



St. Paul Catholic Elementary School
14410 - 96 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5N 0C7
Phone: 780 452 1510 Fax: 780 452 1681
Website: www.st.paul.ecsd.net

Administrators' Message

December 2018

We're waiting for Jesus like Mary, we're waiting for Jesus the Lord.

Come down, Lord Jesus! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

The whole world is waiting for Love.

(The Whole World is Waiting for Love, Marianne Misetich)

During the season of Advent, it is important to take some time to reflect upon and prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Students at St. Paul School will mark each week of Advent in Celebration. We are looking forward to our Advent mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish on December 20. Parents are more than welcome to join us for our celebrations.

The Christmas season ... a season of giving, of loving, of joy and peace. The Staff of St. Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents of our school for all you do, for all you have done, for your care and your commitment. The Parents of St. Paul School are dedicated to helping provide quality education and experiences for the children which will enrich their school life.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we wish each of our families a blessed Christmas holiday filled with joy and happiness.

Please continue to visit our school web site for our updated calendar and all current school and district information.

Mrs. Gina Almquist
Principal

Mrs. Kerry Carr-Jeschke
Assistant Principal



Volleyball

Thank you to Sr. Rojas and all of the St. Paul staff for hosting our first annual St. Paul Volleyball Tournament on November 24. We are so very proud of our teams for their dedication and sportsmanship. We our students well in their upcoming tournaments at St. Mary and St. Rose.

Christmas Concert

WHEN : Wednesday, December 12th TIME : 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish 9831 – 148 Street NW

**DOORS will open: 9:30 am for the morning dress rehearsal/performance,
6:00 p.m. for the evening performance.**

****All children need to be back at the church at 6:00 p.m. for the evening performance. Parents arriving with children before that time are reminded that they are responsible for the supervision of their children until hall doors open at 6:00 p.m.**

We encourage all families who can attend the morning performance to do so and beat the rush of the evening performance (or encourage Grandparents to attend in the morning).

Concert Seat Raffle

Would you and your family like to win 2 front row seats to this year's Christmas Concert? Starting Tuesday December 4th, tickets can be purchased from the Grade 6 students before and after school in the foyer or in the office daily from 8:30 - 9 and 12:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. until Monday, December 10th noon. The draw will take place at 1pm. Winners will be notified Monday after the draw. Each winning ticket drawn will receive a pew for their family in the first to fourth rows on the left side of the church at the Christmas Concert! Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00, 25 for \$20.00. Proceeds will go towards the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation.

December Assembly

We will be having our school wide assembly on Wednesday, December 19 at 8:45 AM. All parents are welcome to attend!

St. Paul Christmas Mass

Students of St. Paul and Our Lady of Victories Schools will be celebrating Mass at **St. John the Evangelist Church on Thursday, December 20st at 9:00 a.m.** Students will be walking to the church. A special thank you is extended to Ms. Bince and Mrs. Carr-Jeschke for planning this celebration. Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers are always invited to join us in celebrating our faith.

Pancake Breakfast

The parents of St. Paul School will be hosting the Annual Pancake Breakfast for the children and staff of St. Paul School on Thursday, December 20, 2018. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the gym, prepare the pancakes, serve the breakfast and assist with clean up. It is a fantastic event that the children and staff look forward to each year!

*If you are interested in volunteering, please contact
Amanda Tindil at amandatindil@hotmail.com*

Please indicate when you are available to help:

Wednesday, Dec 19th 1:30-3:00PM: Set up tables and serving stations in the gym.

Thursday Dec 20th 9:45-11:30 AM: Serve the pancakes and sausages in gym

Thursday Dec 21st 11:15AM-12:00PM: Assist with clean up in the gym.

Change in Dismissal Time

Just a reminder that **Thursday, December 20 will be a full day of school for students**, with dismissal at 3:00 pm. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Friday, December 21 for Christmas Vacation. Classes will resume on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Calendar of Events

Please refer to our Google Calendar to our monthly events. This is located on our web site.
<https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8225/Calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

Celebrating Advent as a Family

What do January 1st and December 2 have in common this year?

They are both considered a New Year!

The first Sunday in Advent falls on December 2 this year and so it is the first day of our New (liturgical) Year. During this time of advent, we are joyful and hopeful as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This is a time that we can give our children the gift of tradition as we deepen their understanding of the Church's celebration of this season.

Create and use the Advent Wreath as a family to prepare for the birth of Jesus:

The Advent wreath has many rich symbols that can help make the Advent season meaningful to us because we focus on Jesus. At first glance, you see four candles that are evenly spaced around a circle of evergreen branches. But what does it mean?

Circle: The circle is a symbol of God who is eternal and everlasting.

Evergreen plants: Evergreen plants have leaves all year long which symbolize Jesus Christ who has conquered death and given us everlasting life.

Candles: The candles represent Jesus Christ as the light of the world. The warmth of the candle and bright light that it brings during the cold, dark winter help us remember the new life Jesus has given us.

Four candles: The four candles represent the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Each week, we light one more candle.

Three purple candles: Purple was used in ancient Rome as a symbol of royalty. We use purple to remember that Jesus is the Messiah or King. Purple helps us remember that we must prepare in a special way; especially through prayer and penance.

One rose candle: We light the rose candle on week three. This is known as Gaudete Sunday; a Latin word that means rejoice. We know that Christmas is almost here!

Blessing your Advent Wreath as a Family

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent/blessing-an-advent-wreath>

Praying together as a Family

Sit the Advent Wreath in the middle of your table. Light the candle. Say a short prayer from the link below or sing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/prayers>

Have a Blessed Advent.

Kindergarten Registration

We will begin accepting applications for our Early Childhood Program on **Monday, January 14, 2019**. This program is offered to children who will be five years of age on or before **March 1, 2020**. If you have any relatives or friends who have children in this age group, please make them aware of our early childhood program. On registration, we require a photocopy of the birth certificate and baptismal certificate for Sacramental purposes. Registration forms may be picked up from the office on **Monday, January 14, 2019**.

December: It's Not Cool to be Cold!

Did You Know?

- ◆ Snow forts and tunnels can collapse and suffocate a child
- ◆ When children are outside they often do not realize how cold they are becoming
- ◆ Bright sun during the winter can cause a sunburn

What Parents Can Do:

- ◆ Signs of frost nip are slight pain and whitening of the affected area e.g. tips of the ears turn white. Warm the affected area by breathing on it or warming it with your hands but do not rub. Do not apply snow or water.
- ◆ Supervise children when they play outside.
- ◆ Choose play areas with warm shelters nearby.
- ◆ Provide children with a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation on playground equipment.

What Kids Can Do:

- ◆ If you feel pain in your fingers, toes, ears, cheeks, nose or chin, get inside to warm up.
- ◆ Dress in layers. If you get too warm take off one layer at a time.

- ◆ Wear sunscreen on exposed skin on sunny days. ◆ Don't put your tongue on cold metal

If you can only remember one thing:

- ◆ Most of our body heat is lost through our heads, so always wear a hat or toque in cold weather.

Winter Weather

Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location. Parents must then make alternate arrangements to get their child to school. Parents should also ensure that:

- children are supervised at the bus stop
- children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes Transportation Services normal operational procedures for delayed transportation also apply in severe weather conditions. The Carrier is responsible for notifying the School and the Transportation Services office when a route is running late. Parents then have access to 3 different resources (by calling either the school, the Transportation Services office, or directly contacting the carrier) to get an update on the status of a particular route.

CANCELLATION OF YELLOW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE FOR ALL PROGRAMS The following radio and TV stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions:
RADIO STATIONS: CHED/CHQT/CISN/JOE FM CHFA (CBC Fr.) MAGIC 99 CFRN 1260/THE BEAR/CFMG AM 930 (The Light) CJC K-97 CFCW SHINE FM CKER CBC MIX 96 (96 X) TV STATIONS: CITY TV CFRN TV GLOBAL TV CBC TV Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.

Every effort will be made have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m. Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location and the parents must make alternate arrangements to get their child to school.

Please be sure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for winter weather conditions - the weather in Edmonton can change so suddenly. Decisions regarding outdoor activities take into consideration inclement weather from the following conditions: continuous rain, extreme wind, and/or extreme cold. Students do not go outside if the temperature is -20 Celsius or colder or if the temperature and wind chill factor are -20 Celsius or colder.

The front doors remain locked at all times – as per district policy. Children should not arrive at school before 8:08 a.m. as that is when supervision begins. Please remind your children that if you are late picking them up after school they should come into the school office, rather than wait outside, unsupervised

News from St. John the Evangelist Parish

Advent Reconciliation Service Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

There is a short service of a scripture reading and homily, followed by time for individual confession with eight priests available. If you haven't gone to confession for a while, check caedm.ca/confessions for resources. Priests welcome you no matter how long it's been since you have been to Confession, and no matter what you want or need to confess.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Monday, December 24 at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm and Midnight.

Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25 at 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada

Monday, December 31st at 5:00 pm and Tuesday, January 1st at 10:30 am

Share Christmas Tree Dec. 1-2 and Dec. 8-9

St. John the Evangelist Parish is joining with other Churches in the West End to donate Christmas dinners to singles, couples, and families in need. This is a *Christmas Bureau Project*. If you would like to participate in this wonderful St. John the Evangelist tradition, please write your name and contact information on one of the "decorations" from the tree in our entry on these weekends, and leave it with the Volunteer at the tree. Take the other part of the "decoration" home - it has information about what to buy for the size of family you have chosen. Hampers are to be taken to *St. Francis Xavier High School* on December 16th and will be distributed on the same day by the Share Christmas volunteers.



Candy Cane Lane starts Dec. 7.

Stop by our life size outdoor Crèche and take a picture of your child/ren with the Holy Family!

Simbang Gabi These Novena (9 days of prayer) Masses are at 7:00 pm from Dec. 15 to Dec. 23. Everyone is welcome to come to any or all Masses for spiritual preparation for Christmas.

St. John the Evangelist Feast Day is Dec. 27. We will celebrate Mass at 7 pm – 7:30 pm, then have a potluck social in the Hall. This day is part of the 12 days of Christmas so be counter-cultural and keep celebrating Christmas!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Your children are invited to attend this Liturgy at the **10:30 am Masses**. The children are called to the front of the Church and go to the lower hall after the opening prayer; they return to the Church during the Offertory Collection for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents are welcome to join their children, and help is always appreciated, especially when there are large numbers of children. The Senior group is for grades 2-6, and the Junior group is for age 4 – grade 1 or 2. They hear and discuss child-friendly versions of the Mass readings and pray. The Junior group usually does a craft too. Younger children should be able to sit and listen to the Gospel, and respond to the Leaders. If your child is very active, please accompany them. You are especially welcome to be involved in this Ministry if you are a parent of a child coming to these Liturgies - new Leaders are always welcome. Liturgical resources are provided, and you will be trained and supported. Please contact the Parish Office for more information, or speak to the Leaders after Mass.



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

December 2018

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
(*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, JM Neale translator)

Advent is upon us as we begin the month of December, and it is a time filled with joy and promise. The activities in our schools mirror the sentiments of the Advent season as we excitedly prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Although our activities are vastly different today, this anticipation links us back to the Jewish people all those years ago. Our Messiah is soon to arrive, and it is a time of hope for the future!

Each fall, many of our schools and our staff participate in the ***We Care Challenge***. This outstanding endeavor raises significant funds for two Catholic organizations, the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation's Dreams for Kids campaign and Catholic Social Services' Sign of Hope campaign, that have tremendous impact on our ECSD community and beyond. Special thanks to our students, staff, and families for participating in this endeavor.

As I am writing this newsletter, we are preparing for the presentation of our [2018 Audited Financial Statements](#) and our [Three Year Strategic Education Plan 2018-2021 and Annual Education Results Report 2017-2018](#) at our November 27 Public Meeting of the Board. After that meeting, you can click on the links above or visit www.ecsd.net to view those reports.

Our All-City Choir is having their Christmas Concert on December 3 at 7:30 pm at McDougall United Church (10086 MacDonald Dr NW). The All-City Band's Christmas Concert is on December 12 at 7:00 pm at the Myer Horowitz Theatre (8900 114 St NW). Tickets are \$5 at the door, and these concerts will be amazing!

The District Satisfaction Survey will run from November 26 - December 7. Every household will receive one parent survey per child enrolled in an Edmonton Catholic School. Please respond to each survey separately from the point of view of each child's educational experience. You can either return your parent survey to your child's school or use the postage paid envelope and Canada Post. If you don't receive your survey, or if you would like more information about a question as it relates to your school, please phone the principal.

This year's Hour of Code event takes place from December 3-7. This is the fifth year that Edmonton Catholic Schools will be participating. Hour of Code is a global movement that is supported by Code.org with the purpose of reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries through a one-hour introduction to computer science and computer programming.

We live in a world surrounded by technology, and we know that whatever fields our students choose to explore as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. This is a great time to introduce our students to computer programming and for them to see how coding is part of the way the world works. Coding and Computer Science also help to enhance literacy and numeracy skills through computational thinking, collaboration, and problem solving. Our goal is to have 27,000 student and teacher coders participate!

As 2018 comes to a close, I wish you many opportunities to spend time with your family and friends reflecting on the many graces and great love that God has shared over this past year. In 2015 at the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis shared the following thoughts on the gift of Jesus to the Holy Family:

"And His Son, where did He send Him? To a palace? To a city, to start a business? He sent Him to a family! God came into the world in a family. And he was able to do this because this family was a family that had its heart open to love, that had the doors open to love." (09/27/15)

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent

Chapter 3: Gaudete et Exsultate

As we continue to explore Pope Francis' most current Apostolic Exhortation: *On the Call to Holiness in Today's World*, this month we reach chapter three. This chapter is at the center or heart of the exhortation both literally and figuratively. Chapter Three: *In the Light of the Master*, focuses on the life lessons Jesus shared during the Sermon on the Mount. After explaining how to live a blessed life, Jesus says, "Rejoice and be glad!" (MT 5:12) This is the title of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on holiness in everyday life.

Living our faith is a lifelong journey. The Beatitudes are a roadmap that steer us towards holiness. Also referred to as Blessed are..., the Beatitudes demonstrate what it means to be blessed or holy. Pope Francis uses these to remind us of the practical ways we are called to holiness in our everyday life while doing so joyfully. Let's review the Beatitudes. While reading, call to mind that Jesus spoke these words to his people who were being persecuted and judged on his behalf. This was a difficult and challenging time:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(MT 5: 1-12)

Jesus is encouraging all of us to give ourselves to God and live a life that is filled with virtue. When we do so, we receive true life: the happiness which we were created for. If humankind would live out these Beatitudes, life would be simpler, just, peaceful, empathetic, loving, and joyful. People would put their trust in God first and foremost. Today this continues to be a path that "goes against the flow" and is often opposite to society's message. We are constantly called to challenge this and live our lives with mercy and forgiveness. This involves serving others and it also includes forgiveness and understanding. These are two central themes to Pope Francis' papacy and reach the heart of this exhortation.

Pope Francis' Exhortation encourages us to look deep within and ask the questions:

Where am I on the path to holiness?

How do I rejoice and be glad in my faith journey?

God Bless,

Kathleen Nguyen, Elementary Religious Education Consultant

Edmonton Catholic Schools

December 2018

Dear Friends,

In December, we celebrate the event that changed history – the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Day, we will hear these words from the Gospel of Luke. *“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn”* (Luke 2:7).

Last year in my Christmas message I offered you some opportunities to make room for Jesus in your hearts, by listening to the Word of God both at home and in your schools. I ask you to continue to make room for Jesus not only by listening but also by your actions. That is why I am very pleased that Edmonton Catholic Schools has chosen *“Walking Together in God’s Love”* for its theme this year.

This theme finds its source in the words of the prophet Micah. *“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8)

Children and youth who attend our Catholic schools are given an opportunity to practice the way of life outlined by the prophet Micah. Through the modeling that they receive from their parents, teachers and support staff they learn to live the Christian way of life. They are encouraged to act with justice in their dealings with all they meet, not only at home and school, but also on the field, court, ice, streets – everywhere. In this way they are of service to others. Youth and children are fortified in their witnessing by the love of God, which leads them to act with kindness. Lastly, they are inspired to walk humbly with God through acts of worship. In our Catholic Schools, students are given the opportunity to learn about the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They are introduced to the parish and to the life of worship. As Christmas draws near may we come, like the shepherds, to worship Christ!

To all the staff, students and parents of the Edmonton Catholic Schools, I pray that you have a Blessed Christmas!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton