



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Holy Week</p>			1		3
4	5	6	7	8	9	17
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: #d8bfd8; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2>E A S T E R B R E A K</h2> </div>					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					Wear your OLA gear or blue and white 	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			School Council meeting 7:00pm (link will be emailed) 			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			Assembly Board Meeting 6 pm			

E-WASTE



E WASTE COLLECTION APRIL 26 - APRIL 30
 BIN LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF SCHOOL



APRIL NEWSLETTER

CALDER'S COMMENTARY

Lent has been a time of reflection and we are looking forward to starting the month with the celebration of Easter; the Resurrection, and the Risen Lord. It is a time to rejoice and sing praise. We celebrate all that Jesus sacrificed for us and welcome spring; new life; renewal; and joy. This is a season to continue with gratitude and grace.

We can be certain that the Resurrection is a fact that has happened: The Risen body of Jesus Christ has become present in us, the body of Christ. Nothing else could possibly explain what kept those disparate people - the first disciples - together in the days and years that followed Christ's death. It was not some idea or ideal that unified them; it was the event of Christ's presence in their midst. Even when threatened by perils and persecution, the early Church stayed together because of the undeniable fact that the risen Jesus had made himself present bodily to his followers in all their weakness, confusion and fear. He drew forth from them Holy Communion. Only the bodily resurrection can effect such a miracle of unity, courage and fidelity.

Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.
Jesus, Present Before Me

(From: Living Faith: LENT: Daily Catholic Devotions based on Mass Readings for Year A)

We are so thankful to be learning together this spring. Despite all the challenges of this year, we have many things we are grateful for, most importantly, one another. I am particularly grateful for the dedication of the staff to our students and for the commitment our OLA families have to our school community. Even though "together" looks different than we are used to, our support for one another is felt and makes a difference. As we approach the final months of our school year, the Easter season reminds us to renew our dedication to our students and our community. There is a true sense of HOPE at OLA.

ACT LIKE MARY – APRIL CHALLENGE

In April, we are continuing to celebrate the Lenten season while we build on our students' understanding that being grateful and gracious in our lives can add so much to the lives of others in our school and community. This month students will be challenged to share examples of living their faith throughout the school day from LA classes to Math and Gym classes. Here at OLA we are proud of how our faith is permeated throughout the school day. So we are excited for our students to share examples of our faith with each other. By doing this action we are showing how grateful we are for Catholic Education. We encourage all families to discuss and reflect on how their faith showed up in their lives today. Our hope is that through these experiences we continue to grow through this year's faith plan in which we are Transformed by the Journey.

I lived my faith by:







HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Thursday – April 1

7:00 pm at both St. Basil's and Assumption (Livestream)

The Altar of Repose will be at Assumption with Adoration until midnight.

Good Friday – April 2

12:00 pm at both St. Basil's and Assumption

3:00 pm at both St. Basil's and Assumption (Livestream)

Easter Vigil – April 3

8:00 pm at both St. Basil's and Assumption (Livestream)

Easter Sunday – April 4

7:30 am at St. Basil's

9:00 am at both St. Basil's and Assumption (Livestream)

11:00 am at both St. Basil's and Assumption

Registration

With our current capacity at 60 people per Mass we will be able to accommodate **780 people in total.**

With this in mind we are asking that you choose **ONE** Mass or service to attend and leave space for others who wish to be part of the Holy Week services. You will be able to register on **Monday, March 29** starting at 9:00 a.m. You can **only** register by phoning the parish office at 403-327- 8931.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to the School Council for the gift of the Easter egg and poem reminding us that Easter is a time for hope. We are grateful for your support. Happy Easter!

SPRING PHOTOS

Smile! Lifetouch Photography will be here on Thursday, April 15, 2021. Just like in the fall, all students will have their photo taken and parents will have an opportunity to purchase photo packages through Lifetouch Canada Inc.

SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER

We are once again offering spring flowers from Devry Greenhouse, which includes beautiful hanging baskets, patio planters, geraniums, petunias, marigolds, herbs, succulents, strawberry hanging basket and 4" veggies.

These will be available for purchase through [SchoolCash](#) Online. Our fundraising campaign will run from April 19 to May 4. Delivery is expected May 19, just in time for the May long weekend.



E-WASTE COLLECTION - APRIL 26-30

The grade 5 class at OLA will be collecting E-Waste from April 26-30. Bring your E-Waste to the front of OLA and drop it off in the bin. We will be collecting small appliances (irons, shavers, clocks, etc.), power tools (drill, grinder, etc.), audio visual (headphones, CD player, DVD player, etc.), printers. For a complete list go [E-Waste Recycling](#). Thank you for your support.

SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all 29 participants in OLA's Science Fair; a lot of time and commitment goes into putting together a project. Thank you to Ms Nadeau for her guidance and organizing the event. Also, thank you to Mrs. Scott-Perry, Mrs, Knodel and Mr. Verhesen for judging.

And the winners are:

Grade 6 – Jaelyn & Esther - 'Absorbance Performance'
Grade 5 – Amelia & Katharine - 'Don't Burst My Bubble'
Grade 4 – Taj - 'Breath Taking Experiment'

Good luck to all who entered the 2021 Virtual Lethbridge Regional Science Fair.

THANK YOU

to all who donated to the **Stuff-a-Bag for Streets Alive Campaign.**

A special thank-you to Mrs. Pellerin and the grade 1 class for organizing. The Herder Family staged a bottle drive and collected 78 bags of bottles for a total of \$630.00. Aqua Systems 2000 generously pledged to match the Herder's contribution. In total we donated 12 bags of needed items and \$1550.00.



APRIL

Monthly Theme: Empathy in a Digital World

Special Days to Remember	
Month of the Holy Spirit	
1	Holy Thursday
2	Good Friday
3	Holy Saturday
4	Easter Sunday
17	Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha
25	World Day of Prayer for Vocations



God of all,
I know that everyone doesn't look like me,
act like me, and think like me.
Yet you've created us as one family,
one remarkable family
with many differences.
You call us to live in community.
Deepen our empathy,
our ways of feeling with others,
of understanding each one
and appreciating the beauty of all.
May your empathy lead us more
and more to feel your presence with us.
Amen.

Adapted from Teaching Kids to Care (Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP)

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

Be Gracious

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! We rejoice that we are now celebrating the Easter season but on our recent journey through Holy Week, we recalled the story of the Passion and remembered the suffering of Christ. We experienced his pain as he was misjudged, persecuted, and ultimately crucified. And yet there was hope through the resurrection.

Jesus lives on in each of us - his goodness, his decency, his empathy, and his mercy are the gifts he has left us with. We are called to build the kingdom of God and one of the ways we do this is by teaching our children to be empathetic like Jesus. He felt the pain of others, he deeply understood their needs and entered into their experiences. Parents teach their children such important moral lessons every day. If you would like to read some ideas about how to cultivate empathy in your children, you might like to check out [this article](#).



Faith & Family

During this pandemic, we are hearing that some students are spending just too much time online. We all need a gentle reminder perhaps to put down our devices and "look up"! That includes the kids and moms and dads too! There's no better time to "look up" than in the springtime! Spend some time outside this spring - enjoy the nature that God created. Parents, what was your favourite thing to do outside when you were your child's age? Spend some time with your child enjoying that activity and creating a beautiful memory together! That memory will last a lot longer than the pleasure gained by any amount of time scrolling through social media.

In the meantime, if you want some great tips to consider as you supervise your child's use of media, you might like to explore the resources at [Common Sense Media](#).



Be Grateful

We have discovered, especially this year, how important it is to be gentle with each other. Today, we engage so much in the digital world. Because of this, it is important that we teach children to be just as empathetic with the person they are interacting with online as they are with a friend sitting beside them in their classroom.

In the 2020 edition of The Catholic Perspective, the Institute for Catholic Education highlighted the life of Carlo Acutis. As they shared in this article, there are many young people who give wonderful witness to how to be empathetic in their online interactions, using the power of media for good. They noted, "The Holy Father offers the example of the newly beatified [Carlo Acutis](#) as a digital witness for young people. Carlo is being called a #DigitalDisciple and #CyberApostle for the way he witnessed to his devotion to the Eucharist in his online work...He created a website that gathered and shared information about Eucharistic miracles..." Carlo demonstrated beautifully how to live a dignified online presence.

"The Church recognizes the importance of digital culture, especially in the lives of young people." We are grateful that we have the gift of technology and our prayer is that we use it to help to share the Good News. "In our Catholic schools we are teaching our students that we don't equate faith in Jesus with the culture of 'influencers' and 'followers'", but to discover their own life in the context of their community of faith. (Institute for Catholic Education) Let us give thanks that we have good and holy people showing us the way to live good and holy lives - in person and online!

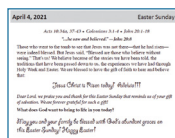


Catholic Education

All students in Alberta learn about digital citizenship but in our Catholic schools, digital citizenship is taught through the Catholic perspective which is always about maintaining and promoting the dignity of the human person. It is so important to teach our children how to be empathetic as they are learning to use digital media. We teach our students how to ensure their digital footprint is one in which they maintain their own dignity as well as the dignity of those with whom they are communicating.

This [document](#) created by the Institute for Catholic Education in Ontario is very much in line with what is happening each day in our Alberta Catholic schools too. Perhaps some of the items on this poster might be helpful to you as you work with your child's school to teach digital citizenship at home too.

Pope Francis offers this encouragement to young people: "You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater. Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness. In this way,...you will be fully yourself."



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

Sources: Loyola Press, "How to Raise Kids Who Care", Institute for Catholic Education



"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

(Ephesians 4:32)



Call for Audit Committee Public Members

The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division is requesting applications from members of the public to fill two (2) positions on the school division's Audit Committee as public members.

Under the new *Education Act*, the school division's Audit Committee is to be comprised of three (3) trustees and two (2) members of the public.

The Committee will be responsible for:

- recommending external auditors to the Board;
- reviewing the annual financial statements and reporting to the Board; and
- ensuring appropriate internal controls exist and are maintained.

Qualifications for the public members:

- Ideally have financial experience and/or a professional accounting designation;
- Independent to the school division; and
- No financial or personal interests with the school division's audit firm, KPMG.

Public members will be compensated for their time on the Audit Committee, as per [Board Policy 18, Appendix A: Trustee Compensation, Allowances and Reimbursement Rates](#). If you are interested in serving on the Audit Committee, please submit a letter of interest that includes a brief summary of your work experience and qualifications to:

Lisa Palmarin, Secretary-Treasurer

The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division
620 12B Street North, Lethbridge AB T1H 2L7

Email: secretarytreasurer@holyspirit.ab.ca

Fax: 403-327-9595

Deadline for applications is on or before April 30, 2021

For further information, please contact Lisa Palmarin, Secretary-Treasurer, by phone (403-327-9555) or email (secretarytreasurer@holyspirit.ab.ca).



“Share the Mission” Award Call for Nominations!

Nominations are now welcome for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division’s *“Share the Mission Award.”*
This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have:

- Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students;
- Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow;
- Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools;
- Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations;
- Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions:

*We are a Catholic faith community, dedicated to providing
each student entrusted in our care with an education rooted in the
Good News of Jesus Christ*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society,
our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will
live, celebrate, and proclaim their faith.*

Our Catholic faith is the foundations of all that we do.

If you know of an individual or group deserving of the *“Share the Mission Award,”* please forward their name to Rhonda Kawa at kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca by June 11, 2021.

Nomination information is accessible on the division’s website at:

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/share_the_mission_award