



October 2017

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! ~Psalm 95: 1-2~

This beautiful passage from Scripture is an invitation to us to come worship our Father with a joyful noise and to give thanks for the gift of salvation. The history of humanity is full of examples of God's saving grace. God's ongoing manifestation of His love for us through acts of salvation such as the gift of His Son, Jesus, makes this call to thanks and praise timeless.

We have many reasons to give thanks in Edmonton Catholic Schools. The past few weeks have seen the opening celebrations of two of our new schools, Corpus Christi and Father Michael Mireau Catholic Elementary/Junior High Schools. The next few weeks will see the communities of Bishop David Motiuk, Christ the King, and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary/Junior High Schools gathering together in the communion of home-school-parish to celebrate this vital partnership at the heart of Catholic education. These schools have opened with flourishing enrolments. The commitment of the Government of Alberta to provide new schools to help us serve the needs of the approximately 42,500 students whose families have chosen the gift of Catholic education in Edmonton Catholic Schools this year affirms to us all that Catholic education is in great demand!

There are many opportunities for us to engage with our parents and guardians as partners in education. We are pleased to offer an opportunity to learn and dialogue about the philosophy and topics from the Religious Education Programs of Study on November 1 at St. Charles Parish with a repeat session on November 2 at Corpus Christi Parish. I have included a flyer with more details and information on how to register. We are also pleased to offer a series of sessions on mental health. The first one is on November 8 and focuses on practical strategies for managing ADHD. The attached flyer details all the mental health sessions for the year with registration details.

We have just released an updated electronic version of the book *Holy is Thy Name – Honouring the Namesakes of Edmonton Catholic Schools*, which was first produced in 2006. This book proudly shares the stories of our rich Catholic heritage. Visit <https://www.ecsd.net/AboutUs/catholic-identity/Pages/Holy-Is-Thy-Name.aspx> to view this beautiful tribute to our namesakes. In addition to the names of each of our schools and sites, you can learn about the new name of our central office, *Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre*, which honors the light of Christ.

The civic election on October 16 is an important opportunity for all citizens. In addition to voting for your City Council and Mayor, you will also have the opportunity to vote for your Catholic Trustees. We have created a page on our public website where you can view videos which each candidate has had the opportunity to record, as well as find maps of the wards and other information. This can be found at <https://www.ecsd.net/boardoftrustees/election-2017/pages/default.aspx>.

In his homily for the Marian Jubilee Mass on October 9, 2016, Pope Francis shared that Mary serves as our model of thanksgiving. "After hearing the message of the Angel, she lifted up her heart in a song of praise and thanksgiving to God: 'My soul magnifies the Lord...' Let us ask our Lady to help us recognize that everything is God's gift, and to be able to say 'Thank you'. Then, I assure you, our joy will be complete. Only those who know how to say 'Thank you', will experience the fullness of joy."

Wishing you a blessed, joyful thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS