

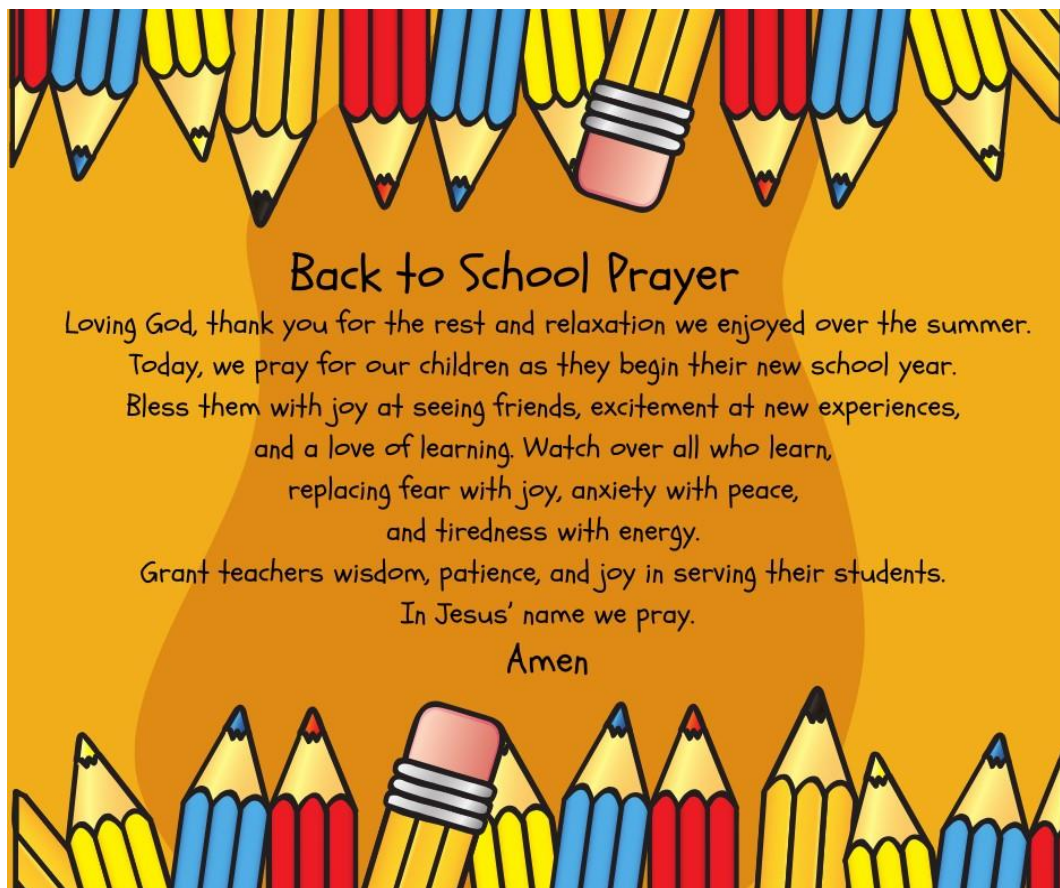


September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 LABOR DAY 	3 First day of school 	4 ELP Meet & Greet Kindergarten staggered start	5 Kindergarten staggered start	6	7
8	9 Early Learning Program begins 8:45 – 11:45 am	10	11	12	13 Terry Fox Run 	14
15	16	17	18 Opening Mass 9:15 am Blessing & Meet the Teacher 5:30pm 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Board Meeting CEC 3:00-6:00 pm	26	27 Orange Shirt Day 	28
29	30 No School 		October 2 *SCHOOL* PICTURE DAY 			



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Welcome back to a new school year. We are excited to see all returning families and those new to our OLA community.

We have a new website, ola.holyspirit.ab.ca which has all the information you will need. Calendars, bus information, school fees, bell times, school supplies, student handbook, etc.

Mrs. Swark has created a new blog with information regarding our faith plan and IB-PYP. This can be found on our website under [Associate Principal Updates](#).

Our opening Mass will be held on Wednesday at 9:15 am at Assumption Church. Everyone is welcome to join us. In the evening there will be a Blessing and Meet the Teacher starting at 5:30pm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Supervision

Morning supervision begins at 8:30 am and our first bell rings at 8:42 am. Students are asked to meet their teacher at their designated place outside each morning. Students will be dismissed at 3:47pm Mon – Thurs, and 12:42pm on Friday. We ask parents to pick up their child promptly as there is no supervision after school.

Attendance

If your child(ren) will be absent from school for any reason, please contact the office at 403-327-5028 to let us know. You can leave a message or email olaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca. All unexcused absences are followed up with a phone call.

Medication

If a student requires medication to be administered at school proper documentation must be completed by a doctor and parent. The forms are available in the office. These forms must be on file before any medication can be given. The school does not give out any over the counter medication such as Tylenol or cough medicine and we do not use antiseptic cream such as polysporin.

Contact Information

If there are any changes to your child's data, i.e.: address, phone number, emergency contacts, email address, etc. please inform the office. This information is vital so that the school can contact you in case of an emergency.

Nutrition Breaks

All students eat in their classrooms during nutrition breaks. There are **no microwaves** available so please pack lunches accordingly. Please ensure you send enough food for both breaks. If you send food that requires a spoon or fork, please send them. We **DO NOT** supply these items.

As part of our city's new guidelines, we need to sort all organic waste into separate bins. However, with the heat in our building, the challenge of managing waste for 200 people, and the worry about bad smells, we won't be able to dispose of organic waste at school.



To tackle this, we're starting a "Pack In, Pack Out" program. This means students should bring home everything from their lunch, including any leftovers. This will not only help us with waste

management but also give parents a better idea of what their kids are eating. To make this a little easier, please consider sending your child with a ziplock bag or a small plastic container for any lunch waste. Thanks for your help and support in keeping our school environment clean and efficient!

Food Allergies

In our school community there are students who have potentially life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to certain foods. It is important to be aware and respectful of those who may have food allergies. Please inform your teachers and school staff about any allergies your child may have. Before bringing food items to the classroom, check with the homeroom teacher if there are any items to avoid. By being mindful and considerate of food allergies in the classroom, we can create a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

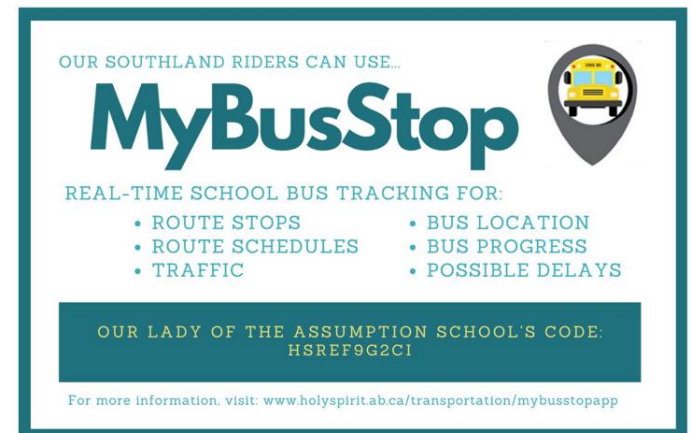
School Fees

All school fees for the 2024-25 school year are due by the end of September. All payments can be made on [School Cash Online](#). If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash, you can always do so by visiting our office. Fees for Grades 1-6 are \$27.00 and the Kindergarten fee is \$51.00. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Transportation

This year we have 3 buses. Please check the bus maps to confirm which bus your child(ren) will be riding. Information about bussing can be found [here](#).

Southland Transportation uses a GPS tracking service app called "My Bus Stop" which delivers real-time information about a subscriber's bus location, route, schedule and possible delays. More information is available [here](#). The updated code for OLA is HSREF9G2CI.



Permission Click

There will be 2 permission forms sent to you via email. One is our Digital Citizenship and the other is our yearly permission form. Please respond open both forms and submit your response.

Cell phones and wearable devices

All cell phones and wearable electronics (Apple watches, etc) must be turned off remain in the student's backpack throughout the day (including break times).

Smartwatches will need to be silenced and in watch mode only when worn to school.



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Morrison, Superintendent of Schools



Welcome to All Saints Parish Registration for First Reconciliation Grade 2 and up

Registration packages will be distributed from the schools and completed forms can be brought to our registration weekends in September. Fees will be collected at time of registration. .

Registration forms available on line at: www.allsaintslethbridge.org

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
Matthew 6:14

Has your child missed a sacrament?

How can we help your family on your faith journey.

If you are looking for answers please call

All Saints Parish Office at 403-327-8931 and ask for Cyndi



Welcome to All Saints Parish Registration for First Eucharist Grade 2 and up

Registration packages will be distributed from the schools and completed forms can be brought to our registration weekends in September. Fees will be collected at time of registration.

Registration forms available on line at: www.allsaintslethbridge.org

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"

John 6:35

September

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

- Matthew 5:16

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-430 (Feast Day: August 28)



Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope

St. Augustine of Hippo was an unlikely saint, but a very influential one. Living between 354 and 430 AD in what is today Algeria, St. Augustine became a Doctor of the Church, meaning that his influence on Catholic theology and philosophy was vast and enduring. His writings, including *City of God* and *Confessions* remain important works to study even today.

However, St. Augustine was not always so religious. He was born into an upper class family with a devout mother, Monica (who later became a saint herself), but in his youth lived wildly and rejected his Christian upbringing. A brilliant student, Augustine lived in Carthage, Rome, and Milan while completing his education and beginning to work as a professor. With the constant prayer of his mother, Augustine returned to Christianity and was influenced greatly by Ambrose of Milan, the Bishop (and later also a saint).

A key moment in his conversion was his reading of the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. After being baptized in 387, Augustine returned to Hippo the following year and became first a priest, and then the Bishop of Hippo by 395. He was well known for his sermons, which were engaging (and often quite lengthy). For the last 35 years of his life, he preached constantly and dedicated himself to the conversion of his local people to Christianity, and became known for many of his contributions to the development of Christian thought. But he was also highly practical and focused on the needs of those around him, as expressed in this quotation:

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

Charles

The Apostles' Creed

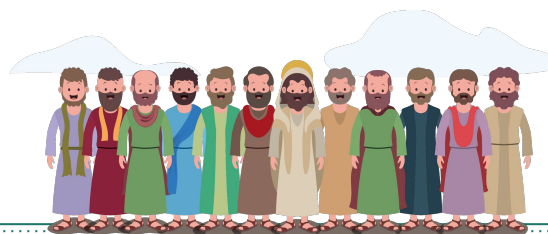
As part of our call to *Proclaim* this year, we are going to focus on elements of the Apostles' Creed each month, starting with an overview of creeds in general. A creed is a summary of beliefs; it comes from the Latin word *Credo*, which means "I believe." We are likely familiar with the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, which are the two main Creeds that we use in the Catholic Mass. While we say in these creeds "I believe," we do that alongside all of our brothers and sisters in faith, a unifying proclamation of what it is that we believe in. The creeds are combinations of historical truths with statements of faith, and have been derived over time from the earliest Christians.

In *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis writes that:

"Faith is necessarily ecclesial; it is professed from within the body of Christ as a concrete communion of believers...Faith is not a

private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to be proclaimed...Faith...enables us to become part of the Church's great pilgrimage through history until the end of the world."

As we seek to become Pilgrims of Hope this year, let us contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.



"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

One of Saint Augustine's famous sayings is: "You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you". Throughout the three years of this faith plan, you have heard Steve Angrisano's "[A Rightful Place](#)" at all of our divisional Masses. This song is based on St. Augustine's *Confessions*, and contains many of the themes and calls that we have responded to.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



"You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

- ST. AUGUSTINE

Gospel Readings

September 1, 2024

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...” — Mark 7:6

Have you ever tasted 100% pure chocolate? It looks luscious and sweet but because it has no sugar in it, it tastes bitter and dry. It's not at all like milk chocolate found in the candy we love so much. Can you think of other things that look good on the outside but are quite different on the inside? Sadly, sometimes people seem charming and smart by the things they say and do but inside they are bitter and selfish.

In today's Gospel, Jesus confronts some church leaders who see themselves as more important than Jesus' followers. These scribes and Pharisees judge Jesus' disciples by a set of man-made rules while ignoring the commandments given by God himself. They are using these rules to put the disciples down and criticize Jesus, their leader.

When people bully and degrade others, it should be a warning sign to us not to follow their example. To be a follower of Jesus, we must love like he does.

Do you know someone in your community who is being judged unfairly because of their looks, language, or culture? Make a point this week to reach out to that person.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to be good on the inside and out.



September 8, 2024

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

“They were exceedingly astonished and they said, “He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” — Mark 7:37

In today's Gospel, we read about a fantastic miracle Jesus performed. He restored a man's hearing and speech. Imagine someone you know who is sick or hurt right now. How excited would you be if Jesus healed that person right before your eyes? It would be hard not to shout your excitement to let everyone know the good news!

But Jesus still performs miracles every day, and often we don't even notice. Place your hand on your wrist and feel your blood pumping through your body. Or, stare at a black and white image for about 30 seconds; then close your eyes and see how the image is now reversed. It's pretty amazing that God created our bodies to work the way they do. Take notice today and see how many astonishing things God has done and is still doing!

What are some miraculous things God has done for our family?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to be attentive to your greatness and be grateful for the miracles you perform all around us.



Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Augustine of Hippo
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” — Mark 8:34

An old saying states: “Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” Here’s an example of what that saying means: Let’s say that you volunteer to help a sick or elderly neighbor by raking his leaves, but instead of finishing the job, you leave the piles for him to bag and put out to the curb himself. Maybe you grew tired or wanted to do something that was more fun, so you left the task half done. Your intentions were good at the beginning, but unless you finished, you haven’t done your job very well.

Jesus was faced with a very difficult task. He didn’t want to suffer and be killed any more than any person does, but he knew people might kill him because he was standing up for the truth and trying to do the right thing. Jesus was committed to finishing the task he began out of love for us. He wouldn’t stop doing the right things even though he knew he would get killed for it. As followers of Jesus, we too need to help others, regardless of the price we must pay.

Is there a task we left only partly done that we need to complete out of love for someone else?



Prayer:
Lord, help us to be generous with our love despite the sacrifices we must make.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

“Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder...the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle...the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” — James 3:16-18

Do I find myself living in the wisdom God gives, in peace and gentleness and the other gifts of the Holy Spirit that I received at my baptism? Or do I find myself more often wrapped up in my wants: wanting my own way, wanting what others have, etc.? Is there peace in my heart when I seek these things, or do those wants create jealousy and selfishness? God wants me to have peace, but peace won’t come out of being selfish. Often we need to practice being thankful for what we have and giving instead of getting in order to find peace.

Am I jealous of what others have? What do I have that I can concentrate on being thankful for instead?

Prayer:
Dear Lord, please show me how to put selfish wants and desires aside. Help me to find peace through a heart filled with gratitude. Teach me to put others before myself, living out the gifts of patience, joy, kindness, love, and gentleness.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- Colossians 3:17



Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

“There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.” — Mark 9:39-40

Jesus’ disciples were upset that some other people who weren’t followers of Jesus were doing good things for him. They thought they were special because they were in the “in” crowd by following Jesus but the others weren’t. Jesus teaches them that it’s not about some people being “in” the group and others being “outside” of the group. Everyone who does good things and lives lovingly is on Jesus’ side, even if they don’t say they are following Jesus! He teaches us that there are plenty of good people in the world that might not go to the same church or even be the same religion as us and they will be rewarded for their good works too.

Who are some good people we know who don’t go to our church but are still living as Jesus taught?

Prayer:
Dear Lord, help me to be accepting of everyone, not just those that are the same religion or go to the same church as me.

Sources:
[Saint You Should Know: Augustine of Hippo](#)
[Story of Saint Augustine \(Christian Family TV\)](#)
[St. Monica and St. Augustine](#)