

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Girls Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50pm	4  Boys Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50pm	5  Mass at 12:00pm Girls Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50pm	6 Boys Bball practice 3:50 – 4:50pm	7 Basketball Jamboree Girls @FLVT Boys @ SPFA 	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward 	10 Jersey Day Lenten Liturgy hosted by 4S – 10:20am Gr 7 orientation at SFJH for Gr 6 9:15 – 11:15am	11 K – 6 students Newsies at SFJH 9:00- 11:00am 	12 Storytellers visit from Lethbridge Public Library 	13	14	15
6 	17 Collaboration Day 	18 Spiritual Development Day 	19 Lenten Liturgy hosted by 3T 10:20	20 Mass in Slow Motion Gr 5 & 6 Student led conferences 5:00 – 7:00 pm	21	22
23 	24 Lenten Liturgy Hosted by 4/5B - 10:20	25 School Council online meeting 7pm 	26 Board meeting 3:00 pm	27 Kindergarten 9:30 Helen Schuler 	28	29
30 	31 Lenten Liturgy Hosted by 2O - 10:20	On May 7, 2025, all Grade 1–6 students will be heading to the Yates Memorial Centre to enjoy FLVT's production of <i>Willy Wonka Jr.</i> To help cover transportation costs, a \$4.00 fee has been added to your SchoolCash Online account. Prefer to pay in cash? No problem! Payments can also be made at the office.				

MARCH NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

March is an exciting month. While we look forward to enjoying the remainder of 2024-2025 and have so much yet to learn, we are beginning to plan for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you to those families who have already completed their registration update forms. We use the information you provide in your forms to help us plan classes and staff for the upcoming school year. Please consider completing those forms at your earliest convenience. If you require any assistance in completing your forms, please contact the school office.

We have some exciting events planned for this month. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass at Assumption Church at 12:00 pm on Wednesday March 5. All are welcome to join us.

Grade 6 students will head to St. Francis Junior High on Monday, March 10 for an orientation of the school. All students will be riding the bus to St. Francis on Tuesday March 11 to attend the performance of the Newsies Jr at 9:00am.

All students will have March 17 and 18 off school as staff will be working collaboratively on Monday and spiritually on Tuesday.

OLA will be hosting Student Led Conferences the evening of Thursday, March 20 at the school from 5:00-7:00 pm. Teachers will be sharing information regarding scheduling in their classrooms the first week of March. We look forward to helping our students share and celebrate their learning with their families.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Our next school council meeting will be held online on **Tuesday, March 25th**. Everyone is welcome to join. The link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

REGISTRATION AND UPDATES

Individual emails with your link to register your child for the upcoming school year have been sent out. Thank you to those who have already completed the form. We ask that you complete the online 'Registration Update Form' as soon as possible. If you require assistance, please call the office.



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

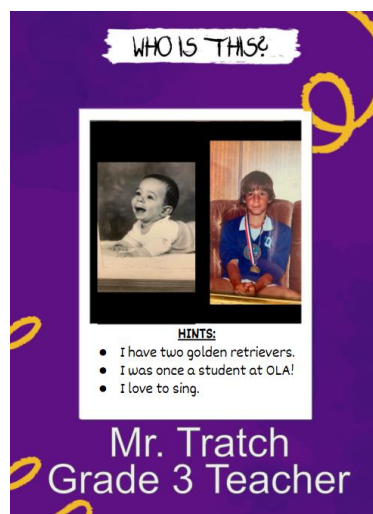


Save the Date!

March 20 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for a special evening to explore your child's classroom and celebrate their learning journey! See their projects, meet their teachers, and experience firsthand what they've been working on.

Stay tuned—teachers will be in touch with more details soon! We can't wait to see you there!

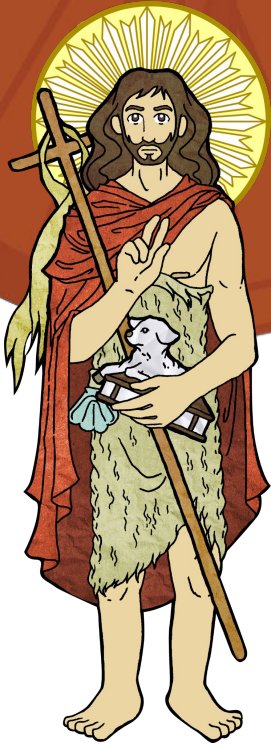


March

"This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

- Matthew 3:3

St. John the Baptist 6 B.C.-30 A.D. (Feast Day: June 24)



Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope

John the Baptist was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in the 1st century B.C. We can read the most detailed account of this in the Gospel of Luke, where the angel Gabriel visits them prior to visiting Mary. This has led to the placement of John the Baptist's feast day as six months before Christmas, on June 24. John's public ministry is conducted in the desert, where he is described as a voice 'crying out in the wilderness', wearing clothes made of camel hair and eating locusts and wild honey. He baptizes his followers in the Jordan River, in order to forgive their sins, and calls for repentance in advance of the coming of the Messiah. In this way, we recognize John the Baptist as a prophet of Christ. The Gospels describe John's baptism of Christ:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1: 9-11)

At some point after this, John the Baptist is taken prisoner by Herod, and then beheaded (which is confirmed by the Roman historian Josephus). John the Baptist is the last of the prophets that heralded the coming of Christ, and serves as a model for us in a variety of ways. He speaks of the need for repentance and a healthy understanding of our own sins and flaws. He points to Christ, drawing our attention to him. Finally, his constant witness to Christ, which led him to his death, reminds us to always speak the truth and to put God first in our lives. As we begin Lent this month, may he help us to repent and to prepare the way of the Lord.

The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in the Holy Spirit..."

The word Spirit is a translation of the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means breath, air, or wind - these multiple meanings suggest the various ways in which we feel the movement of the Spirit in our lives. We also use many different symbols for the Holy Spirit — fire, wind, doves, water, light — representing the multitude of gifts that we receive in the Spirit. Traditionally, we think of the seven gifts of the Spirit given at Baptism and sealed at confirmation:

- **Wisdom** - the ability to see things from all sides, to see not only the facts but the relationships between them.
- **Understanding** - the ability to see from others perspectives, to accept and care for others.
- **Counsel** - the ability to judge rightly, seeking input from those around us.
- **Knowledge** - Seeing the world around us as it is.
- **Fortitude** - the strength to follow our conscience in spite of obstacles or difficulties.

- **Piety** - reverence for the value of every thing and person that God has created - to see God's holiness reflected in the world around us.
- **Fear of the Lord** - sometimes known as awe and wonder, the ability to be amazed, to realize the powerful presence of God at all times.

Further, we think of the signs of the Spirit — the fruits of the Spirit — as evidence of its work in our lives. The twelve fruits are *kindness, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, humility, fidelity/faith, modesty, self-control, chastity, and love*.

We can notice that in all of the above, there is relationship — that the Spirit, as a relationship, enlivens, animates, and directs us into right relationship with God and with each other.

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

To help raise money for the Chalice Project and St. Odilia's School, St. Joseph School, Coaldale's Leadership class recently held a Hot Chocolate Fundraiser. Not only did the students and staff have a blast putting this together, they were able to raise over \$600 through the event! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success!

If you are interested in more information about our Chalice project, or St. Odilia's School, you can reach out to Aaron Skretting, Director of Religious Education, or view [here](#).

The Jubilee Prayer: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Families in Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

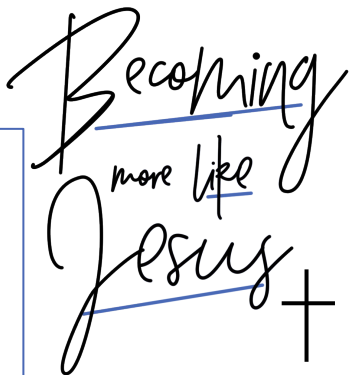
Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:39-45

“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?” — Luke 6:41

In today’s Gospel, Jesus warned his followers about criticizing others. You might be thinking: “If they are doing something wrong, shouldn’t we tell them so they can change?” We do have a responsibility to help others do the right thing. But it’s often easier to notice when someone else is at fault than to notice when we are at fault. The best thing we can do to help others stay on the right track is to model it in our own lives. Rather than pointing out someone else’s faults, we can concentrate on living the most loving way we possibly can. Actions really do speak louder than words!

Do people tend to follow your example? What is one thing you could do that might help your friends be more like Jesus?



“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
Ephesians 5:1-2

Prayer:
Lord, help me to be a good example rather than looking for ways to correct others with my words alone.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

“Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus...was led...into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil...” — Luke 4:1-2

As we begin to journey through Lent, we remember that Jesus was called to fast for 40 days before he started his ministry. In this time, Luke tells us that he was tempted by the devil. Will we also be tempted during Lent? Most likely. We will be tempted to stop fasting because it’s “too hard.” We may be tempted to eat meat on Friday, because “everyone else does.” Countless other temptations may arise. In those moments, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God’s grace, that we may overcome the temptation and enter into the spirit of sacrifice to understand how great Jesus’ love for us was by following his example.

What kind of fast am I going to make for Lent? What are some ways I can avoid temptations?



Prayer:
Dear Lord, thank you for the fast you made in the desert. Thank you for your example in showing us that we should not give in to temptations, but have faith in the Father and show him our love by the sacrifices we make.

Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. John the Baptist
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28b-36

“Join with others in being imitators of me...observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us...for many...conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.” — Philippians 3:17-18

We are called to live as Christians, not just when we are at “religious” events at church, but all of the time. This is not easy. We don’t want to offend others by telling them they should convert to our religion. But we are called to be imitators of Jesus and how he included everyone, forgave those who were doing wrong, and worked to bring care and hope to the poor, sick, and lonely. St. Paul tried to imitate Christ and asked his readers to be imitators of Christ with him. Still today we are called to do the same.

Who are the role models in my life? Do they lead me to, or away from, Christ? What are some ways I can be a role model to others to encourage them to grow closer to Christ?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to show you our gratitude for all you did for us by not being afraid to show your love to everyone, every day, wherever we are.

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

“...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish...” — Luke 13:3

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us twice that if we are not sorry for our sins, we will perish. This can be hard for us to understand. Who wants to worship a God who sends people to hell because they made mistakes and did bad things? But maybe Jesus is not trying to scare us into doing the right things just to avoid punishment, but he is trying to teach us that being sorry for our sins and trying to live in his way is better for everyone, us included. We can all be more peaceful, loving, and full of joy and hope if we treat each other with love and concern. Yet we all get to choose - God won’t force us to do the right thing. He does not want us to perish, but every time we do something that is hurtful to someone else, we “die” a little bit more. Lent is a perfect time to “repent” and change our ways so that we can get back on the path of life.

What have I done recently that wasn’t good for me or for others that I need to repent of?
When have I done something that was good that produced good for others too?

SMALL
ACTS OF KINDNESS
CAN MAKE
A
BIG
DIFFERENCE

Prayer:

*Dear Lord, please help me to search my heart and find the things there that are not pleasing to you.
Give me the grace to confess them and change my life, so that I may spend eternity in your loving embrace.*

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

“So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him... “This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” — Luke 15:20, 24

The Gospel story today is about the Prodigal Son who wasted all of the money his father gave him and almost starved because he didn’t have enough left to buy food for himself. It seems like the father would have been mad at him when he came home, but instead the father surprised everyone, even the son, by running out to meet him and welcoming him back by throwing a big party. Jesus wants us to know that God is like that with us. When we do something wrong and admit it, God doesn’t punish us or make us feel worse, he rejoices that we want to start all over and try again. He says it’s like we were dead but we have come back to life.

What are some things we have done that we regret and need to ask forgiveness for?
Who is good at welcoming us and still loving us, even when we make mistakes?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to come back to you when I have done wrong. Help me to believe that you forgive me.

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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