

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

December 2023

St. Mary's
LEADERSHIP

PRESENTS:

**Sock
It To
'Em!**



**BRING IN NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS
FOR THOSE IN NEED**

**November 14 --
December 14**

**THE TOP 20 STUDENTS WITH THE MOST DONATIONS WILL
WIN A HOT LUNCH PROVIDED BY SMS LEADERSHIP.**

**All socks will be donated to Safe Haven, Taber
& District Housing, and the Taber Food Bank**

Stuff A Bus
Food Drive
December 5

Christmas
Band Concert
December 20

Advent Mass
December 21
2:00 p.m.

PD Day
No Students
December 22



Thank you for your support!



Auroras want to send out a thank you for all the support they received for their Provincial Championship win! Thanks so much to our parents, our school and the Taber community for the support. To California Dream Limo for getting us to Peace River safely, and our driver JR who made our long journey very enjoyable! To the generous donations we received from Taber Titans Charity, theKinsmen Club of Taber, Knights of Columbus and the Friends of St. Mary's. Also a huge shout out to Mr. B for all his work behind the scenes!! The support and generosity of our community is very much appreciated!!!



OFFICE HOURS FOR SMS TEACHERS SEMESTER 1 (2023-2024)

Do you need extra help with any subjects or assignments? Check out this chart for extra time the teachers are putting in for just that reason. Stop in and ask your questions, or get the help you need. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment to stop in for a chat.



Mr. Bergenhenengowen	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. de Jong	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Doolittle	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Huehn	Wednesdays	3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
Mrs. Lagler	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Makarchuk	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Marchesin	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Meier	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Siemens	Mondays/Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Mrs. Smith	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Uyesugi	Tuesdays	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Ms. Vienneau	Tuesdays/Thursdays	3:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Mr. Vornbrock	1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Stuff-A-Bus



Food Drive

Tues. Dec. 5

Co-op and IGA

Discount day @ both stores!

The Taber Food Bank is still looking for volunteers to help out with the food drive. Visit the link below to see dates/times and locations where volunteers are needed

<https://volunteersignup.org/BXREK>



Taber Public Library

Saturday December 2

Workshop 3 pm in Program Room

Concert 6:30 pm Main library

FREE EVENT



Athlete of the Week

Sponsored by Harley Phillips Insurance



Heston is our St. Mary's Athlete of the Week, sponsored by Harley Phillips. Heston is recognized for his participation on the St. Mary's SV boys Storm volleyball team. He is a two sport athlete during September and October, playing volleyball and hockey. Heston hit two of the heaviest hit balls I have seen this year of any team and it is his first year of volleyball. Throughout the season he has improved in big strides.

Heston has natural instincts for the game, listens well and is able to translate information right away! He is a great all round player and teammate. Great job Heston!



Makayla is our St. Mary's Athlete of the Week, sponsored by Harley Phillips. Makayla is recognized for her participation on the Auroras volleyball team. She has been chosen as Athlete of the Week for her offensive and defensive play. Makayla led the St. Mary's Aurora's with kills this season, and the team's offense centered around Makayla receiving the majority of sets. On defense, Makayla was among leaders

in digs, and her serve receive pass has hovered around a 2.0. Makayla hustles on the court and never gives up on a point. She is always looking for a way to score, often finding ways around a block, or simply using her strength to hit through it. As a team mate Makayla can always be relied on to work her hardest for every point, and to be supportive of the girls beside her. While small in stature, Makayla brings an energy and power to the game that has played a major role in the Aurora's success this season. She helped lead the Auroras to the ASAA 1A Zone Championship, and will compete at Provincials this week. Congratulations Makayla on a wonderful season.



John is our St. Mary's Athlete of the week, sponsored by Harley Phillips. John is recognized for his participation on the Rebels football team. John brings a great attitude and work ethic to practice. He leads by example, and is a great teammate, especially to new players. This year he has taken over as the team's starting running back, a very important and physically demanding position, and he

has excelled, being a rock at that spot for us. In fact, he has done SO well that he was just named a league All-Star by the Southern Alberta High School Football League. He also helped the Rebels win the South Zone Tier four Football Championship. For being a great player both on and off the field, John definitely deserves to be recognized as athlete of the week. Congratulations John St. Mary's is proud of all your accomplishments this season!



Band News

St. Mary's School will be holding its annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 2th at 7:00 pm in the school gym. All band students from grades 6 to 12, as well as the Jazz band will be performing. Tickets are not required, but there will be a silver collection at the door.

In addition to the great music, we will also have a bake sale to help support the Junior and Senior Bands trip to Vancouver in May 2024. This is a great time to stock up on some wonderful baking for the Christmas season.

Students need to be at the school no later than 6:20 that evening and need to be in full uniform (grade 6 to 8 - white dress shirt or sweater and black pants or skirt, grades 9 to 12, black pants and uniform with tie). Please come out and support our young musicians.

Parents of students renting instruments from the school are reminded that the \$70 fee for the instrument rental is now due. If you have not already paid the fee, please see Mr. Makarchuk or Mrs. Muller in the office ASAP

Parents are also reminded that Home Performance Assignment are due every month. The next HPA is due right after we get back from Christmas on

January 8th. Please make sure your son/daughter has played for you and handed in their evaluation prior to this date.

Grade 6-8 students are reminded that they need to hand in a practice sheet EVERY week. To receive full marks, students need to practice 70 minutes, and can receive bonus marks if they practice more than 70. Extra sheets are available in the band room.



Taber Public Library



TREEMENDOUS SECRET SANTA FOR TABER SPECIAL NEEDS

choose a tag and bring a \$20 gift back preferably in a gift bag with the tag inside before Dec 15
To be given to Taber Special Needs at their Christmas party
Thank you for making a December to remember!



GINGERBREAD

BUILDING PERMIT CONTEST

OUR PLANNING DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING YOUNG TABERITES PERMITS FOR THEIR HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD HOUSE!

DESIGN YOUR HOUSE ON PAPER, COMPLETE THE PERMIT, AND SANTA'S ELVES WILL JUDGE THE BEST HOUSES IN EACH AGE CATEGORY FOR A NORTH POLE SURPRISE!

PERMITS START NOVEMBER 14TH:

WWW.TABER.CA/GINGERBREAD

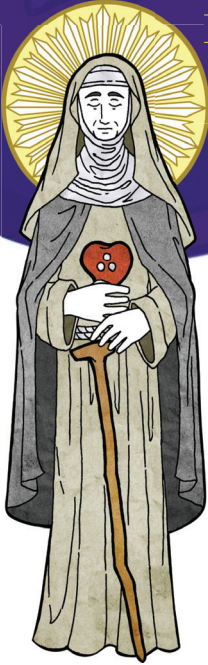
TABER
Food Bank

**We gratefully accept
empty glass jars!**



December

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you..."*

Jeremiah 1:5a

St. Margaret of Castello 1287-1320 (Feast Day: April 13)

Margaret was born in Perugia, Italy in 1287. We know that she was born with a medical condition known as dwarfism, was blind, and had other physical disabilities as well. Her parents, who were nobles, hid her from the public and eventually walled her into a room adjacent to the chapel. It was there that she began her spiritual journey, attending Mass and receiving the sacraments. She became devoutly spiritual during this time of solitude and when she was about 16, her parents took her to a church at Castello, where miracles were said to have happened, seeking for her to be cured. When this did not occur, they abandoned her there.

Consequently, she spent time living amongst the poor of the town before being taken in by a religious family. She joined the Dominican Third Order of Castello, and spent the remainder of her life in prayer, and performing acts of penance and charity to those around her. Her devotion and holiness were so well known in her community that upon her death in 1320, they demanded that she be buried in the local church. She was canonized by Pope Francis in April of 2021, and her incorrupt body still lies in that church in Castello 700 years later.

"Building" In Our Schools

It's important to remember and honour those who have served before us - be it in our community or in service to our country. With the help of Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Picton's students, St. Teresa of Calcutta School held a Remembrance Day service, while St. Mary School in Taber hosted a Community Remembrance Day ceremony. On November 9th, a special Mass was held at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre to honour retired staff for their work and support of Catholic Education. *"I thank my God every time I remember you..."* Philippians 1:3

"For we are God's servants, working together..." 1 Corinthians 3:9a



Corporal Works of Mercy

— Advent —

As we enter Advent this month, we would like to highlight a resource and a request.

In Holy Spirit, we have a divisional license for the [FORMED](#) platform. This service provides abundant Catholic content for your use with your staff, students, or your own formation. For [Advent](#), they have two new series, an interactive Advent calendar, as well as some Advent FAQs. *Rooted* will be a daily Advent reflection video series, while *Drawing Closer to God* is a Catholic art show for kids!

You will also know that we are working collaboratively this year with Chalice to support the St. Odilia building project. A number of schools are working on fundraising efforts through Advent to support this initiative, and recall that you can also make individual donations through [SchoolCashOnline](#). If you or a community partner would like to make a larger contribution, please let us know!



"...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." (Matthew 1:23)



[VIEW FULL SIZE](#)

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For people with disabilities
- Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

[Home Page](#)

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Catholic Social Teaching

— Participation —

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 subsidiarity - the idea that we should seek to address needs at the most local level and create solutions with those around us. Participation is closely linked to subsidiarity. As part of our living together, we also believe that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives, and to actively involve those around us in those processes, whether economic, social, or political. This is a way of balancing the dignity of each person with the pursuit of the common good.

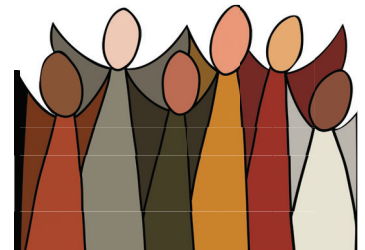
As Pope Benedict XVI noted in *Caritas in Veritate*,

Subsidiarity respects personal dignity by recognizing in the person a subject who is always capable of giving something to others.

The Pope's Prayer Intention this month is for people with disabilities - that they may be at the centre of our societies and that we value their active participation. St. Margaret of Castello shows us the importance of this, and the positive impacts that those with disabilities have on all of us.

Learn more about Participation with one of these resources:

- The Religion Teacher - [Participation](#)
- Caritas EU - [Participation](#)
- USCCB - [Participation](#)



NOVEMBER 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stuff A Bus Food Drive

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

9:00am-7:00pm

Taber IGA and Taber Co-op



Suggested Items:		
* Canned meat (ham, chicken, turkey)	* Pancake syrup	* Dish soap
* Cranberry sauce	* Hot chocolate	* Multi-purpose cleaner
* Canned fruit	* Coffee	* Jell-O and pudding
* Cereal	* Gravy mix	* Ichiban/ramen noodles
* Peanut butter	* 1L juice	* Salt and pepper shakers
* Jam/jelly	* Pickles	* Cheez Whiz
* Flour	* Kids snacks	* Mayonnaise
* Oatmeal	* Ready-to-eat soup	* Kleenex
* Pancake mix	* Pasta/pasta sauce	* Cake mix
	* Rice	* Frosting
	* Hygiene items	* Monetary donations

Help stuff the bus so that families don't have to go hungry!





Digital well-being and your child

Kids these days are growing up digital. They're using technology (like smart phones, tablets, TVs, computers, and video games) to play, learn and spend time with friends. They're doing things online that many adults did in-person when they were growing up.

As a parent or caregiver, you play an important role in helping your child develop a healthy relationship with the virtual world. This is known as *supporting their digital well-being*. It means helping them enjoy the benefits of technology, while lowering the risks of harm.

Supporting digital well-being isn't about enforcing strict limits on technology use. Instead, it's about building kids' skills to use technology responsibly and safely, and in ways

that promote their overall well-being. Here are some practical things you can do.

Teach digital citizenship

Show your child how to be a good online citizen. Explain why it's important to protect personal information online and model the behaviour you want them to follow. For example:

- Ask your child for their permission before you share photos or videos of them online. Remind them to do the same for other people.
- Involve your child in setting up accounts for apps, games, and streaming services. Help them understand the privacy settings and permissions you're setting up.



Supporting your teen in the digital world

Some days it can seem like your teen is always on a screen—a smart phone, computer, video game, TV, or other digital device. If you wonder about effects on their well-being, you're not alone.

Research confirms that there are benefits to using technology—it can help teens learn, socialize, play, and bond with family. But there can also be negative impacts on physical and mental health (like physical inactivity, isolation, and exposure to harmful content or behaviour).

Interestingly, both zero screen time and excessive screen time can be hard on teens and their families. The better approach is to empower teens to use digital devices responsibly and safely, and in ways that support their overall well-being. Here's what you can do.

Keep lines of communication open

Talk openly with your teen about what they're doing online. This will build trust and boost the chances they'll come to you if they have a problem or an uncomfortable experience. These ideas can help:

- Ask your teen about their views on different apps, games, and social networks. Show them that you're interested in what they're doing on devices. Listen to their opinions, even if they're different from your own.
- Encourage your teen to talk freely about their online experiences, including anything that feels awkward. Remind them that they can come to you any time without fear of being judged or getting in trouble.


EXCITING NEWS!

The SMS Merchandise store is back open!

Go to our **website**. Click on **SCHOOL** and scroll down to **SCHOOL MERCHANDISE** to place your orders


Not guaranteed that you will have it for Christmas, but the sooner you order the better!

CAREER EXPLORATION SESSION



GEOSPATIAL TECHNICIAN

DECEMBER 5, 2023
4:30pm




A Geospatial Technician, sometimes called a GIS Technician or Geomatics Technician, uses hardware, including drones, survey equipment, GPS, Lidar scanners, and then software to gather and create location-based datasets to store and integrate with other data in a Geographic Information System.

Data can be associated with agriculture, environment, hydrology, meteorology, economics, infrastructure, transportation, epidemiology, crime, etc. Analyzed data might solve problems, answer questions, test hypothesis and measure interrelationships, resulting in products such as maps, graphs, charts, and statistical reports, both in digital and paper form.

Join Tobi and alumni from Lethbridge College to find out more.

Register now for this FREE virtual session!
Once registered, you will receive an email with the link, plus additional information regarding the event.



Questions? Email office@careersteps.ca

CAREER EXPLORATION SESSION



SOFTWARE DEVELOPER (DATABASES)

DECEMBER 6, 2023
4:00pm



```
mysql> help
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Copyright (c) 2000, 2013, Oracle
MySQL version: 5.6.37 MySQL Community Edition - Binary
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\q' to quit.
mysql> USE test;
Reading table information for table 'tbl1';
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with 'SHOW STATUS;'.
mysql> SHOW TABLES;
+-----+
| Tables_in_test |
+-----+

```

The most familiar software are games or applications you install on your phone or PC; but software touches many industries, and many career opportunities exist building software used directly by businesses.

Modern software is typically written in 'layers'. Some Software Developers focus on the front end, or visual aspects of applications. Software Developers working on databases work exclusively on the lower layers which are less visual and often still command-line driven.

The software our host builds is used by other software developers who use a database to store data for very high traffic websites.

Join Morgan to find out more.

Register now for this FREE virtual session!
Once registered, you will receive an email with the link, plus additional information regarding the event.



Questions? Email office@careersteps.ca



OFF-CAMPUS NEWS



Olds College Dual Credit Courses Winter Session

Students can now apply for Olds College Dual Credit courses which will run from March 4 to May 24, 2024.

Courses offered are:

- Accounting Principles 2
- Veterinary Practices: The Team Connection
- Electronics and Control Systems in Precision Ag.
- Applied Ecology
- Global and Sustainable Tourism
- Managing Landscapes
- Training for Performance

Please contact Mrs. Gurr or Mr. Boschee if you are interested in taking any of these courses for more information and forms.



University of Lethbridge Board of Governor's Admission Scholarship

This **\$1,000** scholarship rewards students who apply early to the U of L.

In order to be considered for the Board of Governors' Admission Scholarship you must submit a completed application for admission before

December 15th, 2023 and then you will automatically be considered.



Online Engineering Evening

Join the University of Saskatchewan on December 7th at 5:30-8:00pm for an evening of online interactive fun with prizes. Students can find out what kind of engineer they might be and what USask Engineering has to offer. Register at: <https://admissions.usask.ca/tours-and-events/events.php#Engineeringevents>



December Virtual Career Sessions

Geospatial Technician - Dec. 5 at 4:30pm

Database Software Developer - Dec. 6 at 4:00pm

Register for one or both of these sessions, or listen to



past sessions, at:

<https://careersteps.ca>

Hours



All Rap and Work Experience students please remember to send in your hours to Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr at: hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca

Happy holidays and good health and prosperity in 2024.

From your Off Campus Team.

Mr. Boschee and Mrs. Gurr



Your Off-Campus Team

Mark Boschee - Off-Campus Coordinator - Cell: 587-220-4258 or Email: hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca

Wendy Gurr - Career Practitioner - Cell: 403-593-2903 or Email: hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca



SHOW ST. MIKE'S YOUR



**JOIN US!
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**St. Michael's School
21st Annual Supper & Auction
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st**

HOURS /// 5:30p Silent Auction Opens /// 6-7:00p Supper
/// 7:00p Live Auction Starts!!

TICKETS /// \$12 ages 12+ /// \$8 ages 4-11
/// 3 & under FREE



TABER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

Lights Ablaze

HOLIDAY MEET & GREET



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

SANTA TRADED IN HIS SLEIGH
FOR ONE NIGHT TO MEET
TABERITES IN OUR FIRE ENGINES!

SANTA STOPS MAP & TIMES AVAILABLE AT: WWW.TABER.CA/NEWS

WE'LL ALSO BE LIVE-POSTING SANTA'S LOCATION ON DECEMBER 16TH ON OUR
[@TABERFIRE](https://www.facebook.com/TABERFIRE) FACEBOOK PAGE





*Taber Adult
Learning*

Volunteer Tutors Needed

Volunteers enhance the lives of adult learners by teaching them skills so they have the opportunity to get a job, be considered for career advancement and increase self-confidence!



**Flexible to suit
your availability &
location!
Tutoring offered in
person and online**

WE NEED HELP WITH :

- One to one tutoring, usually 2-3 hours per week.
- Subjects for tutoring could include all levels of English language learning, literacy, math, conversation or test preparation.

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED. WE PROVIDE ALL THE
MATERIALS AND TRAINING.**

Find out more by calling 403.223.1169

www.taberadultlearning.com

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BASKETBALL

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Fundraiser

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The Celtics are raising funds for a week long basketball experience in Halifax, NS in February 2024. You can help them by donating your empty bottles to the Taber Bottle Depot in the teams name.

*Halifax
NS*



*Feb.
2024*