



## JANUARY 2021

### CALDER'S COMMENTARY

Happy New Year!

It is always so exciting to start fresh each year with new goals and ideas. For schools, it is a nice way to refresh. We are nearly half way through the year and have accomplished so much.

With a new year comes new hope. We continue to rely on government recommendations for how to move forward. We are hopeful to start new routines and possibly return to some tried and true practices.

While it is exciting to start the year anew, it can be difficult to get back into routines after the excitement of Advent and Christmas. Ordinary time is a time to set our routines in the liturgical calendar as well. "Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ." (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/ordinary-time.cfm>)

This is the perfect time to be still and recognize God's presence in the regular, familiar activities of our day to day life. It is the reminder to be mindful and be prayerful as is the focus of our faith plan this year.

#### *A New Year's Prayer*

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us

A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

- Author Unknown

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/new-years-prayers>

### ACT LIKE MARY – JANUARY CHALLENGE

In January, we are continuing to build on our students' understanding of being Transformed by the Journey through our calls of action of being grateful and gracious in our lives. Our hope is to add to the lives of others in our school and community. To help with this journey, students will be learning more about the Fruits of the Spirit and how these attributes can help us be more grateful and gracious. Through our continued work with our Act Like Mary initiative OLA students will be challenged to show acts that display the attributes of Faithfulness and Patience. Classrooms will highlight these attributes by capturing these Fruits of the Spirit artistically. Classrooms will share their works of art inspired by the Fruits of the Spirit throughout the school in January.

### December Act Like Mary Challenge

What does Joy look like at OLA? Artwork from 1D



## WELCOME

Hello, my name is Mrs. Pellerin, and I will be completing my final teaching practicum this semester. I could not be more excited to be teaching here at Our Lady of the Assumption with Mrs. Duke and her Grade 1 class. I am currently enrolled in the Faculty of Education after-degree program, having also attended the University of Lethbridge for my bachelor's degree in English. I live here in Lethbridge with my husband, our 10-year-old daughter, and our sweet little dog. Outside of education, I also love reading, working on creative projects, and performing as a musician. It is truly my creative passions and my love of motherhood that have driven me to become a teacher. My journey in the U of L, along with my wonderful classroom experiences this past year, has led me to pursue a specialization in Early Childhood Education. I have loved nothing more than teaching early learners, and I look forward to all that this experience has to offer. I am so grateful to be welcomed into your school to teach your children during what is most certainly an unprecedented time in education and history. Thank you for the opportunity



## WARM WINTER WEAR

This year we collected socks, mitts, toques, scarves, etc. to be donated to those in need. We surpassed our goal by collecting 1359 items. Mrs. Duke's grade one class collected 305 items and was treated to an ice cream party. Thank you for your generous support to this worthy cause.

## THANK YOU



A huge thank you to Mrs. Dormer and Mrs. MacWilliam from our School Council for putting together Christmas Treat Bags for all our students. The Assumption School ornaments are a great keepsake.



Our next School Council virtual meeting is scheduled for January 20 at 7:00 pm. The link for the meeting will be sent via email. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## ATTENDANCE

If your child(ren) will be absent from school please remember to call the office at 403-327-5028 or email [olaoffice@holypspirit.ab.ca](mailto:olaoffice@holypspirit.ab.ca) to excuse their absence. We do have an answering machine so calls can be made day or night. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES




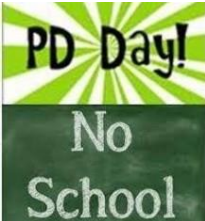
The start of a new year is a good time to check with your child and ask them what school supplies they may need to replenish. Pencils, crayons, markers, glue, etc.

Reminder that masks are mandatory for all students in grades 4 – 6 and encouraged for our younger students. Our water fountains are only used as refilling stations so please send a water bottle with your child.





# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">AT HOME LEARNING ALL WEEK</div>						
10	11 Classes resume 	12	13	14	15 OLA gear	16
17	18 Stem Day 	19	20 School Council meeting 7:00pm 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27  Assembly Pd. 3	28	29 	30



Transformed by the Journey

# JANUARY

See, I am making all things new.

Revelations 21:5

## Special Days to Remember Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- 2 Feast of St. Basil the Great
- 3 Epiphany of the Lord
- 10 Baptism of the Lord



Dear Jesus

Please help me to be faithful in all the duties You have entrusted to me this day, fulfilling each with great care and love!  
Amen.

golepress.com/2019/pray-for-responsibility/

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

## Be Gracious

You do your best each day to teach your children about responsibility. It's very healthy to let your children experience what happens naturally if they are not responsible (as long as their safety is not in jeopardy of course). If they forget things they are supposed to take to school for example, let them discover how to deal with the consequences of their forgetfulness. Give them continual age-appropriate opportunities for responsibility at home like making their bed, putting away toys, helping to prepare dinner, or taking care of pets.

Knowing that they are expected to be responsible at home and at school is a very important life lesson for our children. If they grumble about little inconveniences like wearing a mask, help them understand that thinking about the needs of others and not only of ourselves is a truly gracious way to live. And when your child makes a mistake, the "OWN UP" strategy is a beautiful faithful way to help them learn to be accountable for their actions.

## Faith & Family

Parents are the primary educator of their children. Did you realize that when you teach your sons and daughters about their responsibilities at home and in their community, you are helping them learn about an important Catholic Social Teaching? Learn more about rights and responsibilities by watching this [video](#). Consider hanging this poster on your fridge or in your child's room and have conversations about the Catholic Social Teachings often. Here is a [child's version](#) and here is one for your [teens](#). Home + School + Parish = Partners in Catholic Education!



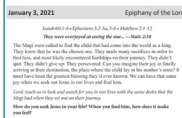
"...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18



## Catholic Education

God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life. This means we all have to accept our responsibilities that come from living in communion with others. One of the most important lessons we teach in our Catholic schools is that the dignity of the human person must be foundational to all of the decisions we make in relation to how we live in our community. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP explains that responsibility is an attitude of accepting that we are all called to participate and respond to the common good. It's an important lesson for children to learn - that life is not all about them and their needs. Pope Francis said it beautifully during his homily at his installation in 2013, "In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!" What a beautiful reminder for our families as we enter this new year!



We hope you are enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the January cards, click [here](#).

Resources: *Teaching Kids to Care* by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP  
*Faith Perspectives on the Covid-19 Pandemic*, [Waterloo Catholics](#)



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."  
(1 Corinthians 12:12)