

# St. Mary's School

*Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me*

March 2026



## Principal's Message

Mr. Josh Van Uden

I cannot believe we are in March already. This school year has been incredibly busy and marked by many significant changes.

For my family and me, this year has been one of transition. Shawna and I celebrated our oldest daughter's wedding in November 2025, and we are preparing for another daughter to be married at the end of March. Alongside these personal milestones, my move to the Principal role has brought its own set of shifts. I truly look forward to the future of leading our great school community; we are blessed to have a dedicated team and wonderful students and families here at St. Mary's.

### **School Life & Athletics**

We have had a fantastic start to Semester 2, including welcoming four new families to our school community this past month.

- Athletics: Basketball and Wrestling are winding down, and Badminton is just getting started.
- The Arts: The school drama production "Horror Town... A thrilling Comedy," is progressing well, with performances scheduled for March 26-27.

### **Lent & Parish Invitations**

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to join our parish and school in these opportunities for reflection and prayer. For more information please see the parish website.

- Penitential Service: March 4 at 7:00 PM (at the Parish).
- Parish Youth Group: March 13 from 5:00-7:30 PM (Grades 7-12)
- Stations of the Cross & Soup: March 20 at 6:00 pm (Meatless soup provided).
- Renewal at the Parish: Saturday, March 21 - Lenten Call to Mission with Bishop Mcgrattan, Mass at 9 AM, Sharing from 10 AM-12 PM and Lunch at 12:30 PM.
- St. Mary's Holy Thursday Stations: April 2 at 2:30 pm (at the school; all are welcome).
- Holy Triduum -Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM, Good Friday, April 3 at 3 PM, Easter Vigil Saturday, April 4 at 8 PM, Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10 AM.

Lent calls us toward a true conversion of heart through Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Prayer invites us into intimacy with God; Fasting acts as an expression of interior penance; and Almsgiving challenges us to use our time, treasure, and talent to serve the poor. I hope this season allows us all to grow in these areas.

### **Important Dates & Reminders**

- Registration: It is time to look ahead to next year! Please ensure your registration forms are submitted through the School Engage Parent Portal as soon as you can, to help us plan effectively.
- Soup Day - March 18
- HolySpirit School Division Budget Committee Town Halls -
  - Wednesday March 11, 2026 @ 6 PM on CCH Campus West
  - Wednesday March 18, 2026 @ 6 PM on CCH Campus East
  - Monday March 23 @ 5 PM Virtually.
- School Council Meeting: March 24 at 5:00 PM. Please consider joining us!
- Friends of St. Mary's: Meeting March 4. To get involved, please contact Jodi Ginther, [ginthers@telus.net](mailto:ginthers@telus.net).
- High School Travel Club - Costa Rica trip departs April 1st.
- Food and Flag Event: Hosted by the School Council on April 14. See the sign-up info below.

I look forward to a busy March and to continuing our work together. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

Mr. Van Uden, Principal, St. Mary's School

**March 5th:**  
SMS Ski Trip

**March 9<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> :**  
PD Day & Spiritual Dev  
Day - No School

**March 12th:**  
Parent / Teacher  
Interviews (4-7 PM)

**March 26th - 27th:**  
Horror Town Drama  
Club Production  
@ 7 PM



## News from our St. Mary's Band Booster Club



It is not that far off! The St. Mary's Spring concert will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 in the school gym. Please mark your calendars and ensure that your son or daughter is available.

The Grade 6 Band will be going on their annual music retreat on Wednesday, March 18th. Students will be working with the staff and students from D.A. Ferguson and Barnwell school for the day at the Taber Civic Centre. They will be learning from instructors from the University of Lethbridge as well as spending some time in the pool as well as rehearsing as a massed band. We look forward to the day!

The St. Mary's Senior Band will be performing at the W.R. Myers Music of the Night Concert on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in the W.R. Myers gym. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. The evening features our band, the W.R. Myers bands, and several musical groups from Taber. The night promises to be one to remember.

Looking for something to help keep your son/daughter motivated with their practicing? The school has purchased several play-a-long CD's. These CD's provide a professional accompaniment while your son/daughter plays their part. There are a variety of styles and ability levels to choose from. The books and CD's are available to be signed out through the library. Please check them out.

All band students are expected to hand in a Home Performance Assignment every month. The deadline for the March HPA is April 1st. Please ask to hear your son or daughter play.

Grade 6-8 band students should be handing in their practice sheets every week. Extra sheets are available in the band room. Remember, practice sheets are worth 10% of the Junior High band mark.

# Soup Day : March 18th



If any parents would like to bring a pot of soup, please contact our school office at 403-223-3165

Please consider signing up to bring a pot of soup for the following soup days:

Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 13

Contact our school office to sign up.



# SMS School Council

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026  
@ 5:00 PM in the school library

Our School Council encourages all SMS Parents & Guardians to attend.

# SPLASH!

and soup too.

YOUTH GRADES 7 - 12



March 13, 2026

5 - 7:30 pm

Catholic Youth Group

Taber Aquatic Center & St.

Augustine's Church



[Click here to Register](#)

"Townhall for Future Budget Conversations - The purpose of the town hall is for parents/guardians to discuss future budget allocations in an open forum where school leadership shares financial realities, priorities, and projected needs, while inviting questions and feedback from families. It allows parents/guardians to better understand funding constraints and trade-offs, helping shape strategic priorities for Holy Spirits Catholic School Division's future"

Wednesday March 11, 2026 @ 6pm on CCH Campus West

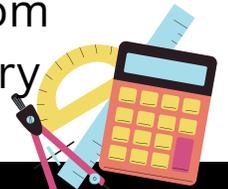
Wednesday March 18, 2026 @ 6 pm on CCH Campus East

Monday March 23 @ 5 pm Virtually. (Link to follow closer to the date)



## Donate School Supplies

Just a reminder that we accept all gently used school supplies at our school. We place these items out for everyone to access for FREE! It helps to save items from the landfill and with the cost of everything lately, every little bit helps!



**TIP TOP** tailors since 1909

# TAKE TIP TOP'S PROM PLEDGE

SUIT UP, GIVE BACK

**TIP TOP** tailors since 1909

[ENGLISH](#) | [FRANCAIS](#)

# PROM PLEDGE 2026

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Separate School

School Code: SCHOOL-AB-00088

## HOW TO USE

**In store:** Show this barcode to a Store Associate during check out.

**Online:** Enter SCHOOL-AB-00088  in the "School Code" field at checkout.

## GET A CHANCE TO WIN \$10,000 FOR YOUR FUTURE EDUCATION!

Students that purchase a Tip Top suit and present/apply the school's unique identifier code during checkout in-store or online will be automatically entered for a chance to win \$10,000 for their future education needs.

Conditions apply.

Visit <https://tiptop.ca/pages/10k-future-ready-contest> for full terms and conditions.

St. Mary's Drama Club Presents

SMS

**HORROR**



**TOWN**

...A Thrilling Comedy  
by Ian McWethy

March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2026

Curtain - 7:00 pm

St. Mary's Atrium

5427 50<sup>th</sup> St. Taber, AB

Tickets: By Donation

# OFF CAMPUS NEWS

# WORK Experience

If you have a job or are volunteering and have not signed up for work experience please contact Mr. Boschee.

Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to [hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)

## RAP Apprenticeships

Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to [hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)



## GREEN CERTIFICATE

NEW Green Certificate students should know there is a Virtual Induction meeting coming up. Testing dates for March are the 24th and 25th. Contact Mr. Boschee for more details.



## NOTE

### TRADES 4 U IS COMING

Lethbridge, Pincher Creek, and Taber hosting a Trades for U night. Businesses will be opening their doors allowing for students to try their hands on a trade. Keep watching for more details.

### U OF C

March 19 -20 -University of Calgary will be at CCH East and West during Flex. They will have a booth set up in the cafeteria.



REGISTER WITH CAREERS SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON

POTENTIAL INTERSHIPS.  
take on the future

**CAREERS**  
2026  
**SAFEGEN**  
Youth Workplace Video Contest

**WIN \$6000 IN CASH PRIZES!**

In a 2 minute video, showcase your ideas on a topic relating to workplace safety.

Need suggestions?

- Good communication
- Mental health in the workplace
- Refusing unsafe work

Or choose a topic of your own creation. It's up to you!

All Alberta students enrolled in a high school course, aged 14-18 years inclusive, are welcome to participate

Entry deadline: April 1, 2026

Stay Connected  
@careersnextgen

SCAN TO ENTER!

**ULETHBRIDGE STUDENT 2 STUDENT FAIR**

We've been there. We've got you.

Wondering if Ulethbridge is the right fit for you? From applying to what your first day could look like, ask the people who've been there. Chat with real Ulethbridge students. There's a place for everyone who attends.

Catholic Central High School  
(East Catherwood)  
March 6, 2026  
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**OPEN HOUSE**

10:30 A.M. - 2 P.M. | MARCH 15

**LETHBRIDGE POLYTECHNIC**

## WHO BUILDS IT BEST

Live Building Competition

March 12 & 13 Excite Lethbridge Exhibition Park  
If you are interested contact  
Lize Bam - Career Practitioner  
[baml@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:baml@holyspirit.ab.ca)

# who are we

Off-Campus Education provides programs and services for Holy Spirit School Division Students during their high school years.  
We offer 3 Off-Campus programs, 3 Workplace Safety Courses, Dual Credit Courses, Career Services, Post Secondary Services and Scholarship Services.  
These programs and services are available to all high school students in the Division.



**Mark Boschee**  
Off-Campus Education Coordinator  
**Lize Bam**  
Career Practitioner

Cell: 587-220-4358  
Office: 403-327-4596  
[boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
[hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
[baml@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:baml@holyspirit.ab.ca)

CCH Campus East  
405-18 Street South  
Lethbridge, AB  
T1J3E5

[holyspirit.ab.ca](http://holyspirit.ab.ca)

**March 21, 2025**

# **Bow Island Junior Bonspiel**

**Ages 9-18**



**\$20/curler  
4 end games**



**Contact Erica Noga  
at 403-866-7259**

**Register by March 8**



# cinderella PROJECT & TUX SHOP

The Cinderella Project & Tux Shop celebrates the incredible resilience of students who have overcome barriers on their journey to Graduation.

We believe every student deserves to walk across the stage with hope and dignity. Our program provides a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience by offering:

- Complete Formal Attire
- Professional Hair Styling
- Graduation Photography



Our Mission: To remove financial hurdles & restore the joy of this milestone.  
Register your students at: [www.mycitycare.ca](http://www.mycitycare.ca)  
Completely Free. Completely Life-Changing.



 [cynthia@mycitycare.ca](mailto:cynthia@mycitycare.ca)

 <https://mycitycare.ca>

**CALL US FOR MORE INFO**

 **587-205-9651**



**TABER VIPER**



**SWIM CLUB**

**Make a splash with us!**

**We offer:**

- a supportive swimmer community that builds confidence, teamwork, discipline & resilience**
- coaches dedicated to helping swimmers improve their technique & achieve their swimming goals**
- opportunities to compete in local, regional, and provincial swim meets**
- Rookie, Junior, Senior, and Masters Programs**

**Registration opens  
on February 25th for  
returning swimmers**

**and**

**March 3rd for  
NEW swimmers!**

**Para swimmers  
Welcome!**

**visit  
[tabervipers.com](http://tabervipers.com)  
to**

**REGISTER**



# MAPS

Métis Access to  
Post-Secondary

## *Your bridge to success starts here*



### EXPLORE

Career options &  
identify what it  
takes to get there



### TALK

About Métis Culture,  
special days, &  
accomplishments



### SEARCH

Post-Secondary  
funding  
resources



### CONNECT

Connect with  
Métis community  
members



### APPLY

for Post-  
Secondary  
Studies

Métis Access to Post-Secondary (MAPS) is a Rupertsland Institute initiative supporting Métis students transitioning from high school to Post-Secondary studies.

Register for  
MAPS today



Funded in part by:





# Trades 4U for students and parents/guardians

## WHY?

The best way for students to pique their interest in the skilled trades is to try them. This will be an afternoon event to accommodate our students and the businesses that are volunteering their time, facilities, and expertise.

## WHAT?

A unique opportunity for students interested in careers in the trades and agriculture to get some first-hand experience in real-world settings with local employers. Students and their parents will spend an evening at various sites learning from skilled tradespeople in a hands-on environment. Students will receive a brief orientation and tour of the site and proceed to learn some new skills related to specific trades in a small group setting.

## WHEN?

THURSDAY, March 26th, from 12:30-3:00 PM

Students must arrange own transportation, and they must represent themselves and their schools in a safe and responsible manner.

## IMPORTANT POINTS

- »»» Students will be covered for WCB by Alberta Education. A safe environment is very important.
- »»» Scan the QR code below to access the Google Form to apply.
- »»» The event will be open to students in Grade 10 to Grade 12.
- »»» We would like to have participating businesses from throughout southern Alberta, as we are involving all of Horizon School Division and St Mary's High School, Taber.

»»» STUDENTS!

Scan here to apply

»»» ----->



## MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Bryan Pritchard @ 587-370-7187 or by email @ bryan.pritchard@horizon.ab.ca for more details.