



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CHRISTMAS BREAK EXTENDED						
9	10 Classes Resume STEAM Day  SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATHEMATICS	11	12	13	14 Wear your OLA gear 	15
16	17 Re registration begins Check your email for the registration update form	18	19 School Council meeting 7:00pm  GET INVOLVED	20 Hot Lunch	21 9:00 am Mass with Assumption Church (livestreamed)	22
23	24	25	26 Board Meeting 6:00 pm  Pajama Day	27	28  PD Day! No School	29



JANUARY 2022

CALDER'S COMMENTARY

Happy New Year!

It is always exciting to start anew. We have many opportunities throughout the year to start fresh. January is a nice opportunity to take the time to refocus and realign. With the Christmas break behind us, we are nearly at the halfway point of the year. Let's take this time to really focus our attention on the growth we hope to achieve this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous members of our OLA community for their continued dedication and support. We enjoyed our annual turkey dinner, thanks to a number of generous donations and the hard work of our Hot Lunch committee. Santa visited with gifts for every classroom, also provided by School Council.

Thank you to Mrs. Ellert for organizing and running our successful poinsettia sale. With the success of this fundraiser, we will continue to grow our Maker Space and STEAM opportunities at OLA.

Mr. Cahoon and Ms. Swark devoted tons of time to recording and editing the virtual Christmas concert that many staff members created and faithfully rehearsed. It is always amazing to watch our students learn, grow, and perform; showcasing their many gifts and talents. I am so proud of the dedication of our staff and students to complete this project through adversity.

I am consistently reminded how blessed we are at OLA. I look forward to the projects the new year will bring and celebrating our successes together.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

Welcome back as we continue the sacred Christmas season up to the feast of Epiphany on January 6! We hope you had a blessed and holy holiday with your families.

Our students were doubly blessed in December, focusing on our school's special saint Mary as we considered the coming of Christ. Through devotions, prayer, fundraising, and classroom activities, we all came together in this very special month of sainthood! As we move into January, we continue our journey with another patron saint of Holy Spirit Catholic Schools: Saint Paul.



St. Paul is one of the most influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century.

St. Paul was originally known as Saul. He was a Roman citizen and a Jewish Pharisee who believed in the strict observance of God's Law. He persecuted the early Christians and was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. While on the road to Damascus, Saul had an encounter with the risen Christ. His encounter convinced him that Christ had come for all and the observances of Jewish Law were not necessary for those who believed in Christ. He was subsequently baptized and took the name of Paul.

Paul spent his life travelling and preaching. In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome and was beheaded under Emperor Nero. Throughout his life, he established churches and remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes. The surviving letters have become part of the Bible.



PRAYER TO ST PAUL

Dear Lord, sometimes you surprise us with whom you choose to follow you. However, since you want all of us to follow you, we should not really be surprised that you chose Paul, let alone us. May we learn and accept that you want to change all of our hearts, converting them more and more to your holy will. May we thus have the same zeal as St. Paul to share your Good News. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Students are expected to play outside during the breaks. If your child has a medical reason to remain inside during this time they must give their teacher a written request from you, their parent or legal guardian. This note should include specific dates on which you would like your child to remain inside; otherwise it is assumed that the note is for the current day only.

Please ensure your children come to school dressed for the weather. Boots, a warm jacket, gloves, mitts, toques will help make recess more enjoyable. Please label all items as many students have the same pair of black boots. Students should also have indoor shoes to change into when they enter the school.

POLAR BEAR CLUB

When the temperature falls below -20 we will have indoor recesses (green dot day). However, there are days when the sun is shining but the temperature is still below -20. For those students who would like to play outside on these colder days, they can sign up to be part of the Polar Bear Club. This club is meant for students who are properly dressed in a warm winter coat, ski/snow pants, hat, mitts and winter boots who would enjoy and benefit from some fresh air and outdoor activity. The staff will determine which days the club will be in effect and the recess may be shortened if the weather warrants it. **The students will always be supervised by an adult.** Permission forms will be sent home for those interested.



ATTENDANCE

If your child(ren) will be absent from school please remember to call the office at 403-327-5028 or email olaoffice@holypsirit.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.

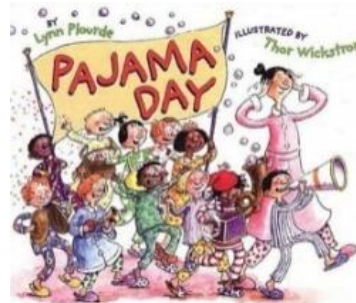
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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. Please send your child with their own mask and an extra one in their backpack. Our water fountains are only used as refilling stations so please send a water bottle with your child.



PAJAMA DAY



On Wednesday, January 26 students are invited to wear pajamas to school. Please remember the dress code is still in effect and students will still be required to go outside at during breaks.

THANK YOU

The staff and students at OLA would like to take this opportunity to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing School Council. The visit from Santa, turkey dinner, and generous classroom gifts made our Christmas season joyous and bright. We are truly blessed to have such supportive members of our community.



Thank you



Looking forward to a new year with ...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2022/2023 REGISTRATION



Re-Registration Starts January 17, 2022

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of January 17-21, 2022 asking that the the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child who will be attending during the 2022/2023 school year.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.



New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2022

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2022/2023 school year are invited to register online starting on February 1, 2022.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2022.

For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator at 403-381-8495 or earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca.



For More Information

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

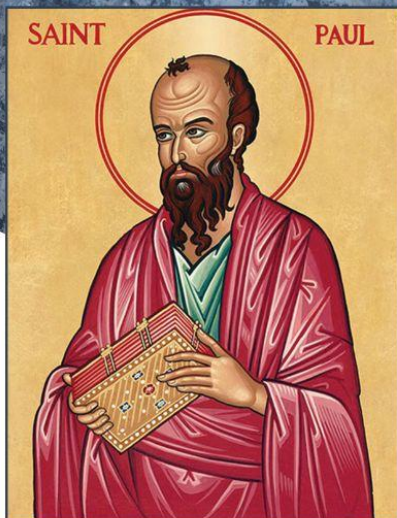


Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where students are cherished and achieve their potential.

January

Together on the Journey



St. Paul

School: St. Paul

“My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:4-5




ST. PAUL

St. Paul is one of the most influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century. St. Paul was originally known as Saul. He was a Roman citizen and a Jewish Pharisee who believed in the strict observance of God’s Law. He persecuted the early Christians and was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. While on the road to Damascus, Saul had an encounter with the risen Christ. His encounter convinced him that Christ had come for all and the observances of Jewish Law were not necessary for those who believed in Christ. He was subsequently baptized and took the name of Paul.

Paul spent his life travelling and preaching, primarily to the Gentiles. In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome and was beheaded under Emperor Nero. Throughout his life, he established churches and remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes. The letters that have survived have become part of the Bible.

Evangelization is the Work of God



7 TIPS FOR YOUR CONVERSION PROCESS

- 1 The people in your life didn’t change, you did**
The only difference is that you walk with the Lord now.
- 2 You can’t be holy overnight**
Holiness is a lifetime process. Keep going!
- 3 You may feel tempted to give up**
Don’t get discouraged and don’t try to silence your conscience.
- 4 Remember that faith is not a feeling**
Let your goal be to love God at all times, even when it gets hard.
- 5 Keep praying and learning**
The spirit must be trained, set some real resolutions.
- 6 Talk about God**
Bring God everywhere you go, with your words and actions.
- 7 And remember...you are Catholic everywhere**
Be a Catholic outside your group or movement, the world needs you!

Reflections on the Conversion of St. Paul

All of us are called to conversion — probably not in a sudden dramatic fashion like Saul — but still constantly day by day we are called ever more to surrender our lives to Christ. He calls us too by our own name with great mercy and tenderness; he calls us to abandon our special resistance to his will and plan for our lives and to conform ourselves to his will and plan.

If we are to respond to that call we, like Paul, must give ourselves up to prayer, stopping the whirl of frantic activities and putting ourselves before God, saying like Paul: "What shall I do?" (Acts 22:10).

St. Paul’s conversion is not just an interesting historical episode from the beginning of the Church — is is paradigmatic for our own continued journey of conversion. All of its elements can be applied to ourselves.

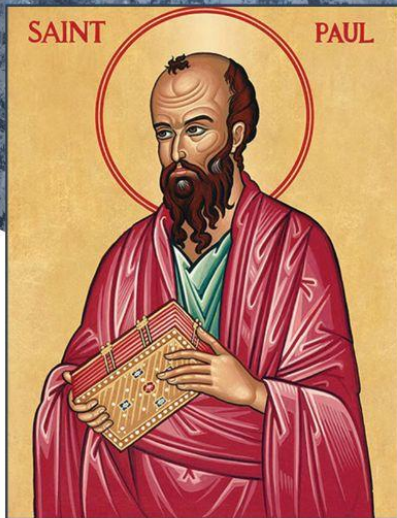


“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

January

Together on the Journey



St. Paul

School: St. Paul



Feast Days and Celebrations January 2022

- 1 The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- 1 World Day of Peace
- 2 Epiphany of the Lord
- 9 Baptism of the Lord
- 14 World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As you journey with St. Paul this month...

WEEK ONE

Paul's conversion was quite dramatic. Not all of us will have a similar conversion experience in our relationship with God. Consider the infographic on page one - is there one area that speaks to you the most and might be an area for growth in your life?

WEEK TWO

When Saul (Paul) was suffering (temporarily blind), he entered into prayer and fasting, even though suffering usually makes us want to "check out." With St. Paul as an example, contemplate this verse and how it may help you during a difficult time: *"For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."* - Isaiah 41:13



WEEK FOUR

Paul's mission flowed from his relationship with God. He took time away from the mission to seek the "one thing necessary" (Luke 10:42). When is the last time you went on "retreat"? It's the beginning of a new year. Look at your calendar this week and include time alone with God. Whether it's a specific location or alone in your room, think of ways to include God in your life.



Source: *Daily Lessons from the Saints* by Fr. Brice Higginbotham

WEEK THREE

Stephen had, like Jesus, prayed for God to forgive his murderers. God heard his prayer and extended forgiveness to Saul. But the rest of the Church still had to live the hard task of forgiveness. Could you have forgiven Saul? Ask for the grace to forgive your enemies or anyone who has hurt you.



Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Luke 6:37b



Sunday Gospel Readings

Jan. 2nd/Epiphany of the Lord
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 9th/Baptism of the Lord
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Jan. 16th/2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
John 2:1-12

Jan. 23rd/3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

OLA School Council News



HAPPY
New Year
2022



Let's work together to make this a great year for the Children of OLA!

Thank You :

- Thank you to Prime Catering for cooking the Christmas turkey dinner. We know the students and staff enjoyed the meal!
- Thank you for the donations from the **Knights of Columbus #5726, The Jackson Family** and **Prime Catering** for making this possible!!
- A huge thank you to all the local, independent businesses that donated gifts for the Christmas Bingo. Please see the following page for a list of all our donors. This meant a lot to the students and made the Christmas celebration at school a special one.

Upcoming Events:

- **Hot Lunch January 20th - more details to come**

Fundraisers:

- **Ability Bottle Depot - North and South Locations - You can donate a portion or all of your recyclables to OLA.**

Got a suggestion - forward to olaschoolcouncillethbridge@gmail.com



Thank you to all the local businesses that donated to our Christmas Activities:



Another Pretty Face



Tote-ally Dynamic with Deniece



Progressive Fighting Academy



Charming Slimes