



Newsletter #3

November 15th, 2021

Principal's Message

'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness!'

Dear families,

St. Michael's School is an extraordinary place with truly incredible students and staff. Although, within this global pandemic setting, every day is unique, the one consistent is the positive impact we continue to have on the lives of our students and families. Success is a relative term, as it looks different for everyone. The beauty of St. Michael's School is that it can often be measured by the smile on the face of our students.

November is the month where we do our first reporting to parents on academic successes and goals. For Junior and Senior High, mid-term marks are now available for viewing via [PowerSchool Link](#). Here you will find Semester One midterm grades and comments on each course your child is currently registered in. It's also parent-teacher interview week for JH/SH on Wed/Thurs via 10 minute phone call or Google Meet chats. Please refer to your email with links sent to sign up.

Elementary students in Grade 6E (PowerSchool) and Grade 4/5E (Eluminate) will receive their report cards from their homeroom teachers on Friday, November 19th. The remaining classes are beginning a new pilot for reporting called [SPACES](#) where there is no formal report card printed. Parents are encouraged to secure parent teacher interview times for November 24th & 25th to set up times with your child's teachers to explore and discover SPACES, and to set goals for the next term. Please refer to your email with links for all parents in elementary to sign up for interviews with your homeroom teacher.

If the time that is given for Parent Teacher Interviews is not adequate, please talk with your child's teacher to book another time to meet. We look forward to the opportunity to work in a team with you as we make decisions on how best to support your child's learning throughout this year.

May God continue to bless St. Michael's School!

♥ Ms. Schmidt



November 14-20th, 2021 is "Metis Week!"

Our school will have a display set up in the Den for students and a variety of learning opportunities for them to learn about Metis people, and Louis Riel who we celebrate on Nov. 16th. Check out this [Video](#) on Metis Culture and also this [website](#) for excellent resources, games and even bookmarks on the Metis people. Happy Metis Week!



Metis Week Celebration

FAITH FOCUS:

3-Year Faith Plan – “Making Our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple”

2021-2022 Theme – *Transformed by the Journey
Calls to Action – Be Committed... Be Accountable...*

Advent 2021

Happy New Year, or almost! Yes, it will be a new year within our Church. The first Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical cycle. For that reason, Advent is an opportunity for us all to begin anew.

Think about it. Wouldn't it be nice to start anew? Are there things in your life that you'd like to leave behind or change? Most likely there are and Advent may just be the time to do so.

Beginning anew means that we take the past and give it over to our Divine Lord. It means that we let go of our past sin and hurt and ask Jesus to enter in. It means we turn to Him for a fresh start and have hope in all that He wants to accomplish in our lives. It is time to begin again!

Advent follows a certain theme of preparation and anticipation. At first, we reflect upon the fact that the Savior of the World will one day return in all His glory. We look to that truth and anticipate it with great hope. From there, we look at the fact that He did come long ago as a child. He was born of the Virgin and dwelt among us.

Christmas is the fulfillment of the hope given in Advent and is the realization of God's promise. God humbled Himself, becoming a little child entrusted to the care of Blessed Mary of Nazareth. She became not only the Mother of God, she also became our Mother in Grace.

We pray this year you are blessed with inspiration to meet our Lord and His mother more deeply this Advent and Christmas season. May this new year be a time of new life for you and for all.

Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- November 25 - Feast Day of St. Catherine of Alexandria
- November 28 - 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
- December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent
- December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Words from St. Michael Parish:

★ Please visit the Parish website at:
www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish



School Events:

Picture Retake Day Mon/Wed Kinder Picture Day

Monday, November 22



Elementary Parent/Teacher Interviews

Wednesday, November 24
and

Thursday, November 25

4:00-6:30 pm via phone



The Friends of St. Michael's

The Friends of St. Michael's are our school booster club. They support our school in many ways including: school activities, Dragon athletics, student awards, busing, Scientists in the Classroom, and much more.

Next meeting: Mon. Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm

[Friends of St. Michael's Information Page](#)

School Council

St. Michael's School Council

School Council Advisory:

Chair - Christie Gustavison

Vice Chair - Roxane Baalim

Secretary - Leah Oyortey

Next Meeting: Nov 30th pm via Zoom
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

[School Council Info](#)

As always, school council can be reached at stmikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com, or the chair directly at stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@gmail.com.



Kidsport Pincher Creek is now accepting applications to fund children and youth sport activities for the winter months. For more information, please contact the Pincher Creek Recreation department at 403-627-4322 or email recmanager@pinchercreek.ca

What you Need to Know!

St. Michael's Website:

Click here: [St Michael's Website](#)

Check out our school website for information such as: calendars, fees, staff contact information, our school handbook, bell times and so much more!

St. Michael's Live Calendars:

[School Events Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

Holy Spirit Board Meetings:

To view the Holy Spirit Board meeting dates and meeting briefs:

[Board Meetings and Briefs](#)

Off Campus News: [November Newsletter](#)

Students Leaving Early:

If your child has an appointment or needs to leave the school during the day, please make sure you let the office know ahead of time. Please keep in mind recess times for elementary and junior high and if at all possible try to pick up your child before or after as it is challenging to get students back inside from recess in a timely manner. Thank you for your help with this! **Click here to view > [Bell Schedule](#)**

Junior Curling Club

There will be a Junior Curling program this year at the Pincher Creek Curling Club. The program is for grades 3-12 and runs Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45 pm. The season goes from November to February. Fees are \$50 and all equipment is supplied. Please contact Jessica 403-308-9264 to register.



Christmas Angel Tree Program

Lethbridge Family Services Angel Tree Campaign is once again partnering with our school and the larger community of Pincher Creek to ensure that families that are in need, receive support in making sure there are presents under the tree for children at Christmas.

Angel Tree referrals are open to families with children 0-18 that are experiencing financial strain or stress, particularly in making ends meet around Christmas. The campaign's mission is to collect and distribute new and unwrapped toys and other gift items to families in need in Southern Alberta. This year, additional support is being offered through the Southern Alberta FASD Network for families that are affected by FASD. This will be asked as a part of their referral form.



To complete the referral or for more information please visit the Angel Tree website at: <https://www.lfsfamily.ca/content.php?p=92>, Referrals are being accepted until **November 30th**.

National Child Day

Celebrated annually on **November 20th**, this day recognizes Canada's commitment to raising our youngest citizens with dignity and respect, so they can make meaningful contributions to their communities. It is an important date to celebrate children and bring awareness to what is necessary to raise safe, happy and healthy children. Young people are our future, and we need to listen to them when important decisions are made about their lives. Our communities need equitable and diverse supports for all children and youth to succeed in life and reach their full potential.



Please spend the day celebrating the children and youth in your life and raising awareness about the issues that impact them. For more information and for ideas on how to celebrate, please visit the Alberta website www.nationalchildday.ca



St. Michael's School is hosting a BOOK FAIR!!!

November 22nd - 26th 2021

This year we are hosting a "hybrid" book fair. There will be a virtual shopping link starting November 19th and students can enjoy the fair in- person during library class November 22nd - 26th!!

All purchases benefit our school and earn rewards that can be redeemed for books and education resources for our schools classrooms and library!

Before our fair begins you can watch videos and preview featured books at:

[Shop for Books](#)

Use the same link once it's time to shop on November 19th!

Happy Reading!!

Mrs. Marsh



Health & Wellness:

Check out the following information and webinars:

[Healthy Kids](#)

[Healthy Teens](#)

[Stress and Healthy Coping](#)








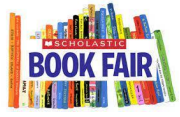


[Kids Have Stress Too](#)


[Screen Time, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#)

French Immersion:

Information for parents: [Tuning into FSL Newsletter](#)

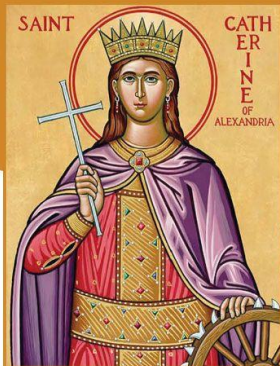
November 2021

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|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 14  | 15 | 16 Outdoor Basketball Committee Mtg @ 7 pm | 17 Junior/Senior High parent/teacher interviews via phone 4:00-6:30 | 18 Junior/Senior High parent/teacher interviews via phone 4:00-6:30 | 19 Elementary Report Cards go home for Gr 6E & 4/5E | 20 National Child Day  |
| 21 | 22  Picture Retake Day (K-12)  | 23  | 24  Elementary parent/teacher interviews via phone 4:00-6:30 | 25  Elementary parent/teacher interviews via phone 4:00-6:30 | 26  Mini-Volleyball Tournament @ FP Walsche (Fort MacLeod) today | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 School Council Meeting @ 7 pm via ZOOM | 1  | 2 | 3 Formal Friday!  | 4 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Last day of classes! | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Christmas Break | 21 Christmas Break | 22 Christmas Break | 23 Christmas Break | 24 Christmas Break | 25 Merry Christmas!  |
| 26 | 27 Christmas Break | 28 Christmas Break | 29 Christmas Break | 30 Christmas Break | 31 Christmas Break | 1  <small>gg56966189 GoGraph.com</small> |

November

Together on the Journey



School: St. Catherine

“Desire therefore my words; long for them and you will be instructed. Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.”

Wisdom 6:11-12



ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Catherine was born around 287 in Alexandria, Egypt. She was of noble birth, possibly a princess. She was educated and an avid scholar. When the emperor Maxentius began persecuting Christians, Catherine visited him to denounce his cruelty. Maxentius summoned fifty orators and philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defense of her faith. Her words were so moving that several of the pagans converted to Christianity and were immediately executed. Catherine was eventually ordered to be executed on a breaking wheel. When Catherine was presented before the wheel, she touched it and a miracle occurred that caused the wheel to shatter. Unable to torture her to death, the emperor simply ordered her beheaded. One account claimed that angels took her body to Mt. Sinai. In the sixth century, the Emperor Justinian ordered a monastery established in her name. The monastery, Saint Catherine's, remains to this day and is one of the oldest in the world.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

St. Catherine was known for her wisdom which is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are bestowed on the faithful when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gifts allow the faithful to become God's special instruments in this world.

Isaiah foretold that the Holy Spirit would rest upon the promised Messiah, Emmanuel, and that he would possess wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2), and piety. As Jesus was blessed with these gifts by his Father, every believer is blessed with the same gifts by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).



Wisdom is the first gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the ability to exercise good judgment. It is grounded in common sense and comes from life experience, thoughtful reflection, and learning life's lessons in "The School of Hard Knocks." Wisdom distinguishes between right and wrong, seeks and upholds truth and justice, and balances personal good with the common good.

Understanding is the gift of intelligence and enlightenment. It is the ability to perceive, comprehend, and interpret information; to have insight and discern meaning.

Counsel is good advice. It is the ability to teach and inform, guide and direct, warn and admonish, recommend and encourage. The Holy Spirit offers this special gift to parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, advisors, supervisors, elders, and the like. Counsel is not only the ability to give good advice, but to receive it as well.

Fortitude is an unwavering commitment to God or a proper course of action, and it shows itself in moral strength, courage, determination, patient endurance, long-suffering, a resolute spirit, stamina, and resiliency.

Knowledge is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain, and master a wide spectrum of information; and to put it to good use for constructive purposes.

Fear of the Lord is awe, reverence, and respect for God. It downplays human self-sufficiency and acknowledges that everything comes from God. Consequently, those who "Fear the Lord" gladly offer their praise, worship, and adoration to God alone.

Piety is the only gift not part of Isaiah's original list. Piety is personal holiness, the ability to live a decent life, free of sin, devoted to God, and obedient to God's will.

Click [here](#) to view a larger image of **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**.

“If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.”

- James 1:5

November

Together on the Journey



School: St. Catherine

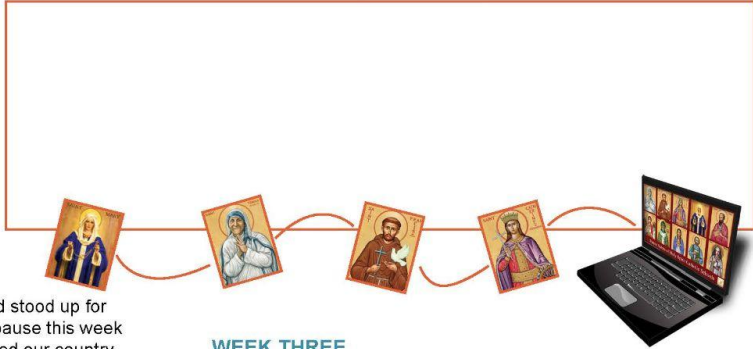
Feast Days and Celebrations November 2021

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Souls' Day
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 14 World Day of the Poor
- 25 Memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria
- 28 1st Sunday of Advent

As you journey with St. Catherine this month...

WEEK ONE

The internet provides us with access to great knowledge and some of the world's best teachers. Take some time to learn more about St. Catherine and her life. What is something that you've learned about St. Catherine that you didn't know before?



WEEK TWO

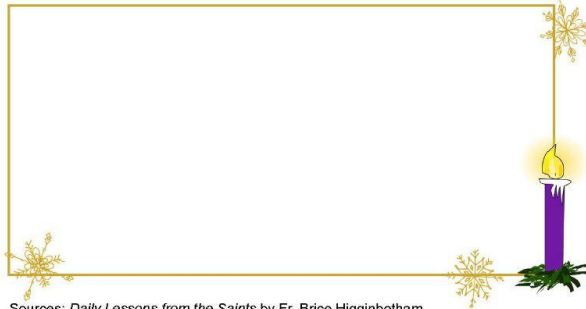
In her time, St. Catherine spoke against cruelty and stood up for those who were being persecuted. In our day, we pause this week to remember the sacrifices of those who have served our country, for those who have been victims of aggression and inhumanity, and to pray for peace. Take time this week to make a note and pray about how you can participate in bringing God's peace into the world.



Peace
on
EARTH
goodwill
to
MEN

WEEK FOUR

The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. Each time a candle is lit we are one step closer to Christmas. We await with hopeful anticipation the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As we light the first Advent candle, may we put aside all worry and stress and allow our hearts to be open for the day when we celebrate Jesus' birth. What are you hopeful for this Advent season?



God answers prayer
John 15:7

Sunday Gospel Readings

- Nov. 7th/32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 12:38-44
- Nov. 14th/33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 13:24-32
- Nov. 21st/34th Sunday in Ordinary Time
John 18:33b-37
- Nov. 28th/1st Sunday of Advent
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Sources: *Daily Lessons from the Saints* by Fr. Brice Higginbotham
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Catholic Online
What Are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis