



Newsletter

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Powerschool: <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>, website: <http://www.stbrendan.ecsd.net>

October 2018 at a Glance

- School Fees
- Picture Day, Oct 2 & 3
- School Office
- Thanksgiving Celebration
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- Flex Facts
- Supervision/Parking
- Gr. 9 Farewell
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- Calendar

School Council Meeting
Please join us!
October 24 6:30 pm

Next Newsletter
October 31st.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As they say - "We survived September!". Everybody went through some growing pains including yours truly, as well as our new students to elementary and junior high adjusting to new places, teachers and schedules. I think we also, have overcome many, but not yet all our Transportation hiccups. Now, we look forward to 9 months of serving your students with quality instruction, spiritual growth, and innovative club and sports opportunities.

Thank you to all who joined us at our Meet the Staff Night. It was nice to be able to share the priorities and changes at St. Brendan over the coming year and getting some feedback. I was thrilled to see 14 parents at our first School Council meeting! The energy and discussion from our parent representatives were impressive. We will need volunteer help for School Council student or family initiatives, so please answer the call when you see it. The more we can do build up school spirit and community the more positive our school family will be.

Some practical reminders...please remember that we are moving into a very cold season. Make sure you children are dressed for cold weather. Please make sure you let the school know if you child is going to be absent, before 8:40 am. Please remember to sign and return all field trip forms and lastly, do take the time to read through our whole newsletter and all school emails, as these two main means of communication keeping you in the loop on everything at St. Brendan. Open communication and discussion results in growth. Any comments, ideas, concerns you share with us are important and will be considered and acted upon.

In the spirit of our upcoming Thanksgiving, we thank God for all our staff, students and parents who journeying together this year. Remember to give thanks this month and always, to the good Lord for all that he provides us with. God bless you and your family.

Mr. T. Podilsky
Principal
St. Brendan School



PRAYER OF ST. BRENDAN

*"Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You."
AMEN.*



School Fees

Elementary Fees

Kindergarten School Activities	\$10.00
Kindergarten Technology	\$20.00
Kindergarten Total	\$30.00
Gr. 1–6 School Activities	\$10.00
Gr. 1–6 Technology	\$25.00
Student Agenda	\$10.00
Gr. 1–6 Total	\$45.00
Grade 4: Music Recorder	\$10.00
Yearbook (optional)	\$10.00

Junior High Fees

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Supplementary fees	\$55.00
Art	\$20.00
Food/Fashion	\$30.00
Drama	\$ 5.00
Outdoor Education	\$50.00
CTF	\$20.00
Band(gr.8&9): if using school instrument	\$50.00
Band(gr.8&9): if student owns instrument or rents from outside source	\$10.00
Locks gr.8 & 9 - replacement only	\$ 5.00
Yearbook (Optional) available online	\$40.00

Payments for these fees are now being accepted. We strongly encourage parents to use the Powerschool online payment system. With Powerschool Parent Portal, parents may pay with Visa, Master Card, or Debit.

Benefits to using the Online Payment system:

- * Money will never be lost!
- * Fees are applied to student's account immediately.
- * Parents can earn airmiles/points

Cash or cheques will only be accepted at the school office. Parents may also option of sending post-dated cheques for Bus Passes.

When remitting cheques to the school for school fees, fieldtrips etc. it is extremely helpful if your **child's full name and grade** are indicated on the memo portion of your cheque. It is also very important for parents to put their name and the child's name **when sending cash.**

Exact change is also appreciated as the school office has limited change.

We would appreciate your support in paying these fees as soon as possible.

School Photos

Individual and class group pictures for **Junior High** students will be taken on **Tuesday, October 2nd**, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Elementary students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will have their individual and group pictures taken on **Wednesday, October 3rd.**

Picture retakes will take place on **Monday, October 29th.** **Please note that if your child is absent on picture day of October 2 & 3rd, they will not be in the class photo.

It is helpful if you send a comb with your child so our helpers can do touch ups. Students should **NOT** wear **GREEN** as the photographer uses a green screen background system that provides parents with a selection of 30 backgrounds.

School Office

In order for the office staff to efficiently serve the student and teacher community, we ask your help in **minimizing** the number of calls and disruptions to the office. Please take the time to inform your children in advance if plans will change for their pick up after school. It is also very helpful for younger children if this is written in the child's agenda. Absences can be called in the night before or in early morning and messages can be left on the answering machine.

Parents, if you receive an electronic message, please take a moment to **listen** to the content as messages often come from various Edmonton Catholic Departments. (Example: transportation services will often send an electronic message in regards to late busses, bus changes etc.) The office will not necessarily have this information in advance.

Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving Celebration will take place in the school gym on Thursday, October 4th, at 9:00 am. Please join us to celebrate our spirit of thanks and lend your voice to ours in song and prayer!

Peanut Awareness

Please be aware that we have students and staff members who have peanut allergies. We would like to ensure the safety for all students and staff and request that only peanut free foods are sent to the school.



Flex Facts

Our Thursday, October 11th, FLEX instruction will begin. This year, FLEX will be offered every 2nd week. FLEX provides many opportunities available to assist in self-directed student learning. Some of these include greater access to teachers in specific subject areas for remedial support, access to technology, additional time in option classes and areas in which to work collaboratively with other students either on group projects or simply peer-to-peer exchanges of ideas. It also provides some students the chance to catch up on work missed due to illness or extracurricular time conflicts. This also provides students guided practice in creating meaningful learning goals and developing strategies to achieve them. This year we are also using some FLEX time for information sessions and field trips that enhance student learning. By utilizing FLEX time, less scheduled class time is lost. Please be reminded that FLEX is not a guarantee that a student will have unrestricted access to a particular teacher for individual support, but rather that there will be someone at some point during the FLEX rotations who can support specific content related questions. We have many teachers who instruct in multiple disciplines, and consequently we establish a weekly FLEX schedule that provides students the opportunity to access all areas of core instruction at some point in the day. Every week, before Wednesday evening, students are responsible to register for their 4 FLEX sessions on Thursday using PowerSchool. Parents can also see their children's FLEX session.

Supervision

Please note that supervision does not start until 8:15. Children should not arrive at the school before supervision begins and will be asked to wait in the school yard.

Parking / Student Drop Off

Parents, for the safety of our staff and your children, please **DO NOT** use the staff parking area or any areas assigned for Yellow Buses for student drop off and pick up. Doing so creates a safety hazard for all, as well as a traffic blockage. Thank you for your cooperation!

Grade 9 Farewell

Our first Grade 9 Farewell meeting will be on Monday, October 10 at 6:30 pm, in the St. Brendan Staff room. Please bring any fundraising, and planning ideas you have.



Grade 7 Bandshare

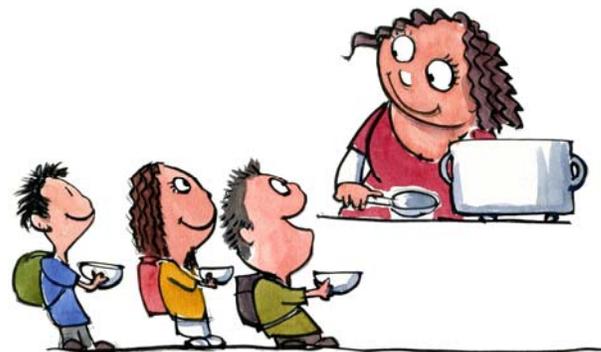
Grade 7 band students will be going to the Jumpstart beginners clinic on the morning of Thursday, October 4th. This is a very exciting day for students as it is the first time that they will be putting together their instrument and producing sound! Students will be boarding busses and will be taught by professional musicians at the Alberta College.

Snack Shack

Concession at St. Brendan has been opened for JH students, and offers students snacks and drinks at a minimal cost. Students are still encouraged to pack and bring their own healthy lunch but for those days where they have forgotten or their lunch is not enough, the Snack Shack will be open from 12:05 - 12:20 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday). Stock varies depending on availability from our suppliers. PLEASE CONSUME RESPONSIBLY!

Elementary Hot Lunch Program

Our Hot Lunch Program is in urgent need of parent volunteers. Students would really appreciate the chance to have a hot lunch delivered to the school. Please watch for a volunteer form that will be sent home with your child.



Frits Ahlefeldt

School Opening Celebrations

On September 13th, the St. Brendan school community together with Fr. Julian Bilyj celebrated the beginning of a new school year. Students prayed together as a community and Father Julian blessed the students for a successful new school year.

In addition, on September 19th, Ukrainian Bilingual Schools of Edmonton Catholic School District together with Elk Island School District, gathered together in prayer at St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Parish for the annual school opening and Divine Liturgy which was led by Bishop David Motiuk.

30th Annual ECS Elementary Cross Country Run

38 students from St. Brendan School participated in the Annual Cross Country Run on September 17th, at Rundle Park. It was a great time to show our sportsmanship and make our school proud. Mrs. Falk and Mrs. Gerhardt would like to thank all the parents and volunteers that helped make this day possible. It is times like these that truly show what an amazing sense of community our school family has.

Terry Fox Run

On September 20th, the entire school participated in the Terry Fox school run. This year students and staff ran around the Braemar School field. This event kicked off one of many St. Brendan "School Spirit" days where all Kindergarten to grade 9 students gathered together as one school community and walked together in Jesus' footsteps. All participants walked or ran for approximately 1 hour. A big thank-you goes out to all students and staff who participated the Terry Fox Run. A total of \$440.00 was raised for this very important charity.

Grade 7 Retreat

On Wednesday, September 26st the grade seven students of St. Brendan along with staff and a group of grade nine student leaders, attended the annual Grade Seven Retreat at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Parish. Students participated in a religious celebration, as well as several cooperative activities. Afterwards, students enjoyed a hot dog lunch and continued to get to know each other while swimming at the Millwoods Pool. Thank you to the teachers at St. Brendan, as well as the grade nine student leaders, for making the day a tremendous success.

Camp Nakamun

On September 27 & 28th, grade 9 students attended Camp Nakamun as part of the Leadership Journey they began in grade 7. This event is an overnight trip designed to continue to build upon Leadership skills and camaraderie amongst classmates. Students participated in physical activities (Ziplane, Wall Climbing, King Swing, Barge ride and Archery) and Spiritual (celebrations) activities that solidified and encouraged friendships.

FALCONS NEWS

Senior Girl's Soccer

The Senior Girl's Volleyball team have started their season. Players this year are : Hailey M., Selynna S., Marina S., Nicole P., Tayla N., Madelyn V., Andrea G., Katy W., Jeannette A., Tatiana G.-P., Carolina F., Cloe W., Paige H., Reese M., Danusia B., Emily L.

The Senior Girl's players are eager to grow as a team and also to increase their knowledge and skill level. They are ready to have a fun and exciting season!

Senior Boy's Soccer

Congratulations to the following boys for making the soccer team this year. Also, thank you to all of the fellas that tried out!!!!!! Players this year are: Jake K., Matthew H., Aaron DeM., Ivan R., Maxim E., Stephan B., Zane F., Stefan P., Julian M., Luca M., Mehkay A., Liam D., Danylo S., Jackson (7), Taras T., Triton M.

GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON!!!!!!

Girl's and Boy's Volleyball

Tryout Dates: Monday October 1 & 2 3:30 - 5:00.
Lunch tryout Wednesday October 3.

Tournament dates: Thursday October 18, Friday October 19, Saturday October 20.

Practice Dates: (all practices 3:30-5:00)

October 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31

Inclement Weather

Severe Weather cancellation of Yellow Bus Service - ALL PROGRAMS. A message will be sent to parents as well as many Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

RADIO STATIONS

630 CHED
CISN FM 103.9
FRESH FM 92.5
INEWS 880 AM
Kiss FM 91.7
UP! 99.3 FM
HOT 107 FM

AM 930 The Light CJCA
SHINE 105.9 FM
TSN 1260
95.7 CRUZ FM
The Bear 100.3 FM
SONIC 102.9 FM
104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM

CBC
CHFA (CBC Fr.)
CFCW 840
CAPITAL FM 96.3
K97.97.3
102.3 NOW! Radio

TV STATIONS

CITYTV

CTV Edmonton

GLOBAL Edmonton

CBC TV

Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.



Junior High Yearbooks

Remember to order your 2018-2019 Junior High Yearbook! Please pay at the office or on-line with Powerschool. The cost is \$40.00.

St. Brendan Junior High Yearbooks from 2017-2018 are still available for purchase through the office. The cost is also \$40.00.

Junior High Yearbook Team 2018-2019

There will be an information meeting on **Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018**, for Junior High students who are interested in being a part of this year's Yearbook Team. The meeting will start at **12:00 in the Art Room (220)**, so please bring your lunch.



Halloween

Halloween is right around the corner. Elementary Classroom activities will be held on the afternoon of **Wednesday, October 31st**. Students may bring their costumes and change into them during the lunch recess break. Students are asked not to wear their costumes until this time. Elementary teachers teacher will communicate specific classroom activities at a later date. Please join us at **1:00 p.m.** in the small gym for our Halloween parade.

Junior High students will receive information in regards to Halloween events at a later date.

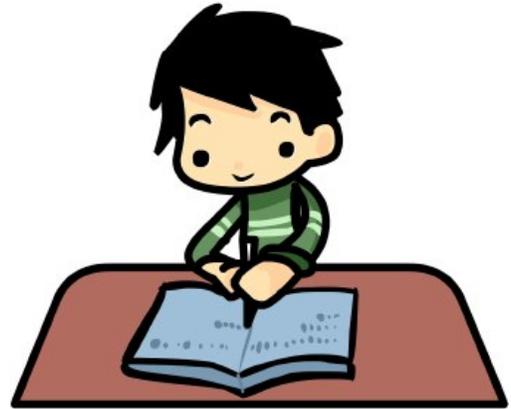
Homework Club

Homework Club is back by popular demand! It is a great way to complete assignments and to receive support in a quiet learning environment.

Homework Club will begin on October 1st. It will be on every Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3:15 to 4:00 pm in the Learning Commons. It is important that parents/guardians arrange pickup no later than 4:15 pm.

Students from Grades 4-9 are invited to attend Homework Club. This is an independent learning environment. Therefore, it is important that students who attend can work alone and quietly. Students who are interested in attending, should contact Mrs. McKenna via email - "Edna.mckenna@ecsd.net" or by visiting her classroom - room 166. Parents are encouraged to email any questions or concerns.

Thank you, Mrs. McKenna



Parent News

Next School Council Meetings:

- October 24
- November 21

ADmazing & SPC Cards

Order Deadline
October 5!

Boston Pizza

Send your receipts to the office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Hot Lunches – letter coming soon!

Fundraising

School Council runs several fundraisers throughout the year. The money raised is used to support events such as Shrove Tuesday pancakes, St. Brendan Day lunch, teacher appreciation and student and family events! Please support these events!

ADmazing Coupon Books

Great coupons and School Council gets \$10.50 per book!

Books are available in the office until October 5, 2018

SPC

Student Price Cards give students great discounts by showing their card!

Available in the office until October 5, 2018

Boston Pizza

Every time you or your friends or family visit Boston Pizza, keep the bill (not the payment receipt) and send it to the office – the school will earn 5% of the bill!

Receipts are due by December 20, 2018

Magazines

Order magazine subscriptions on-line at www.qsp.ca

GROUP ID: 4646345

They offer great discounts and we get a portion as a fundraiser.

Purdy's Chocolate

We will be running a Purdy's campaign again this fall ... just in time for Christmas.

Hot Lunch

We are looking for volunteers to help with hot lunch for the elementary students. If you can spare a couple of hours during the day about once a month, we need a few volunteers per grade. Watch for a hot lunch volunteer letter / signup sheet!

Spirit Wear

We will be selling St. Brendan clothing in October! We will have an on-line store so you can purchase clothing for students and adults! Look for our SPIRIT WEAR INFORMATION coming soon!

Information

Our next meeting is on October 24 at 6:30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Contact us:

StBrendanFA@outlook.com

Check out our facebook page!

Message from the Pastor - October 2018

Assumption and Resurrection Parishes

As partners in nurturing the faith, the school and the parish works together in a close partnership. Please check our website at <http://arparish.ca> for Mass times and upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office at 780-468-4071.

Father Philip Creurer

Pastor: Assumption and Resurrection Parishes

Parish Contact Information

Pastoral Assistant: Janet Campbell (780-468-4071) or email: protect@assumptionresurrection.ca

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The mission of sacramental education for **Eucharist** (First Holy Communion), **Reconciliation** (Confession) and **Confirmation** – is to ensure that the sacraments are pivotal events for all Catholic children. As such, the community of faith (the parents, the parishes and the Catholic schools) is entrusted with this responsibility.

NOTE: it is never too late to have your child receive these sacraments. If your son or daughter is in Junior or Senior High School and you would like them to be involved ... please contact the parish office for registration forms and individual programs can be provided.

For more information and registration forms for any of these Sacraments please contact the office at 780-468-4071 or contact Janet at Protect@AssumptionResurrection.ca.

Registration forms are also available at the school office. Please bring the completed forms to our orientation and registration meeting (see below).

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

For children who have been baptized and are **7 years of age (or older)**.

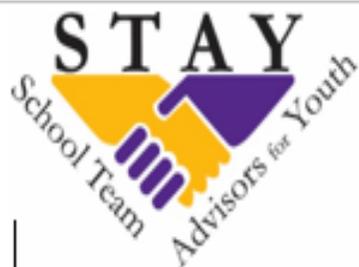
Our Orientation and Registration meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 3, 2018 at 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm** at Assumption Hall (9034-95 Ave.). At least ONE parent and the child are asked to attend. **Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate.**

CONFIRMATION

For children who have received their First Communion and are in **Grade Six (or older)**.

Our Orientation and Registration meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 2 at 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm** at Assumption Hall (9034-95 Ave.). At least ONE parent and the child are asked to attend. **Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate.**

“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” Mark 10:14



STAY Alert

October 2018

Welcome Back

Can you believe a month has gone by since our kids have returned from summer break? Our STAY Advisors have been busy building relationships with new students, new staff and reacquainting ourselves with those students and staff from the previous years. Our goal is to build healthy relationships with as many youths as we can. Our message for the month of September to the students was that of respecting what the Responsible Use Agreement sets out. We want to make sure that everyone abides by the conditions set out in this document

https://www.ecsd.net/ParentsStudents/ParentResources/Documents/responsible_use_agreement.pdf

We are blessed to have Wi-Fi in all our schools, allowing students access to the internet. They can use their personal devices to access the internet through Wi-Fi and they can use their own 3G networks. We are encouraging our students to use these networks responsibly to avoid potential issues that might affect the use of the networks.

We would ask that, as parents, you encourage your children to use technology wisely and appropriately. Our online reputations are important and they can greatly impact our future. Please continue to educate yourself in the ever-changing world of Social Media, both its perks and its pitfalls. The internet is a great place to research this information. If any parent would like to speak to a STAY member, please contact your school directly and they will help you with this. See the link for a great resource. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

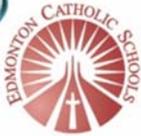
Have a great month!

School Team Advisors for Youth (STAY)

Junior high schools in the Edmonton Catholic School District each have 'School Team Advisors for Youth' (STAY) which are comprised of retired Police Officers.

The STAY role involves:

- Educating, mentoring, and empowering students.
- Educating and mentoring parents on the realities their children face each day by raising parent awareness on these issues.
- Educating and mentoring staff on the realities that students face each day. Working in partnership with the administration of the school to develop action plans for safety and health of all students.



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

October 2018

*Praise to the Lord all of you, God's servants. Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun, May the Lord be praised,
Praise to the name of the Lord! (Praise to the Lord, Klusmeier)*

The lyrics of this beautiful song, which we often sing at church, offer us a lens to explore what it means to walk humbly with our God. If we act justly and love tenderly, then our life's journey, with Him always at our side, becomes an act of praise. This is the heart of what happens when we walk together in God's love.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is growing! As I write this newsletter, our enrolment is at 43,200 students, an increase from last year, with a final count being done on September 28. It is truly a cause for celebration that an ever-increasing number of families are entrusting us with the awesome and sacred responsibility of nurturing their children and helping them to grow to their fullest potential as members of the Body of Christ.

We were delighted by the announcement from Alberta Education that the scheduled modernization for our Ben Calf Robe K-9 School will now be a replacement school instead. Plans for this new facility will increase the capacity to 700 students and will include a cultural learning space.

Archbishop Smith and Bishop Motiuk joined us for a joyous celebration on September 19 for the site blessing and ceremonial ground breaking at our newest addition to ECSD, Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School in the Orchards. A beautiful, innovative learning space for that community will open in September of 2020.

We are very fortunate to have the leadership of two District Chaplains in our District.

Father Julian Bilyj, who also serves as the pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, has served our students and staff as a teacher and Chaplain since 2014. Father Glenn McDonald is a new addition to our team this year. Father Glenn is a priest of the Congregation of St. Basil. He was raised in Airdrie, Alberta; trained as a mechanical engineer at the University of Alberta, and was ordained at St. Basil's Church, Toronto in 2008. For the past five years, he has been serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. In addition to his work at ECSD, Father Glenn will be assisting at St. Alphonsus Church / St. Clare Church.

The Archdiocese has just appointed Father Andrew Leung, CSB as the Archbishop's Delegate for Catholic Education. We look forward to him joining us to celebrate and form our faith!

Edmonton Catholic Schools has partnered with Alberta Health Services to create a series of videos that will provide parents with information about a variety of mental health topics and strategies to use at home to support their children. These videos are supported through the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Each month a new video will be posted on www.ecsd.net on the Mental Health page. The first video, *Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety*, is now available.

Last spring, we announced that we would be implementing a dual credit Aviation Program in partnership with WestJet and Mount Royal University. The program has now officially launched, and we have 16 students from across the District who are taking advantage of this excellent learning opportunity.

There are many ways for you to keep informed about the many wonderful things that are going on in our District. Visit www.ecsd.net, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving, enjoying time with your loved ones and celebrating the goodness of God in your lives!

Loving God,

Who created and sustains the universe, who loved us all into being, and who gives us every good thing,

We thank you for the blessings that you bring into our lives.

We thank you for the gift of life itself, and for the fresh start of each new day,

We thank you for our friends, our families, and our neighbors whose human love is an image of your divine care.

*Help us to recognize all the good things, and magnify our desire to share what we have with others,
so that they too may be grateful to you.*

Amen.

(adapted from *A Thanksgiving Prayer*, www.americanmagazine.org)

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent

Gaudete et Exultate of the Holy Father Francis: A Call to Holiness in Today's World

Chapter One - The Saints Who Encourage and Accompany Us

In March 2018, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World. In that Exhortation, Pope Francis commends "parents who raise their children with immense love, men and women who work hard to support their families, the sick, the elderly religious who never lose their smile" (7), as people who are living out their holiness. The Pope guides us in the direction of the Saints, who like us, were not perfect, but who never stopped trying to live out their call to holiness. When reflecting on these Saints' lives we need to focus on the big picture of what they accomplished rather than on their fragile, and at times imperfect, existence.

Here are a few highlights from the Exhortation that led way to some 'Aha' moments:

"Let us be spurred on by the signs of holiness that the Lord shows us through the humblest members who share a living witness by means of faith and charity" (8).

"We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable" (11).

For us, God's lay faithful, this means that we are to follow our own path and use the unique and special gifts He has given **each** of us. Pope Francis stresses that we are not meant to copy others' acts of holiness, but to create our own. These acts can be subtle or grand, but both have value, and both are essential in today's world.

"A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness"(19).

The saints lived their lives by following their various paths, and sometimes not everything they did was authentic or perfect; it is their lives in totality that need to be contemplated.

Our lives too, need to be seen as a mission that we allow to be transformed by listening to God. Our lives may not always be perfect, but their totality will demonstrate our call to holiness.

"Our lives do not have a mission; our lives are a mission" (27).

Friends, in our lives we are often called to many tasks; being a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, friend, daughter, son, boss, etc. As such, we tend to live our lives in a hurried and busy manner! Pope Francis asks us to slow down and remember that rushing through our lives is not living our lives as a mission, but that it is living our lives to the fullest that is our mission! It is how we carry out our day to day tasks, how we do our jobs, and how we raise our children or how we care for our aging parents, just to name a few.

Sometimes it might feel as if we are living our lives as a *mission impossible*, but with faith and dedication to Christ, our lives can become a **mission possible** – "Go and make disciples baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (MT 28:19).

God Bless,

Susanna Kaup

Secondary Religious Education Consultant

Edmonton Catholic Schools

Where is God in my Life? A Reflection

by Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

“Where is God in my life?”

This is a question I get asked a lot as a priest. Theology can point towards an answer, but only an experience from someone’s everyday life will satisfy as a response.

I am embarrassed to admit that even as a seminarian and later as a priest, I was having a lot of trouble seeing God in my own life. How could I then point out the presence of God in someone else’s life? Thankfully, God began to teach me how to recognize His presence in my own life, which enabled me to help other people see His presence in their lives, too. He used a special relationship to do this.

I am very fortunate to have my grandmother living in Edmonton. Her name is Lulu. And yes, she is as adorable as her name.

During the four years I spent studying at the University of Alberta, which was only a short bus ride away from my grandmother’s house, I rarely visited her. I was always too busy. I had every excuse not to go: I had homework to do; the bus would take too long; I had plans with my friends; I would go next week.

When I completed my degree and was departing from Edmonton, I had to say goodbye to my grandmother. Despite the fact that I had visited her only once a semester, she was very sad to see me go. In that moment, my degree suddenly seemed empty. I could see how precious my grandmother’s presence was in my life. I had been so blind, but it was too late. It was time for me to leave the city.

Fortunately, I was given a second chance many years later, when my religious community appointed me to Edmonton. I resolved to visit my grandmother each Friday. And I did!

Our visits followed the same pattern. I would bring her flowers. She would make me a sandwich and a cup of tea. We would talk about her week, how the family was doing, and if she had heard from relatives in Saskatchewan. I would share about my work. After an hour, I would depart. Each visit was ordinary, but I always felt fulfilled when I left — like I had participated in something of great value.

In 1 John, we read, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” Over time, I realized that my weekly visits with my grandma were an experience of love. An experience of genuine love is an experience of God. I became aware that these visits were one of the ways that God was present and active in my life.

What are the situations in your life in which you experience sincere love? Who are the people in your life who love you the most, with self-sacrificial, giving love? It is in these situations, and interacting with these people, that God’s presence and action in your life becomes real.

Today, when a student asks me, “Where is God?” I respond with, “Let me give you an example from my own life. Her name is Lulu.”

“Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” - 1 John 4:8

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Day 3	2 Day 4 Picture Day for gr. 7-9	3 Day 5 Picture Day for K-6	4 Day 2P Jumpstart Band Program for gr. 7 Thanksgiving Celebration Ukrainian Appreciation Evening - 7:00 p.m.	5 Day 6	6
7	8 No School  Happy Thanksgiving	9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Flex Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2 	12 Day 3	13
14	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 6	18 Day 3A Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2 	19 Day 1	20
CCAT FOR GR. 6 & 9						
21	22 Day 2	23 Day 3	24 Day 4 SAC Mtg. 6:30 pm.	25 Flex Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2 	26 Day 5	27
CCAT FOR GR. 6 & 9						
28	29 Day 6 Picture Retakes 	30 Day 1 Halloween Events to be announced	31 Day 2	November 1 Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2 		