calgary

Catholic Pastoral Centre
120-17 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2S 2T2
Tel: 403-218-5500
Bishop William McGrattan
www.calgarydiocese.ca

All Saints Parish

Assumption Church, St. Basil Church
and St. Patrick Church
2405 12 Avenue S.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 0P4
Tel: 403-327-8931
www.allsaintslethbridge.org

Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish

643 12B Street N., Box 1872
Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L6
Tel: 403-328-4753
<https://sspeterandpaullethbridge.weebly.com/our-parish.html>

St. Martha's Parish

355 Columbia Blvd. W.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 5Y8
Tel: 403-381-8891
www.stmarthasparish.ca

St. Michael's Parish Pincher Creek

958 Christie Avenue, Box 339
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0
Tel: 403-627-3071
www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish

St. Augustine / St. Joseph Roman Catholic Parishes

5009-48 Avenue
Taber, AB T1G 1T4
Tel: 403-223-2226
www.catholicparish.ca

St. Ambrose / St. Catherine Roman Catholic Parishes

St. Ambrose Parish:

1513 23 Avenue
Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2
Tel: 403-345-3400
www.stambroseparish.ca

St. Catherine's Parish:

762 Crescent Ave.
Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0
Tel: 403-732-4433
www.stambroseparish.ca

St. Michael's Parish Bow Island

1101 1 Street E., Box 56
Bow Island, AB T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2023
<https://stmikesbow.ca/>



Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

SCHOOL DIVISION

Catholic Central High School

Grades: 10-12

East Campus: 405-18 Street S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3E5

West Campus: 251 Britannia Blvd. W.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4A3
Tel: 403-327-4596

The Children of St. Martha

Grades: ELP-6

206 McMaster Blvd. W.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 4R3
Tel: 403-381-8111

École St. Mary

Grades: ELP-6

422-20 Street S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 2V5
Tel: 403-327-3098

Father Leonard Van Tighem

Grades: ELP-9

25 Stoney Cres. W.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 6V5
Tel: 403-381-0953

Our Lady of the Assumption

Grades: ELP-6

2219-14th Avenue S.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 0V6
Tel: 403-327-5028

St. Catherine (Picture Butte)

Grades: ELP-9

300-7th Street N., Box 489
Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0
Tel: 403-732-4359

St. Francis Junior High

Grades: 7-9

333-18th Street S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3E5
Tel: 403-327-3402

St. Joseph (Coaldale)

Grades: ELP-9

1413-23rd Avenue
Coaldale, AB T1M 1L6
Tel: 403-345-3373

St. Mary (Taber)

Grades: 6-12

5427-50th Street
Taber, AB T1G 1M2

St. Michael's (Bow Island)

Grades: ELP-12

302-2nd Avenue E., Bag 9900
Bow Island, AB T0K 0G0
Tel: 403-545-2131

St. Michael's (Pincher Creek)

Grades: ELP-12

864 Christie Avenue
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0
Tel: 403-627-3488

St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary

Grades: Kindergarten-6

80 Rivergreen Road W.
Lethbridge, AB T1K 7Y1

St. Patrick (Taber)

Grades: ELP-5

5302-48th Street
Taber, AB T1G 1H3
Tel: 403-223-3352

St. Paul Elementary

Grades: ELP-6

1212-12th Avenue N.
Lethbridge, AB T1H 6W1
Tel: 403-328-0611

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Grades: ELP-6

235 Mildred Dobbs Blvd. N.
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5R4
Tel: 587-787-1490

Prayer for Families

*Lord, bless our family,
all of us now together, those far away,
all who are gone back to you.*

May we know joy.

May we bear our sorrows in patience.

*Let love guide our understanding
of each other.*

Let us be grateful to each other.

We have all made each other what we are.

*O Family of Jesus,
watch over our family.*

Amen

