









February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ELP has school Office hours- Gr 3 Tratch 4 – 6pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> PD Day No School for students </div>	2	3
4	5 Girls Bball game @ SPFAE	6 Boys Bball game @ CSM	7 Winter Walk Day Girls Bball game Home vs CSM Hot lunch orders due	8 Boys Bball game Home vs FLVT	9	10
11	12 Girls Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50 Boys Bball game @ ESM	13 Shrove Tuesday Celebrate Valentine's Day Boys Bball game @ SPFAE	14 Ash Wed Mass Assumption Church  Girls Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50	15 Hot Lunch Lakeview Bakery  Girls Bball game @ FLVT Boys Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50	16	17
18 	19 	20	21	22 Teacher Convention	23 Teacher Convention	24
No school for students						
25 	26 2 nd Lenten Celebration 5B – 10:20 am Girls Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50 Office hours Gr 5 & 6 4:00-5:00pm	27 STEAM Day  Boys Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50	28 Gr 2 retreat 9-2pm Assumption Church  Girls Bball game @ ESM	29 Boys Bball game Home vs St Paul		

Tues, Feb. 27 – PANAGO PIZZA

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE: OUR OLA JOURNEY

Our school has embarked on a transformative journey toward becoming a certified IB PYP (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme) school. This venture signifies a commitment to providing a holistic, internationally-minded education that goes beyond traditional boundaries.

So, what is the IB PYP? It's an inquiry-based educational framework that encourages students to explore, question, and discover knowledge in a meaningful context. It not only nurtures academic excellence but also fosters essential life skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and intercultural understanding, and is in keeping with both our commitment to providing excellent education to all and our Catholic values and social justice teachings.

Excitingly, our school will stand as the sole PYP beacon south of Calgary. This achievement will not only elevate our school's profile but will also contribute to the greater learning experience of all our students.

In an era where our world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and our school community increasingly reflects this diversity, embracing the IB PYP philosophy aligns perfectly with our vision for a more globalized community. It is a step towards preparing our students to thrive in a diverse and ever-evolving world, equipping them with the skills and perspectives needed for success.

As we delve into this exciting initiative, we invite you to join us in celebrating the possibilities it opens for our students, our school, and our community. We will keep you updated on our progress through monthly newsletter reports and via our school website. As you await more information, you would like to preview some further details about the IB yourself, please visit the following resources:

- [IB - PYP Overview for Parents](#)
- [Inspiring Education: An Introduction to the PYP](#)

 **Holy Spirit**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

**TAKE THE NEXT STEP
AND REGISTER SOON!**

2024/2025 REGISTRATION

- Re-registration for **CURRENT** students starts **January 15, 2024**
- Registration for **NEW** students starts **February 1, 2024**

We invite you to come and take your next step in education with the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division where children are cherished and achieve their potential.

 **EARLY LEARNING**  **FRENCH IMMERSION**  **FINE ARTS**



www.holyspirit.ab.ca

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been a whirlwind return since the Christmas break. I am excited to announce that OLA has been accepted as an official candidate school for the Inter Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP). Over the next 18 months - 2 years, staff will be working hard to align their practice with the ideals of IB. This is an exciting process and we look forward to our journey. Please see Ms. Swark's monthly newsletter submissions for up to date information on the IB PYP.

February is a short and jam-packed month.

Please remember that students do not have school on **February 1st and 2nd**. Teachers will be completing their official IB training.

Some classes will be participating in Winter Walk and Global Play day on February **7th**. On February **13th**, classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday falls on February **14th**. Classes will be observing this solemn day during Mass at Assumption Church at noon. All are welcome to join us. Hot lunch, from Lakeview Bakery, will be available February **16th**.

Students will not have any school from February 19-23 as staff will be participating in professional learning and Teachers' Convention.

Pink Shirt Day is scheduled for February **28th**, when we will ask students to wear pink if they have it and classes will focus on kindness.

With the hectic pace this month promises, I am looking forward to the contemplative, reflective focus of Lent, taking time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings to our wonderful school community! We hope your February is filled with warmth, compassion, and a strong sense of togetherness. As we embrace the unpredictable weather of this short month, our focus is on the Catholic social justice teaching of solidarity.

Just as we celebrate love this month, we also reflect on our commitment to standing in solidarity with one another. In the spirit of Jesus' teachings, we are called to walk side by side, supporting each other, especially those who may feel marginalized or in need. Here are some meaningful ways we can embody solidarity in our daily lives:

- **Connect with Classmates:** Take a moment this month to strengthen the bonds within our school family. Reach out to classmates (or their families) you may not know well, and discover the unique qualities that make each of us special.
- **Extend a Helping Hand:** Keep an eye out for those who may be facing challenges or feeling isolated. Small gestures of kindness can have a significant impact. Whether it's helping a fellow student with their studies or inviting someone new to join a group, let's create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.
- **Reflect on Our Blessings:** Take a moment to appreciate the diverse talents and backgrounds within our school community. Recognizing and respecting the uniqueness of each individual strengthens the bonds that tie us together.

By standing together, we reflect the love of God in our actions, creating a nurturing environment for all.

This month's verse:

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

-1 Corinthians 12: 26



REGISTRATION

New student registration opens on February 1st for all Early Learning to grade 6 students new to our division.

RE-REGISTRATION

Re registration forms have been emailed for all current students. Please go online and complete this form as soon as possible. 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 us to plan for the upcoming school year. If you require assistance, please contact the office at 403-327-5028.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

It's a Blast will offer before and after school care at the school if there is enough interest. In order to proceed we need a firm commitment from families. Registration will open in April. Please reach out to It's a Blast at 403-320-3988 for further information.

With enough interest, BGC will transport kindergarten children from OLA to ESM for after school care. Registration is open and the program fills up fast. If you are interested, please contact them at 403-327-6423.

WINTER WALK DAY

On Wednesday, February 7, we will be participating in Winter Walk Day as well as Global Play Day. Students will be spending time outdoors and we ask that you send your child to school with appropriate warm winter clothing.



PINK SHIRT DAY

On Wednesday, February 28 2024, we will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day. We encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying.



PERMISSION CLICK

We are excited to introduce a new digital platform that aims to streamline the process of giving permission for your child to attend field trips. In an effort to enhance communication and make the permission-giving process more convenient for you, we have implemented this user-friendly solution.

You can now grant permission for your child's participation in field trips with just a few clicks. No more paperwork to fill out.

You may receive an email from Permission Click with the subject line "Form Response Required". Open the email and click on "Complete Your Form." You will be taken to the form where you can submit your response.

BELL TIMES AND DROP OFF

The bell for all students to enter the school rings at 8:42am. Students should be waiting at their door prior to this time. During the cold winter mornings students may enter starting at 8:30 am and go directly to their classroom. Pick up time for Early Learning and Kindergarten is 11:45am and students will be dismissed out the front door. Grades 1 – 6 are dismissed at 3:47 pm and there is no after school supervision.

When dropping off or picking up your child(ren) please pull into a parking spot or park along the playground. Do not stop in the middle of the road as this creates a safety issue and traffic congestion.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The January hot lunch was from Joe's Pizza Stone and we hope everyone who ordered enjoyed the meal.

Our next hot lunch will be on February 15th from Lakeview Bakery. It will be a choice of perogies and sausages or Mac n Cheese. Orders need to be submitted by February 7th.

We are having a **Panago Pizza Night Fundraiser** on February 27th. Plan to have a pizza night and help support our school. A percentage of all pizza's sold will go to OLA for student activities, school events and field trips. More details to come!

Our next school council meeting will be held online on **Monday, March 4th @ 7pm.** Everyone is welcome.





Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where students are cherished and achieve their potential

Dear Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Parents/Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division understands the importance of keeping our school community informed and connected, and wants to ensure that everyone receives the necessary information from both your school and the division in a timely manner. Recently, there have been concerns from some schools and families regarding our messaging, with reports of some families not receiving important emails or texts.

To address this issue, we have compiled a list of tips and potential fixes to ensure that you stay up-to-date with all the information being sent out:

Email:

1. Regularly check your junk/spam folder to ensure emails have not been filtered there.
2. If you are not receiving emails in your regular inbox or spam/junk folders, please contact your school to verify that you have not declined to receive emails by unsubscribing or have been blocked.
3. Ensure your email address is up-to-date and has been provided to the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division.

Text Messaging:

1. When filling out registration forms, ensure that a valid mobile phone number is entered in the mobile phone field on the parent contact form.
2. If you are unsure whether your mobile phone number has been added, please contact your child(s) school(s) to double check and update as necessary.
3. Confirm you have opted in to receive text messages from the schools/division. Please see insert on how to opt in for text messages for your convenience.

In addition, we would like to remind you that all important messages sent out to our Holy Spirit families are normally included on our social media channels (FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter) as well as on the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division website (www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

We hope that these steps provided above help maintain consistent and effective communication between our school community and our families. If you still experience issues after following the tips and information above, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school(s).

Your collaboration is paramount in fostering strong and seamless connections within our schools and division. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sean Marks, Communications Coordinator
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division

St. Basil Catholic Education Centre, 620 12B Street North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L7
Phone: 403-327-9555 • Fax: 403-327-9595 • www.holyspirit.ab.ca



Stay Up-To-Date with Our Schools' Communication!

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is reminding families to ensure you are set up to receive text (SMS) messages from our schools and division. This is one of multiple ways that we send out important messaging to both our families and staff. Please take some time to follow the steps below to ensure you're receiving our text (SMS) messaging.

In addition, for those who have not signed up or utilized our SchoolMessenger App, we've included step-by-step instructions on how to do so. SchoolMessenger helps our parents and families to access important notifications, receive school messages and set your communication preferences.

Text (SMS) Messaging

1) *Did you receive a text from us?*

When a new mobile number is entered by the school, within 24 hours, a text should be sent to that number asking if you would like to subscribe.

Simply respond with your preference:

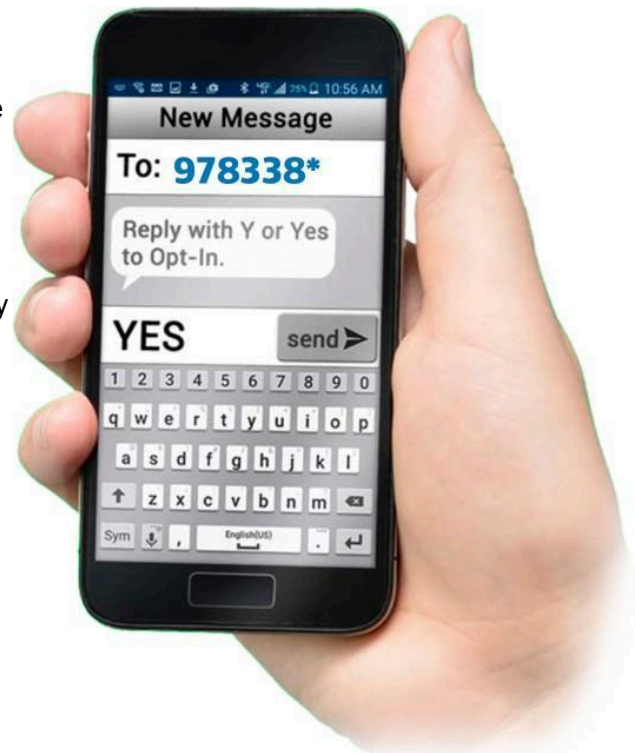
- Type "Y" or "Yes" to receive messages by text.
- Type "N" or "Stop" if you'd prefer not to receive messages by text. You can do this to unsubscribe at any time.

2) *You haven't received a text and you'd like to?*

You can always subscribe to receive texts from the school by sending a "Y" to **978338**. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.

3) *Do you have a new or different device you'd like to receive texts to?*

First, make sure your child's school has this new number in their system! You should receive a message in 24 hours asking you to respond with a "Y." If you don't, send a "Y" directly to **978338**. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.



**While this service is free, standard message and data rates may apply. Please check with your device's data provider if you have any questions related to charges.*



SchoolMessenger App

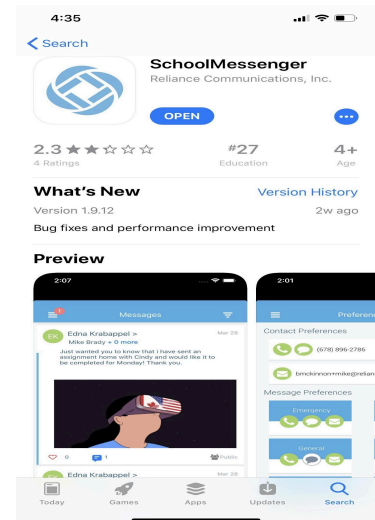
The School Messenger App allows parents to:

- Access important school notifications 24/7/365
- Set your communications preferences for calls, emails, texts, and more
- Receive all kinds of school messages in one single app (classroom and group updates, activity alerts, school and division notifications)
- Review your messages on any device (smartphone, laptop, etc...)

1) Download the School Messenger App:

Go to the GooglePlay or Apple Stores to download "SchoolMessenger" (the version with the blue logo).

You can also download the app, or set up your account, from <http://go.schoolmessenger.com>.




2) Sign up for an account:

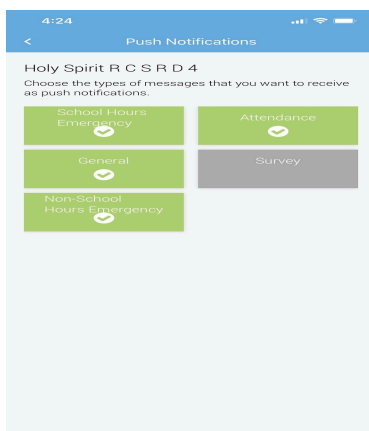
Make sure you enter the email address that the school has on file for you. This will allow the app to find all of the students associated with you. Also, make sure you select "Canada" as your location.



3) Set your preferences:


When you first log in, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen and select "Preferences." For each category, you can select how you would like to be notified:

- *School Hours Emergency* –For urgent messaging during school hours
- *Non-School Hours Emergency* - For urgent messaging before and after school hours
- *Attendance* – For calls regarding your child's attendance.
- *General* – Day to day information from the school.



4) Enable push notifications:

Even if you turn off most types of notifications (phone, text, email), you can still receive those messages through push notifications on your phone.

To set your push notifications, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen. Select "Settings," then "Push Notifications."

Click on all of those boxes for which you would like to receive push notifications on your device.

February

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people."

Matthew 4:23

St. Dulce Lopes Pontes 1914-1992 (Feast Day: August 13)

When Maria de Souza Pontes was 13, her aunt took her on a trip to the poor area of her hometown. She was struck by the poverty and need that she encountered, and began to start to care for the homeless in her own neighbourhood. At 18, she joined a missionary order and became known as Dulce. Immediately, she began to serve the neediest in Salvador, supporting workers and housing those in need. Initially, this was done in abandoned homes and buildings, but each time they were evicted. Finally, she asked the permission of the convent to convert their chicken coop - which over time became a hospital. That hospital today serves more than 3,000 patients per day and is the largest free hospital in Brazil.

In 1959, she created a foundation known as OSID, which oversees the hospital, as well as other welfare and education services, and is a well known and respected organization in Brazil. It serves the homeless, elderly, children, those with addictions and disabilities and other marginalized groups. Dulce was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, and lived the last years of her life with respiratory problems prior to her death in 1992. St. Dulce Lopes Pontes was canonized by Pope Francis in 2019, becoming the first Brazilian female saint.

"Building" In Our Schools

At St. Joseph School in Coaldale, their Leadership class is spearheading a fundraising campaign for our divisional Chalice campaign. As they raise funds, through ice cream float and hot chocolate sales, they are visually tracking their contributions by adding bricks to their school diagram - building a school of kindness. What a great way to show solidarity with St. Odilia!



Corporal Works of Mercy

— Visit the Sick —

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them. Consider one or more of these practical ways to show this work:

- Give blood.
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbour.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.
- Spend quality time with those who are sick or homebound.
- Take the time to call, send a card or an e-mail to someone who is sick.

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



"We are like a pencil with which God writes the texts He wants said in the hearts of men."

(St. Dulce Lopes Pontes)

Catholic Social Teaching

— Solidarity —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. We saw how keenly interested God is in those at the margins. When we act in ways that align with this, recognizing our interdependence, seeing ourselves in others and seeking to secure the good of others, we are showing solidarity. As St. Pope John Paul II wrote,

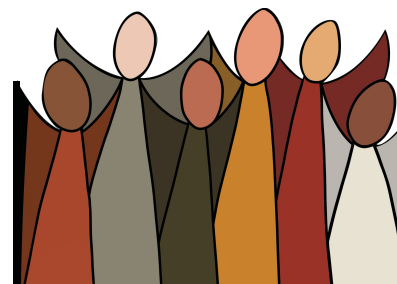
"[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

Learn more about Solidarity with one of these resources:

CST 101 - [Solidarity](#)

Development and Peace - [Solidarity](#)

USCCB - [Solidarity](#)



Gospel Readings

February 4, 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

“All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.” — 1 Corinthians 9:23

Do WHAT for the sake of the gospel? In today’s scripture verse, we are called to do EVERYTHING for the glory of God. The Gospel tells of Jesus’ life and how he tried to please God with all he did and said, the way he loved, the way he treated others, the way he did everything! We too are called to do everything in our lives to live out the Gospel. The word “gospel” means “good news.” We want to have a share of this Good News, just like St. Paul did. All we have to do is live the Gospel in our own lives. So listen carefully to the scripture readings at Mass. They will guide you to live for God!

What do you think it would be like to have a share of the Good News?



Prayer:

*Dear Lord, we want to experience your Good News today and be with you in heaven someday!
Please help us to learn what we need to do to have a share in that gift.*

February 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40-45

“...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31

How could what I eat or drink glorify God? St. Paul reminds us in this reading to remember God and give him glory for all the normal, everyday things we do in our lives. It’s easy to forget and take things for granted, but everything is a gift from God. Paul also reminds us to be kind to others in everyday situations. We can make choices like holding the door for others, when all we want to do is get into the place we are going. We can choose to be last in line, allowing others to go before us and offering that as a prayer. These are all small ways we can give glory to God—and show God’s love—in our daily lives.

What are some ways you can show glory to God in your life every day?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, I don't always feel like I can do great things to show you my love. Please help me to find small ways every day in my own life to give you glory.

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Dulce Lopes Pontes



Gospel Readings

February 18, 2024

1st Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:12-15

“The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.” — Mark 1:12

Even Jesus was called for forty days to fast and pray. It was not easy for him. Satan was there whispering in his ear to try to get him to stop fasting and walk away from his prayer. He could have done that. He was God. But he chose the harder way. He chose to offer up his discomfort to glorify God and grow closer to him. We too are called to forty days of fasting and praying. We may even be tempted as Jesus was to walk away from the sacrifices. But just as the Spirit gave Jesus the strength to keep going, he will give us what we need to continue and grow closer to him.

What are some ways that you can fight off temptations? What are your favourite ways to pray?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the opportunity to join with you in this time of fasting and praying during Lent. Please give us the grace not to give in to temptation.

February 25, 2024

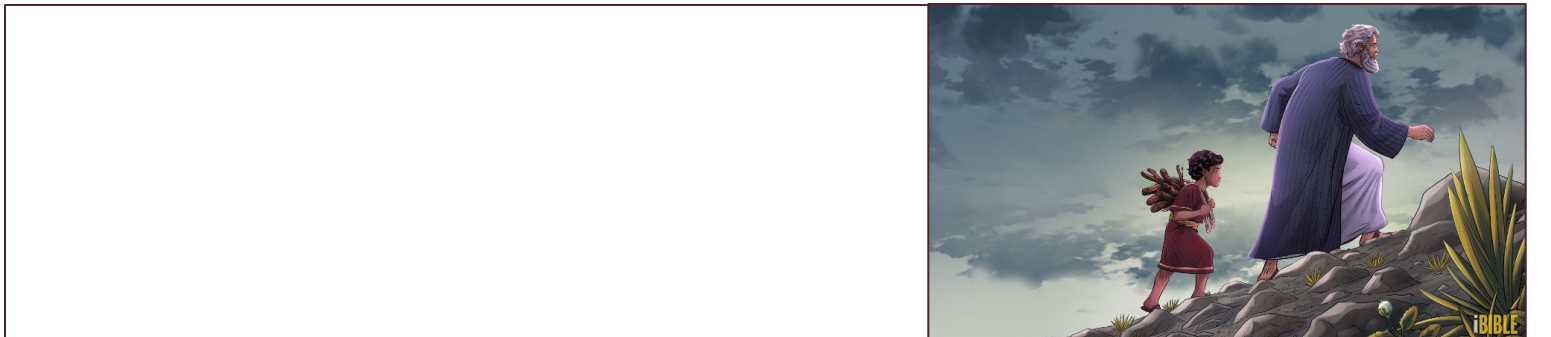
2nd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10

“Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love...there you shall offer him up as a holocaust...” — Genesis 22:2

Think of the one person you love the most in the world. Is it your mom, dad, a brother or sister? Maybe it's a best friend or a cousin. Can you imagine if you heard God ask you to give them up forever? That would be the hardest thing you'd ever have to do. Yet, in today's scripture, that is what God asks Abraham to do. Abraham is a great example of faith and trust in God. He didn't understand why God wanted him to give up his only son, whom he loved with all his heart. But he trusted in God. In the end, we learn that God didn't want him to give up his son, he just wanted to test Abraham's faith and trust. I think he passed the test, what about you?

Are there things in your life that God may want you to give up that would help you grow closer to him?



Prayer:

Lord, may we learn to have the same faith and trust in you that Abraham had, even when we don't understand your ways.

Sources:

[All about Blessed Dulce Lopes Pontes – the Good Angel of Brazil](#)
[Irmã Dulce](#)
[Dulce Lopes Pontes: From serving the sick to Nobel nominee](#)

[History, Prayer, and Phrases of Saint Dulce of the Poor](#)
Image Source: [The Life of Isaac \(Part Two: The Sacrifice\)](#)



(I)SWAG Presents:

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Join us as Lethbridge Family Services presents while
you enjoy a complimentary dinner at a night of
exciting learning

Location

Anton's Ballroom

Sandman Signature, 320

Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge AB

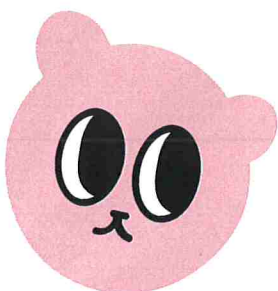
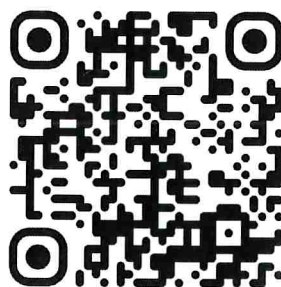
February

15

5:30 - 8:00pm

Please RSVP at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>



Emily Williston



SWAG
Student Wellness Access Guide
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
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Billy Woitte



ISWAG
Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide
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LETHBRIDGE FAMILY SERVICES

Lethbridge Family Services provides highly-accredited health and social services to over 9,000 individuals and families in more than 30 communities in southwestern Alberta. The Outreach and Education team works with individuals, caregivers and professional to facilitate insight, awareness and enhance skills.

This is a **FREE** event

Intended audience: parents, guardians, caregivers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, childcare providers, all school staff, bus drivers, parishoner's

