

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

April 2025



Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Nevil

Dear SMS Parents and Guardians,

We are now halfway through Lent, and with the arrival of spring, we eagerly anticipate the joy and renewal that Easter brings. In my last newsletter, I spoke about the growing anxiety among our youth and the steps we are taking at SMS to support their well-being. Among these efforts, I emphasized the power of prayer.

As a Catholic school community, we strive for solidarity, peace, and spiritual growth. Each day, we come together in prayer, offering our students different ways to connect with God. By nurturing their faith, we hope to instill a sense of hope and inner peace that can help ease their anxieties. I feel truly blessed to be part of a community that values these spiritual connections.

As we approach Easter, I pray that you and your family find renewal, hope, and Christ's presence in this sacred season.

I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to some important upcoming events at our school:

Upcoming Events at SMS

Screen Sanity Parent Night

 Thursday, April 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM

 St. Mary School

Join us for an insightful evening focused on navigating screen time and digital well-being for our youth. Please register in advance using the QR code provided in our newsletter and on social media.

2025/2026 Grade 6 & New Family Orientation

 Wednesday, April 30, 2025 – 6:00 PM

 St. Mary's School

Mr. Van Uden and Mrs. Nevil will welcome new families and provide information about what to expect when joining the St. Mary's community.

Truth and Reconciliation Blanket Exercise

 Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 6:00 PM

 St. Mary's School

Billy Woitte and Shelly Kirkvold will lead this powerful experiential workshop, exploring the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. If you would like to participate, please email Mrs. Nevil at nevilm@holyspirit.ab.ca. All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of Valley of the Birdtail by Andrew Stobo Sniderman & Douglas Sanderson, courtesy of our School Council.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and continuing to build a strong, supportive community together.

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Easter season!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Nevil

Principal, St. Mary School

April 4th at 6 PM:
SMS Hosting Stations of
the Cross at St. Augustine

April 10th at 11:30 AM:
Soup Day

April 10th at 7 PM:
Screen Sanity
Parent Night

[Link to Register](#)

April 18th - 25th:
Good Friday &
Easter Break

April 30th at 6 PM:
2025/2026 Grade 6
& New Family
Orientation
Night at SMS

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 14th at 7:00 in the school gym. Please mark your calendars and ensure that your son or daughter is available.

The next executive meeting of the St. Mary's Band Booster Club will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 7pm in the band room. Any interested parents are invited to attend.

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. 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.

SMS Hosted the 1A Boys Basketball Provincials

Thank you to Mr. Bergen-Henengouwen, Mr. Van Uden, SMS Celtics, and all the staff, parent & community members who participated in planning/volunteering during the 1A Boys Basketball Provincials.



Congratulations Celtics on placing 6th overall at the 1A ASAA Basketball Provincials



Congratulations Lions (Auroras) on the Bronze Medal at the 2A ASAA Basketball Provincials



Parish Connection: St. Augustine Church



Friday, March 14 at 6:00PM
lead by Knights of Columbus

Friday, March 21 at 6:00PM
lead by CWL

Friday, March 28 at 5:30PM
lead by St. Vincent de Paul

Friday, April 4 at 6:00PM
lead by St. Mary's School

Friday, April 11 at 6:00PM
lead by Filipino Society

Soup and bread will be served
following stations



Donate School Supplies



We accept all gently used school supplies throughout the school year. 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! We are currently **running low on the basics like pencils, erasers, sharpeners, etc.** If you have any gently used supplies laying around at home taking up space, we would gladly accept them and pass them on to our students.



SMS SOUP DAY

April 10th @ 11:30 AM

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



GRADE 10-12 LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Join us for an unplugged weekend
retreat where you will recharge,
make new friends, and reconnect
with your faith.

The Search is happening April 11 - 13, 2025
Catholic Central East Campus
Registration: \$50
Use QR Code to Register



SUMMER SCHOOL

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Registrations for the July
2025 Summer School
Session are now open.
For more information
visit our website [HERE](#).

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Spaces are Limited

The Centre for
LEARNING
@HOME



TABER PUBLIC LIBRARY



KIDS ONLY MARKET

POSSIBLY APRIL 12, 2025

CRAFTS

BAKING

FOOD BANK
DONATION

Looking for possible vendors for this market here in Taber. Kids
must take part in the making and selling of items. Hours from
10 am to 2 pm. Please call for more info 403-223-4343

YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGIES TABER CAMP

CAREERS is proud to host the YWITT Taber
Spring Break Camp 2025. This one-day
camp aims to inspire and empower young
women in skilled trades and technologies
by offering hands-on experiences in
trades, ICT, and agriculture.

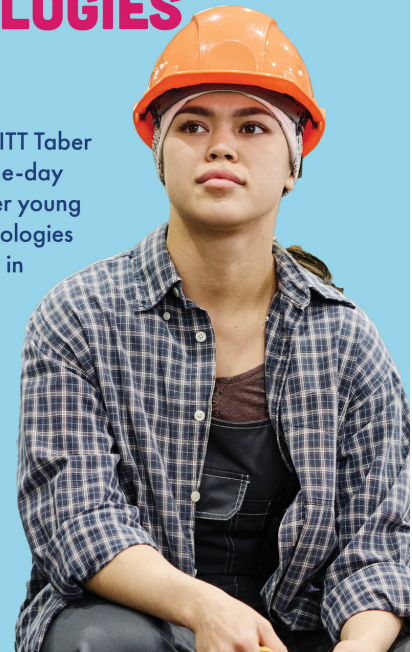
APRIL 22

COULEE CAFÉ, 4110 WESTVIEW PL
8:30AM - 4:00PM



CAREERS
take on the future

Alberta
Government



**“It was
the help
I didn’t
know I
needed.”**

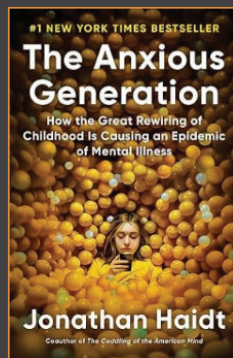
April 10, 2025

7:00 PM

St. Mary’s School - Taber



Scan QR code
or click [here](#) to
register today!



**SCREEN
SANITY**
parent night



An evening for parents based on Jonathan Haidt's
bestselling book, The Anxious Generation

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

CCH EAST
Rm 154



EPIC DAY 2025 – Career Exploration Event!

EPIC (Exploring Possible Industries & Careers) Day is an exciting, hands-on event for high school students to explore a variety of career pathways and connect with local industry professionals from sectors like Agriculture, Health, STEM, Trades, and more.

When?

- Date: April 16, 2025
- Time: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
- Location: Lethbridge Agri-Food Hub

Why Attend?

- Discover potential career paths.
- Engage with industry professionals.
- Gain hands-on experience and see teamwork in action

What will you do?

- **Morning:** Explore careers in Agriculture, Health, STEM, Trades, and a wildcard sector.
- **Afternoon:** Tour a local business and see how different roles contribute to success.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to explore your future career! For more info, contact: 1(403) 328-3996



Career Exploration Virtual Live Sessions – Register Now!

Explore exciting careers in live virtual sessions!



Upcoming Sessions:

- Baker – April 1st, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
- Radio Host – April 8th, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

Missed a session?

Session recordings will be available 5 business days after each event.

How to Register:

Click [here](#) to select the occupation and sign up.

Don't miss out—[register today!](#)

Paid Summer Trades Exploration Internship

Are you interested in the trades?

Get hands-on experience this summer while earning **\$15.00 per hour!**

Three-week paid internship | Explore two or three different trades | Gain valuable skills/experience



Limited spaces available—apply soon!

If you're interested, contact **Mr. Boschee in Room 154, CCH Campus East**, or email boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca for more details!

Don't miss this opportunity to kick-start your future in the trades!



Grade 10-12 girls interested in exploring trades and technology? Don't miss this **hands-on opportunity** to learn from industry mentors and discover exciting career possibilities!

Register Now!

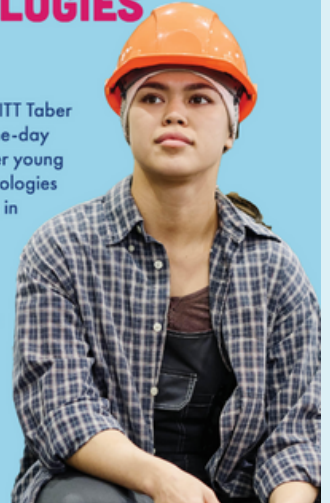


For more information contact Alicia at
ahughes@nextgen.org

YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGIES TABER CAMP

CAREERS is proud to host the YWITT Taber Spring Break Camp 2025. This one-day camp aims to inspire and empower young women in skilled trades and technologies by offering hands-on experiences in trades, ICT, and agriculture.

APRIL 22
COULEE CAFÉ, 4110 WESTVIEW PL
8:30AM – 4:00PM



Exciting News!



Lethbridge Polytechnic is offering its first-ever Dual Credit Summer semester from
June 23 to August 6, 2025.

Course Options:

CJP1160: Online, asynchronous with a week of on-campus labs (July 21-24)
CMM1185: Hyflex format (attend in person or online), Monday to Friday, 9AM–12PM



**LETHBRIDGE
POLYTECHNIC**

2025-2026 Dual Credit Guidebook

Now available [HERE!](#)

View courses, delivery format, important dates /eligibility and more.

Reminder

Submit your work hours for the
Registered Apprenticeship and Work
Experience programs to
hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca

New 2025-26

Holy Spirit is offering the **Veterinary
Technical Assistant (VTA) Certificate in
partnership with Olds College!** Students will
graduate with both their Grade 12 diploma
and VTA Certificate, ready for a career in
animal care.

Mark Boschee
Off-Campus Coordinator
Career Centre, East Campus on Tuesday/Friday
Cell: 587-220-4258
Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca



Vero Amakobe
Career Practitioner
Office on Campus, West on Thursdays
403-327-4596 ext 312
Email: amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca

*"Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!"*

- Psalm 25:7

St. Dominic Savio, April 2, 1842 (Feast Day: May 6)

April

Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope



Domenico Savio was born into a large family in rural Italy in 1842, and from a young age was keenly interested in his Christian upbringing, attending Mass and receiving special permission to receive the Eucharist. He was a hard worker at school, and to continue his education at age ten, began walking about five kilometers each way to the school at Castelnuovo. It was here that he would eventually meet St. John Bosco, with whom he then returned to Turin. He resolved during this time to become a saint, and experimented with various penances that he thought would assist with this goal. John Bosco, upon hearing of this, forbade it and recommended that Dominic focus on his studies and duties, doing all to the best of his abilities, which led Dominic to say "I can't do big things but I want everything to be for the glory of God." He continued to work diligently at school, to pray frequently and fervently, and sought to be a good example to his classmates at all times.

In the spring of 1857, at the age of 14, Dominic became ill, passing in March. Don Bosco wrote a short biography of Dominic, which led to his increasing popularity despite his young age at death. Due to his heroic virtue, he was canonized in 1954, and until 2017 was the youngest non-martyr saint in the Catholic church. You can learn more about him by watching one of these short videos:

[Story of Saint Dominic Savio](#) (Saints and Angels) | [Saint Dominic Savio](#) (Stories of Saints) | [The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends](#) (Brother Francis FORMED)

The Apostles' Creed

"the holy catholic Church..."

The Nicene Creed uses here the words 'I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. These four marks are actually quite significant, and perhaps help us to understand this section more clearly. They are calls to action that animate our lives, not just a passive mention of the Church. Our word Church comes from the Greek word *kyriakon*, derived from *Kyrios* - 'something belonging to the Lord' or *ekklesia* - 'an assembly of people called forth.' After Vatican II, we often refer to the Church as the 'People of God.' That's all of us!

- **One** - we desire unity with one another, with our Catholic brethren, and with our Christian family. (CCC 813-818, 820, 866)
- **Holy** - we believe that the Church is the place where we find holiness - in the sacraments, in our liturgy, and so on. While the Church is not perfect, it is holy. God is the source of holiness; the Spirit unites us in holiness; Christ is the perfect model of holiness. (CCC 823-829, 867)

- **catholic** - small c catholic means universal - we embrace one another and make room for each other to belong. We accept the Great Commission to share the Gospel with those around us, in all times and places. (CCC 830-835, 868)
- **Apostolic** - we believe in the foundation set by the Apostles after Christ's death, the succession of the Popes, and the teaching authority of the Church. Apostle means 'one who is sent' - we are all sent to share the Good News. (CCC 857-865, 869)

So, we are called to belong, with one another, to the Lord, to follow the path set out by the apostles, to find our holiness in the Church, and to be one and universal in our outlook. 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](#)

Inside the overall Jubilee year, there are a variety of specific celebrations that are occurring on the calendar. It is exciting this month that we have two celebrations that are specifically pertinent in our schools. From **April 25-27**, there will be a **jubilee of teenagers** that will culminate with the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis. This will be followed on **April 28-29** with the **jubilee of people with disabilities**. Given these two celebrations, it might be a good time this month to review [Christus Vivit](#) — Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to and about young people, which was the response of the Holy Father to the 2018 Synod on "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment" which laid a new foundation for the Catholic Church's current work with youth and young adults. We have embedded this into this current faith plan, so some of it will likely sound familiar to you! In the upcoming Easter season, we might for instance revisit the message at the outset, which are words of great encouragement to us:

Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.



Pope's Prayer Intentions — For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.





“Share the Mission” Award Call for Nominations!

Recognizing Those Who Inspire – Nominate Someone Today!

Do you know someone who makes a difference in our school community? The **Share the Mission Award** is your opportunity to recognize those who go above and beyond to serve, lead, and inspire!

This prestigious award honors community members, parents, students, and school staff who:

- Provide outstanding service to students
- Set high standards through leadership and dedication
- Contribute to the faith-filled atmosphere of our schools
- Lead within the community and parish organizations
- Live out the values of the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Nominations are open until **Friday, June 6, 2025**. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, submit your nomination today! The recipient will be honored at the division’s Opening Mass.

Nominate now! Use the [online nomination form](#) or contact Rhonda Kawa at kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca for more details.

Let’s celebrate those who truly make a difference!



Bright Futures Begin Here

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division



2025/2026 REGISTRATION



Re-Registration Starts January 13, 2025

Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 13-17, 2025 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2025/2026 school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.

New Student Registration Starts February 3, 2025

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2025/2026 school year are invited to register online starting on Monday, February 3, 2025.

- Through play, our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2025.
- **Grade 1** registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2025.
- **French Immersion** is also available. Enrollment starts:
 - in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
 - in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.



For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.



PRESENTS



TUESDAY NIGHT MOTOS

Join us every Tuesday evening for an adrenaline filled, dusty night of dirt biking. Hosted at our local TMA track just 7km north of Taber on highway 864. Riders, parents and spectators - we can ensure you will enjoy yourself, conquer some fears, eat some dirt, skip a heartbeat, get air and fall in love with the sport.

Our first night out will be Tuesday April, 29 2025. Practice and registration is open from 4:00-6:30. Mandatory Riders meeting at 6:45 and the flag waves at 7:00pm. We have practice motos for all bike classes, all skill levels and ages (4+). Wrapping up the season in September with awards night! For more information or to purchase your 2025 membership visit tabermoto.ca. (Waivers **MUST** be signed prior to riding!)

THANK YOU to our generous sponsors at Lethbridge Honda Centre. They are offering **ALL BRAND NEW RIDERS 20% off** their first transaction to get all set up! (Excluding bikes) Must be a 2025 TMA Membership holder to receive this exclusive discount!

Cost to ride on Tuesday Nights.

\$10 for TMA Members

\$15 for non-Members



***You MUST wear appropriate gear at ALL times while riding on the track!**

***Memberships are valid from March to March and allow you to access the track at anytime (excluding race weekends).**



***ALL 2025 TMA Membership holders receive 10% off every transaction at Lethbridge Honda Centre.**



CUBS
TOKO
DIARKS



COACH CODY



COACH CHRIS



STARS
Volleyball



EASTER CAMP

APRIL 21-25

7-9U 10-NOON 10-12U 1-4 PM

LIMITED SPOTS!

Register at STARSVBALL.CA

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tutoring—get started
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