

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

December 2024

Dec. 4th
Student Retreat
9:30-10:45 AM

Dec. 5th
Winterfest School
Dance (7-9 PM)

Dec. 11th
Family Movie
Night (7-9 PM)

Dec. 12th
Soup Day @
11:30 AM

Dec. 18th
Band Concert @ 7 PM

Dec. 20th
SMS Advent Mass
@10:45 AM

Dec. 20th
Last Day before
Christmas Break

Christmas Break:
December 21st -
January 5th

First Day back:
Mon. Jan. 6th

News from our St. Mary's Band Booster Club

St. Mary's School will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 18th 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 Banff in May 2025. This is a great time to stock up on some wonderful baking for the Christmas season. As well, the St. Mary's Band Booster Club will be holding a 50/50 draw at the concert, also to help raise funds for the Banff trip. This promises to be a great evening of entertainment for everyone!



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 6th. 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.



**We are still searching for a Caretaker for
St. Mary's and St. Patrick School**

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them visit the following link for more information:

[Caretaker - SMS & SPT](#)



SEEKING BREAKFAST SPONSORS

We love our SMS Breakfast Program. We serve a variety of options: Milk, juice, cereal, granola bars, fruit, breakfast sandwiches, etc.

We are seeking for a few more individuals or small businesses who would be willing to sponsor or make a donation to our breakfast program. If you are interested and would like more details, please contact our school office at 403-223-3165

SMS SOUP DAY

December 12th @ 11:30 AM

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

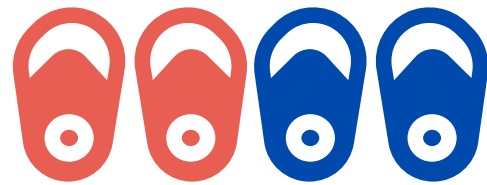


Congratulations to

Gail Kirkman

on winning the Friends of St. Mary's
50/50 Raffle.

Winnings: \$3200



PULL TOGETHER

We are again collecting pop tabs to help build hospital equipment and wheel chairs. This time, we are having a friendly competition with Vauxhall. Who can collect more???

Donate School Supplies



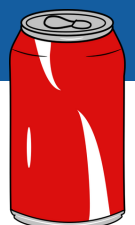
Just a reminder that we accept all gently used school supplies at our school. We place these items out for everyone to access for FREE! It helps to save items from the landfill and with the cost of everything lately, every little bit helps!



Bottle Drive Fundraising



We have an account at the Taber Bottle Depot to help fundraise for the upcoming Basketball Provincials that St. Mary's will be hosting this year. If you would like to contribute to this account, you can drop off your empty pop cans, bottles, etc and let the staff know to submit the proceeds into the **St. Mary's Basketball Provincials** account. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

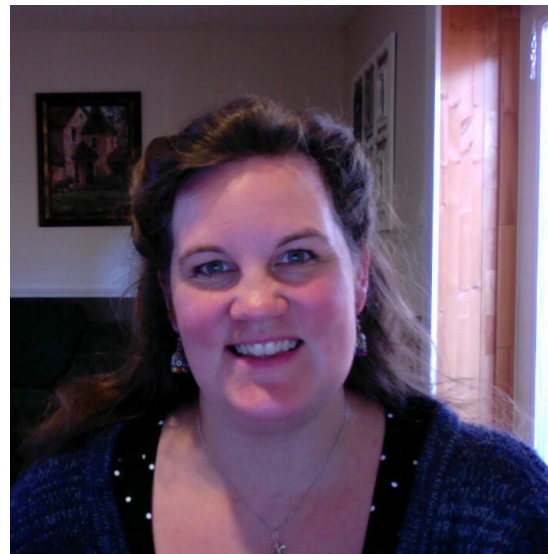


Mrs. Sawatzky & Mrs. Van Uden



WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Sawatzky and Mrs. Van Uden to our SMS community. They will be covering the library position while Mrs. Ulrick is away.



Order School Clothing

If you are looking to order some school clothing, you can do so by following these steps:



1. Go to smt.holyspirit.ab.ca
2. Click on "School"
3. then on "School Merchandize"
4. Click on "Fotees Custom Apparel"
5. Click on St. Mary's
6. Proceed with your order.



Note: please allow approximately 3 weeks delivery time to the school.

SMS DANCE

Winter Formal

SPECIAL GUEST
>>> DJ CHRIS <<<

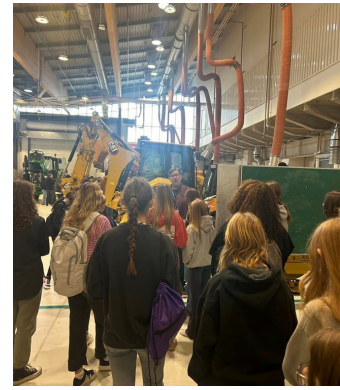
THURSDAY DEC 5 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

BOARD GAMES
KARAOKE
PHOTOBOOTH

BRING A FOOD BANK DONATION

What our SMS students have been up to lately:

1. Congratulations Auroras - They won Bronze at Zones and placed seventh at Provincials in Bonnyville.
2. Some Grade 8 girls went to Lethbridge Polytechnic for the Harvesting Ambitions in Women
3. Congratulations John Van Uden. He received the league "MVP" and "Most Outstanding Running Back" awards in Football.
4. Congratulations McKenzie Siemens. She was awarded an "ASAA Set the Bar for Sportsmanship" at Provincials and a "League All Star" for the Deep South Volleyball League
5. Congratulations to the five Legion Remembrance Day Literary & Poster Contest Winners: Lian Balabat, Chase Pidborochynski, McKayla Paul, Tessa Langlands, & Kinsey Ducharme
6. Sr. Athletic Students hosted Youth Mass
7. Congratulations Lyndon Kurvial. He signed with the Danville Jaguars in Illinois to play Golf for 2025-2026.
8. Congratulations to Auroras & Celtics Volleyball. They both earned Silver at the Vulcan Monster Smash Tournament
9. Mr. Doolittle took a group of students to the University of Lethbridge for the Cardboard Boat Races



St. Mary's School - Class of 2025 – Capture Your Memories!



School Varsity Jackets



Grad Rings & Jewelry



Class of 2025 Clothing & Gear

Order Day – Thursday, December 5

Time – 9:30 to 10:15

(get your finger sized, ask questions, try on rings, place your order)



Why a Grad Ring?



Design Your Jewelry
@ Jostens.com

SAVE \$60 when ordering in school or
SAVE \$40 online w/ code CAN40RING
valid until December 31, 2024
(excludes Basic Option (P) rings)

Save up to
\$60.00

Sean & Denise Kelly – 403.252.1774 – sean.kelly@jostens.com

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](#).

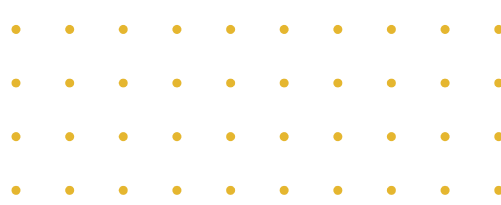


Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Pilgrims of Hope

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.



HOLY SPIRIT
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
PROGRAM



NEW STUDENTS ARRIVING FROM BRAZIL!

JANUARY 29TH TO JUNE 29TH, 2025

St. Mary's School is excited to welcome up to four Brazilian students. Thanks to funding from the Brazilian Government, ten Grade 11 students will come to study in Holy Spirit Schools. These students were chosen for their dedication to their studies and the fact that they would otherwise never be able to afford to study abroad.



We are looking for loving families to host these students from January 29th to June 29th, 2025. Families will be reimbursed \$900 per month. In return, they will provide:

- Three meals per day plus snacks
- The comfort & amenities of your home
- A private room (shared bathroom)
- Monthly leisure activities
- Academic & emotional support
- Friendship to last a lifetime!

Contact Us

HOMESTAY@HOLYSPIRIT.AB.CA
(403) 330-7382



P R O G R A M A
**GANHANDO
O MUNDO**

NO PARANÁ, A EDUCAÇÃO VAI MAIS LONGE.

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

CCH EAST
Rm 154

December 2024

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.

UPDATES:

Trades Exploratory Day

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Where: Lethbridge Polytechnic

Time: 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Who: Grades 10-12 are invited to explore potential industries and careers

Dual Credit - Lethbridge Polytechnic

Last day of classes for this semester is Friday, **December 6.**

What Happens Next Night at Lethbridge Polytechnic:

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Time: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Location: Trades Building Hallway leading to TT1939-TT1950

Students and parents are invited to come celebrate our Fall 2024 graduates who are receiving certifications and attend our resource fair.

Please RSVP [Here](#)

Scholarship Links

[Alberta Student Aid](#)

[Canada Wide Scholarships](#)

[Scholarships Canada](#)

[Grant Me](#)

[Alexander Rutherford Scholarship](#)

Happy Holidays! Good health and prosperity in 2025
From your Off-Campus Team



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 Tuesday/Thursday

403-327-4596 ext 312

Email: amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca