



December



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



NEW SOCKS AND WARM WINTER WEAR Collection
NEW socks, mitts, toques, scarves, etc. until Dec. 5



We are also collecting **NON-PERISHABLE BREAKFAST FOOD ITEMS** for CCH Santa's Anonymous until Dec 5

YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

1



2

1st Advent Liturgy
led by 3T, 11:30am

3

4

Scholastic Book
Fair 3:45-4:30



5

Christmas Fun
Night 5:30 – 7:30



Scholastic Book
Fair 3:45 – 7:30

6

7

8



9

2nd Advent Liturgy
led by 4S, 10:20am

9am – Kindergarten
Galt Museum

10

11

12

13

14

15



16

3rd Advent Liturgy
led by 2O, 10:20am

17

Christmas Sweater
Day



18

Board Meeting
3:00 pm

19

Turkey Dinner
1:00pm



20

RED/GREEN DAY

Advent Mass
Assumption Church
9:00 am

21

22



23



24

25

26

27

28

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Classes resume
Mon, Jan 6, 2025

29

30

31

MERRY CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December already!

With Christmas approaching, we are gearing up for an exciting, festive season. We are excited to be able to invite everyone to celebrate with us at the school. Teachers are working hard to prepare an evening full of fun activities. **Christmas Activity Night** will be held at the school on **Thursday December 5 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.**

Mrs. Bugg will be hosting the Scholastic book fair next week. Students will be able to shop Dec. 4-5 during library time and Mrs. Bugg has generously offered to open after school Dec. 4 until 4:30 and from 3:45-7:30 on Dec. 5 to coincide with our Activity Night.

OLA will be participating in Advent Mass on Friday December 20 at 9:00 am at Assumption Church. All families are welcome to join us that morning.

The School Council, along with donations from local groups and businesses, will be providing turkey dinner for grades 1-6 students on December 19. We look forward to sharing this meal as a whole school community and are thankful to the school council for their continued support.

As we prepare for the true reason for the season, the birth of Christ, we focus our hearts as we "wait" for Jesus' birth.

Prayer for Advent

*Lord Jesus, in these four busy weeks of Advent,
help us to pause to remember the depth
of your love for us.*

*Beyond anything we deserved or could have imagined,
love led you to a stable in Bethlehem and
all the way to Calvary.*

*Open our hearts to welcome you anew so that we have
something to share with a needy world each day.*

*Grant us the joy of your friendship and
bring us some strength,
courage and determination to serve our brothers and
sisters in your name.*

Amen



ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE EMAILS

If you have not been receiving emails when a new item has been added to your SchoolCash Online account, please follow the steps below:

- Login to your SchoolCash Online account
- At the top of the screen click on my account
- Go to manage email notifications
- Make sure the box is checked for "I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student"
- Once checked you should now start receiving email notifications when something new is added, like hot lunches, field trip fees, fundraisers, etc.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Wednesday, Dec 4 from 3:45 – 4:30 pm

Thursday, Dec 5 from 3:45 – 7:30

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! What a better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literary event. We invite your entire family to participate by purchasing the latest and greatest in children's books. Your support of this event is vital in helping us obtain new books and resources for our school library and classrooms.

BOOKS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

You'll find hundreds of quality books at our Book Fair with a wide assortment for all reading levels. Watch for a Book Fair Flyer that provides a preview of only a FEW of exciting new titles. Don't forget to mark the Book Fair dates on your calendar! We look forward to seeing you during our Scholastic Book Fair and thank you, in advance, for supporting this great literary fundraiser. Mostly, thank you for believing in books and the importance reading has on your child's future.

LOST AND FOUND

Our blue lost and found bin is located at the bottom of the stairs near the east entrance to the school. If your child is missing any clothes, outerwear, shoes, or lunch kit, please have them check out the box. Please remember to label all your child's belongings with both their first and last names so that items can be returned if they are misplaced. We also strongly urge that children take home all their winter outerwear for use over the Christmas break

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Teacher contact info can now be found on our website under [staff directory](#).

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Panago Pizza Night fundraiser. We appreciate all the support for our school.

On December 19th will be having our annual Christmas Turkey Dinner for students and staff! We are very grateful to be able to continue this tradition.

Our next school council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14th, online. Everyone is welcome.

We want to wish our entire OLA community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to all the great things to come in 2025.

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

Family Inquiry Advent Calendar



The month of Advent gives us a chance to reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as we wait for Jesus. We invite you to explore these ideas through our key concepts in the IB PYP: Form, Function, Causation, Change, Connection, Perspective, and Responsibility!			1  Take a moment as a family to read Isaiah 9:6. <u>Inquiry:</u> How does this prophecy function to give hope?	2 Make a card for someone who might need encouragement. <u>Inquiry:</u> How are we responsible to share hope with others?	3 Build a prayer jar: decorate a jar and add slips of paper with people or things to pray for during Advent. Consider how your prayers might change things.	4 Make Christmas ornaments out of symbols of hope. Talk about the form and function of each symbol: what is it and why does it represent hope?
5 Everyone choose favorite Christmas songs to add to a family playlist. <u>Inquiry:</u> What messages of hope do you hear? How does hope form these songs?	6 Make an advent wreath out of paper, clay, or plants. Light the first candle. <u>Inquiry:</u> What causes hope in our family?	7 Have a family play date outside. Ask everyone to name one thing that changes in winter and how it will change back in spring.	8  Read John 14:27 as a family. <u>Inquiry:</u> What does Jesus mean when he said he left us peace? And how can we connect to others to share that peace?	9 Create ornaments out of paper. Write something you're grateful for on each one and hang it on your tree. Keep a grateful perspective!	10 Bundle up, go outside, and look at the stars with some hot chocolate! <u>Inquiry:</u> How do the stars connect everyone to God's promises?	11 Build a fort with pillows and blankets where you can read a story. <u>Inquiry:</u> How would our perspective change (how would we see this fort differently) if we had to live in it?
12 Turn on the Christmas lights, put on quiet music, and encourage everyone to hold a peaceful perspective for a few minutes. End your time in prayer!	13 Build a peace puzzle: make a family piece of art on cardboard that shows ways we can cause peace. <u>Inquiry:</u> Cut it into pieces and try to reassemble it!	14 Bake a batch of cookies and share them with a neighbor. <u>Inquiry:</u> As you bake, discuss the function of the instructions and ingredients!	15  Read Luke 2: 8-14 as a family. <u>Inquiry:</u> How are we responsible for our own joy this holiday season?	16 Create a family joke book. Have everyone write down their favorite jokes and draw pictures. Read one joke a night at suppertime to share family connection.	17 Put out cups of water, milk, and vinegar and try to change the form of candy canes by dissolving them! <u>Inquiry:</u> Find out what candy canes symbolize!	18 Connect with each other by watching a Christmas movie together. <u>Inquiry:</u> What messages of joy do you see?
19 Clear out old toys and clothes and donate them to someone in need. <u>Inquiry:</u> How do we make responsible choices about what we buy and what we donate?	20 Look up some Christmas dance videos on YouTube and have a family dance party! <u>Inquiry:</u> How do exercise and music change our perspective?	21 Talk about how our words cause joy or hurt. Fill a jar with kind compliments and leave it where anyone can take one if they're feeling sad!	22  Read John 3:16 as a family. <u>Inquiry:</u> How did God take the form of a child in Jesus?	23 Bake a birthday cake for Jesus and have a mini birthday party! <u>Inquiry:</u> How do different cultures celebrate birthdays? Why do we celebrate change?	24 Go for a Christmas lights walk or drive to see the displays. <u>Inquiry:</u> What is the function of a light display? How does it connect to Jesus as the light of the world?	25 Have a family reflection moment: find a quiet time this busy day to light all the Christmas candles and share your perspective on this holiday season!

December

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- Romans 15:13

St. Odilia 662-720 (Feast Day: December 13)

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



Odile of Alsace, also referred to as Odilia or Otilia, was born to a noble family in the Alsace area of what is today France. According to tradition, her family did not want her as she was born without sight, and she was raised by peasants in the area. Upon being baptised around the age of 12, she miraculously recovered her sight. She then moved around the area of what is today France, Switzerland, and Germany fleeing from her father. At one point, she is said to have lived in a cave that opened from the face of a cliff and hid her inside. Eventually, when her father fell ill, Odilia returned to the family to take care of him. It was then that he founded a monastery and convent. The convent, Niedermunster Abbey, was where Odilia died in about 720, after spending the rest of her life serving the poor and sick.

Almost immediately upon her death, both ordinary and noble people made pilgrimages to these locations seeking cures for the blind and partially sighted. Many miraculous cures were reported, which led to her sainthood. Despite her physical impairment, her faith, devotion to God, and service to those around her are a powerful witness to all of us. Holy Spirit actually has two connections to St. Odilia! The first is our ongoing project with Chalice supporting St. Odilia School in Zambia with their construction of a new school classroom block. Donations are still being accepted [here](#). This school is one of the few schools in Zambia that serves children with visual impairments, physical disabilities, and albinism. We also have recently hosted an exchange program that welcomes students from Alsace, of which St. Odilia is the patron saint.

The Apostles' Creed

"... [He] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried..."

Have you ever noticed that in the Creed, we skip over all of the life of Christ to his death? The reason for this is likely because for the original disciples and apostles, these details were clear and recent, and addressed in other New Testament sources. This gap is especially striking in contrast to the specific and explicit historical reference to Pontius Pilate; which makes sense when you think of the function of the Creed in response to doctrinal confusion or disagreement. Finally, the reference to Christ's death is an important punctuation to his life. As Janet Schaeffler writes:

Jesus' death is an exclamation point of his profound love for us and of his unwavering obedience to the Father — the exclamation point to the way he lived his whole life.

What do we profess about Christ when we proclaim the Apostles' Creed?

- Christ was crucified — he suffered and was shamed, just as we suffer in our own lives;

- Christ died — Christ died for us; to be a follower of Christ is to die every day, and rise every day;
- Christ was buried — he shared fully in our human nature; like us, he was born, and died.

While in this season of Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives, we might also think about his ultimate destiny — born into actual history, to die for for us, and by so doing creating the promise of everlasting life with him.

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

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

This month, we will be joining with the rest of the universal Church in beginning our celebration of the Jubilee Year — Pilgrims of Hope 2025. A jubilee year is historically significant to us going all the way back to our roots in Judaism. This year was to be marked every fifty years as an extra year (after every seven sets of seven years). The name derives from the instrument (a yobel, or ram's horn) which proclaimed the beginning of that year. The time was intended as a special time to right relationships with God, one another, and all of creation, involving the forgiveness of debts and leaving land fallow. The first Catholic Jubilee was declared in 1300, and our most recent Jubilee was a special year in 2015 declared by Pope Francis. The Jubilee will start with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve. For more information, you can visit the official website [here](#).



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Gospel Readings

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." — 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-13

All of us anticipate this time of year when Advent begins, looking forward to all the fun that is to come at Christmas time. But Advent is supposed to be about getting ready for Jesus, not just getting presents, going to Christmas parties, decorating, or baking. It's fine to do all that too, and enjoy it, but Advent calls us to stop to think of those around us and how we can share Jesus with them. It means sharing his love with those you know and those who need it most this time of year: shut-ins, people who are ill or sad, and those who can't afford all the things we can for Christmas. Let's use Advent to let our love increase and abound for one another and for all.

What are some ways we as a family can reach out those in need this Advent?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the chance to prepare our hearts for your coming each year in Advent. Please help us to share your love with those who need it most this year.

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

"...the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." — Philippians 1:6

What is a "good work" in us? When we are baptized into the Catholic faith, we receive the Holy Spirit in a very special way. God begins working in us even when we are tiny babies! At each step of our lives, God remains with us and helps us be all that he created us to be. We do the best we can to follow Jesus' teachings, and God helps us by working in us — because we can't make ourselves good all by ourselves. It isn't up to us to do it all by ourselves! God will continue to be with us along the journey of life, always helping us, whether we can feel it at the time or not. Our God loves us so very much!

Do we know when the Holy Spirit is trying to guide us in our decisions? How can we become more open to God's leading?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and being patient with us as your Holy Spirit continues to form and mold us into people who are pleasing to you. Please help us to follow those promptings and to follow your will.

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



Gospel Readings

December 9, 2024

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." — Luke 1:30-31

Mary was very special to God. She found favor with him. We don't know anything about her before the angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of Jesus, but she must have been a very good person to be asked to do that. She must have had a lot of practice doing the right things and saying "yes" to God if she was able to say yes for such a big thing. You can't do a big, great thing if you aren't used to doing small good things. She is a great example for all of us to model our own lives after. May we too find favor with God by practicing saying yes and doing the right things in all of our small daily decisions.

How does Mary's example encourage us in our faith? Is there something God is asking from us now that requires a "YES?"

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please show us how to find favor with you by the way we live our lives. Help us to always say "YES" to all you ask of us, out of our love for you.



December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" — Philippians 4:4

We are in the middle of Advent now, and during this time before the holidays, our many plans and preparations can easily overwhelm us. Even before Christmas, we may be ready for a break! St. Paul reminds us to find our joy in the Lord, rather than in the plans, parties, or presents that are to come. Those are all good things, but Jesus is the real reason for this season. He is the reason for all our other blessings, and we must focus our rejoicing on the birth of the Christ child. Let's do what we can to bring joy to others for whom this season may not be so joyful.

How are we feeling about the upcoming Christmas season? What can we do this week to help us to slow down and find time to rejoice in the simple gifts of this season?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to simplify our lives this week as we approach Christmas. Give us joy in our hearts for the simple gift of the Christ child and his mother; and let this joy radiate to our family and friends this Christmas season.



December 22, 2024

4th Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

"Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" — Luke 1:30

When Mary found out she was pregnant with Jesus, she was probably excited, nervous, scared, worried, and happy all at the same time. She needed to tell someone how she felt so she went to visit her friend and relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth was probably feeling all the same things since she was pregnant with John the Baptist! God knows that we need other people in our life to talk to and share what we are thinking and feeling. When we share with others what is really going on for us and we listen when others share with us, then we are like Mary, visiting others to share Christ and the Holy Spirit. Sharing ourselves is sharing Christ which can be a wonderful gift for someone else — at this time of year and all year round.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, send me your Holy Spirit to make me like Mary, who will help me to bring Jesus to all those I meet.



December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

"The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." — John 1:10-12

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the abundant love you always have for me. I am sorry for the times I do not return that love. Please Lord, open my heart so that I can make room for you and accept your light.

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





PROCLAIM

Adoration Praise & Worship

Hosted at:

St. Marthas Parish

355 Columbia Blvd W, Lethbridge

**NOV | 29th | 7:00
8:00 PM**

Special Guest NET Team 1

ALL ARE WELCOME



LETHBRIDGE FAMILY LIFE



Come and Join Us For

St Nicholas PARTY

December
07

6:00pm

St Martha Parish
355 Columbia Blvd W,
Lethbridge





Family Movie Night



HOME  ALONE

December 14th 2024

At 6:15pm

Assumption Hall

2405 12 ave s Lethbridge