



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		CHRISTMAS BREAK				
5	6 Classes resume	7 comfy cozy day 	8	9	10	11
12	13 Re-registration begins	14 7:00 p m Online School Council meeting 	15	16	17 4S & 6G Mass 	18
19	20	21	22 Board Meeting 3:00pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Office hours 6G 4 – 5 pm	31 No School 	



JANUARY 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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 upon 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 School Council. Santa visited with gifts for every classroom, also provided by the School Council.

Thank you to Mrs. Ellert for organizing and running our poinsettia sale. With the success of this fundraiser, we will continue to support opportunities for students at OLA.

We hosted our Christmas Activity Night. It was great to have so many families join us for a fun filled evening. Thank you to the teacher committee who planned the evening. Perhaps the greatest success that evening was the turnout for the Book Fair. Mrs. Bugg ran a successful book fair. The library will have many new books added thanks to Mrs. Bugg and the other volunteers who helped make the book fair possible.

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.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Click on this [link](#) to open Mrs. Swark's blog

THANK YOU

The staff and students at OLA want to send a big, heartfelt THANK YOU to our wonderful School Council! Your thoughtful efforts—bringing Santa for a visit, organizing a delicious turkey dinner, and providing such generous classroom gifts—truly made our Christmas season so joyful and special.



WELCOME

Hello, my name is Miss. Clarke, and I am eager to start my PS3 at Our Lady Assumption.

I have been at the U of L for 5 years and am at the end of my Kinesiology and Physical Education degree. I grew up just outside of Taber on an acreage with my parents, brother and twin sister. I also work at the Taber Aqua Fun Centre as a lifeguard and instructor.



I have a passion for travelling and spent 3 months in South America in 2023, and this past summer, I spent another 3 months in Southeast Asia, where I had the opportunity to teach Western sports in the south of Vietnam. I love to keep busy, you can often find me skiing, swimming, and golfing, I also play on a ringette team out of Medicine Hat.

I am very excited about the opportunity to work within your school and hope that I can make a positive impact as well as learn from some great staff members!

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.

REMINDERS

- School fees are now overdue.
- Nutrition Breaks – we have two breaks during the day where students eat lunch and snacks. Please discuss with your child to see if they have enough for both breaks. Also, we **do not** supply spoons or forks. If you are sending something that requires utensils, please send them along.
- During the wet, snowy days, students are asked to remove their wet footwear before heading to class. Please make sure your child(ren) have indoor shoes.

PAJAMA DAY

On Tuesday, January 7, students are invited to wear pajamas/cozy wear to school. Please remember the dress code is still in effect and students will still be required to go outside at during breaks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus for coming to visit the students at OLA and handing out presents and candy canes to all the classrooms!

Our annual Christmas lunch was held Dec. 19th and we hope the students, staff and special guests enjoyed the meal. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and serve the food.

Our next meeting will be held online on Tuesday, January 14th. Everyone is welcome to join. The link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year 2025!!

WHO IS THIS?



MS DUKE, GRADE 1 TEACHER



DID YOU MISS OUT ON REGISTRATION IN THE FALL FOR SACRAMENTS?

No problem we will be running a Boot Camp for
First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation

The First Reconciliation Boot Camp will run:

Saturday 11 Jan. AND Sunday 12 Jan. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 18 Jan. AND Sunday 19 Jan. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church. Snacks will be provided.

The First Eucharist Boot Camp will run:

Saturday 1 Feb. AND Sunday 2 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 8 Feb. AND Sunday 9 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church. Snacks will be provided.

The Confirmation Boot Camp will run:

Saturday 15 Feb. AND Sunday 16 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm OR
Saturday 22 Feb. AND Sunday 23 Feb. from 12:00 pm till 3:00 pm
at Assumption Church. Snacks will be provided.

Registration forms available on line at:

www.allsaintslethbridge.org

There is no cost for this class and for more information please email Cyndi at

educationallsaints@shaw.ca

Pre-registration is required

January

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



"In this life no one can fulfill his longing, nor can any creature satisfy man's desire. Only God satisfies, he infinitely exceeds all other pleasures. That is why man can rest in nothing but God."

- St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas 1225-1274 (Feast Day: January 28)

St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of academics, students, and Catholic schools and Doctor of the Church, is widely considered to be one of the most influential theologians in Catholic history. Living in the 1200s, Aquinas was born in what is now Italy, into a powerful and wealthy family. He had an extensive education in his youth, and at the age of 19 decided to join the Dominican Order. His family made many efforts to prevent him from following through on this choice, but his persistence was unstoppable. In 1245, he went to continue his studies at the University of Paris, where he met Dominican scholar St. Albert the Great. He completed his education there, becoming a prolific writer as well. For the remainder of his life, he continued to teach and to write, composing hymns that are still sung today alongside many philosophical volumes. The largest and most well known of these is his *Summa Theologica* (Summary of Theology), which was written as a guide of the Catholic theological basics. This gave rise to the theological approach known as Thomism. Thomism focuses on the complementary nature of faith and reason, the virtues as a framework for moral life, and uses logical reasoning for the existence of God. G.K. Chesterton referred to this view as a philosophy of common sense. St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274, with his *Summa Theologica* left unfinished after a mystical experience caused him to abandon it. He was canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323, and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

The Apostles' Creed

"...[He] descended into hell..."



In the biblical word, 'hell' is the scriptural description for the place of all the dead. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains (CCC 633-634) that Jesus had to "free the just who had gone before him." This meant that he was able to spread salvation and redemption to the holy men and women who had gone before him in time. His death and resurrection, which we profess at Mass and which are the cornerstone of our faith, were shared as much with those who died before him as with us today. Further, when Christ is resurrected, he arises in a whole new way — just look at some of the things that he does. The Gospels report that people like Mary Magdalene and Clopas did not at first recognize him, that he bore the marks of his crucifixion wounds, and that he ate with his disciples after the resurrection! This might seem like a little thing, but as Janet Schaeffler writes,

Perhaps the problem with the years of Jesus' physical life on earth was that he seemed so human that people couldn't

believe he was God. Now, in his risen state, it is tremendously important that people remember that he is human...the resurrection doesn't mean that finally Jesus went back to being God again. He never ceased being God. But he never ceases being human.

As St. Athanasius said, "we no longer die as those condemned but as those who will arise." This gives our three year faith plan theme — Arise! Pilgrims of Hope — a whole new meaning.

As we seek to become *Pilgrims of Hope* this year, let us continue to 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

In late November, Pope Francis announced that during this year the Church will be canonizing two new saints, who you will be familiar with from our journeys with the saints in the past two years. Both [Blessed Carlo Acutis](#) and [Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati](#) are going to be joining the ranks of the saints! Throughout this year, there will be Jubilee celebrations for many different groups within our Catholic communities, from police to deacons, marching bands to migrants. Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized during the Jubilee of Teenagers (April 27), and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonized during the Jubilee of Young People (August 3). Both of these saints-to-be are great witnesses to our faith and models for us all. For more information on the Jubilee, you can visit the official website [here](#).



Pope's Prayer Intentions — For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasure and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." — Matthew 2:11

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means "manifestation," in which Christ is shown to the whole world, as represented by the magi. The magi (sometimes called the Wise Men or the Three kings) were people from another country and religion who followed the star to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus as the King of the Jews. This special day reminds us that we also are called to go out and tell the world about Jesus. This can be very hard to do. At those times, we can do what St. Francis suggested: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." There are many ways every day we can live out the Gospel, even if we aren't talking about Jesus. Then people will see that we are Christians by how we love and other people can come to know him.

Who are the people I could share Jesus with, that I do not share him with right now?
What are some ways that I can share Jesus with others?



Prayer:

*Dear Lord, please help us to bring you with us into the lives we live outside of church.
Please give us the courage to share you with all we meet.*



January 12, 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

"...a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." — Luke 3:22

Baptism is an important sacrament! It welcomes you into the body of Christ, the Church. It is a time when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and allows you to receive the gifts of grace God offers. Many of us were baptized as babies, but God keeps giving us gifts as we get older. These gifts are "super-powers" that allow us to do more of what God wants than we could have on our own. Jesus was baptized to set the example for us and help us see what we could do with our gifts. He wanted to show us that we should spend our whole life on earth helping to do good in the world and bring others closer to God. **What a special gift!**

Do you remember your baptism? Ask your parents to tell you about it.

Who are your godparents? How are they special to you?



Prayer:

Father in heaven, thank you for the sacrament of baptism. We are so blessed to receive your Holy Spirit so we can make a difference in the world.



Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) — St. Thomas Aquinas
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



[Home Page](#)



Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." — 1 Corinthians 12:7

All of us are blessed to receive the Holy Spirit twice in our lives in special ways: once at baptism, and then again at confirmation. Jesus even received the Holy Spirit when John baptized him. What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? The Scriptures tell us that the Spirit is given to each of us for some benefit, but doesn't explain exactly what that means. Think of it as any skill or talent you have as a gift of the Holy Spirit that you can use to help someone. If you are good at math or science, then you might be able to use that gift to be a doctor and help sick people. If you are good at farming or gardening, you can use that gift to help feed people. If you are good with babies or children, you can use that gift to be a childcare worker or a teacher. The Holy Spirit is a gift that God gave us to help us know how we can hear and respond to God with the gifts we are given.

Have I ever felt led by the Holy Spirit? How did I know it was the Spirit?
How can being still and quiet help us hear the Lord?



Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)

Prayer:

Dear Lord, teach me how to quiet myself so that I may hear and respond to how the Holy Spirit wants to lead me in my life.



Gospel Reading: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ...If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy." — 1 Corinthians 12: 12,26

This passage from St. Paul helps us understand the body of Christ (the Church), and how we are dependent on others. It also applies to family life. The members of a family make up one body. When one person is sick or hurting, all the members feel the hurt. If one person is happy or celebrating, all the members join with them in their joy. This is especially true because Jesus is present in each family member. He guides our hearts to be loving, compassionate, and understanding with one another, making family life all it was designed to be. We are like a "little body of Christ" inside the greater body of Christ.

Are there obvious differences in us as family members?
How can we work together to be "one body" more often?



Prayer:

Father of us all, please help us to be a family that is centered in Jesus. Help us accept his grace and love, so that we can be a positive presence within our family.

Sources:

I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed by Alister McGrath
The Creed: A Catechist's Guide by Janet Schaeffler
The Apostles' Creed by Ben Myers

Sources cont.'d:

What Christians Ought to Believe by Michael Bird
The Quest for the Creed by Fr. Dwight Longenecker
The Creed by Timothy O'Malley