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Michelle Nevil, Principal • Mary Tilleman, Associate Principal

December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Advent: Hope Prayer Service @ 9 AM (hosted by 4/5W)	2
3 SPT Choir is singing at Mass	4	5 St. Nicolas Day	6 Pizza 73 Hot Lunch	7 School Council Meeting at 3:45 PM	8 Advent: Peace Prayer Service @ 9 AM (hosted by 2/3D & 2/3G)	9
10	11	12	13 FREE Hamburger Hot Lunch for all students - provided by our School Council. (donations accepted)	14 Christmas Concert at 7 PM at the Taber Civic Centre	15 Advent: Joy Prayer Service @ 9 AM (hosted by 4/5P)	16
17	18 Red/Green Day	19 Christmas Sweater Day	20 • Christmas Character Day • Advent: Love Prayer Service @ 9 AM (hosted by 1F & 1V) • CEC Board Mtg @ 6 PM	21 • Dress Your Best Day • 11 AM Christmas Mass at St. Augustine Church • Christmas Dinner for students and Staff (Provided by our School Council)	22 School PD Day – No School	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Merry Christmas Christmas Break (December 22 nd – January 7 th)						
31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
Happy New Year!! Christmas Break (December 22 nd – January 7 th)						
Jan. 7	Jan. 8 1 st Day Back for Students & Staff	Jan. 9	Jan. 10 Hot Dog Hot Lunch	Jan. 11 School Council Meeting @ 3:45 PM	Jan. 12 National Sticker Day (Sticker Swap)	Jan. 13

SPT ROCKS

December
2023



Our Motto is **Learning to Love and Loving to Learn**

Celebration Time At SPT



Thanks to the patrons and staff of the Chapters Store in the Market Mall in Calgary. They adopted our school and raise \$1040. Because of this, every family will receive a book for our One Book One Community Literacy Project that will take place in the new year..



ROCK TIME



Rock Time is our weekly assembly that happens the first day back from the weekend at 8:45 AM in our gathering space. You are welcome to join us.

This month we reflecting on these Gospel readings at Rock Time. These are all the Sunday Gospel Readings for December

Mark 13:33-12

Mark 1:1-5

John 1: 6, 19, 23-27



Advent Celebrations will happen on Fridays at 9:00am in our Gathering Space. 4/5W already hosted our first celebration. 2/3D, 2/3G, 4/5P, IV and 1F will host the last 3 celebrations.

"Christmas Stories"

SPT Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 at The Taber Civic Center Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30

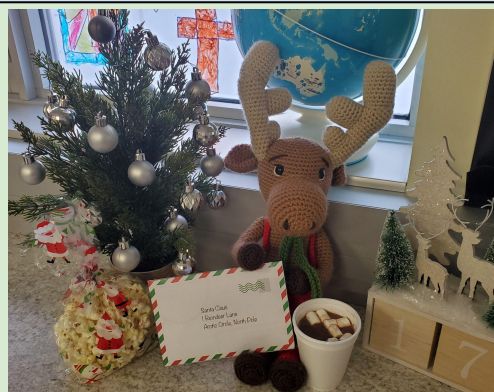
Each family has been given 4 tickets. If you need more, please contact the office to be added to the waiting list. If you have extra that you do not need, please bring them to the school office as soon as possible.

SPT Christmas Mass

Join our school at church on Thursday, December 21 at 11:00.

Christmas Week at SPT Dec. 18-22

Monday - Red/Green Day
Tuesday - Christmas Sweater Day
Wednesday - Santa/Elf Day
Thursday - Dress Your Best Day
Friday - No School



Bruce the Moose is on the loose at SPT for another Advent season. Ask your child about him.

School Council News:

The next school council meetings will be held on:

Thursday, December 7th @ 3:45 PM

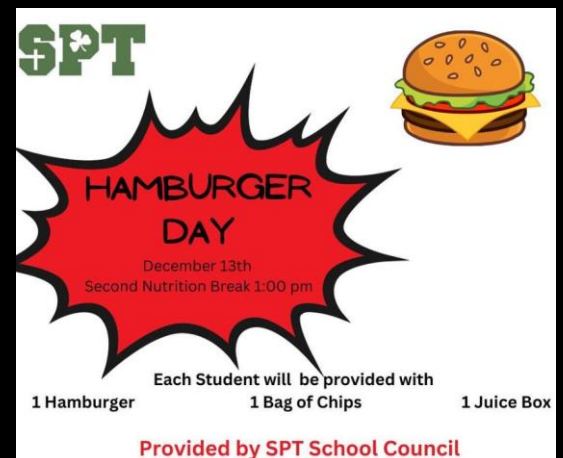
Thursday, January 11th @ 3:45 PM

Follow our SPT School Council on Social Media to stay up-to-date with how they are supporting our SPT School Community. (Click on the links below)

[Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

Upcoming Important School Council Dates:

- December 6, 2023 – Pizza 73 Hot Lunch
- December 13, 2023 – FREE Hamburger Lunch for all students. Lunch will consist of a Hamburger, a bag of chips, and a juice. (provided by school council) (Donations accepted)
- December 21, 2023 – Christmas Dinner for all Students & Staff
- January 10, 2024 – Hot Dog Hot Lunch



SPT Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 14th @ 7 PM

in the Auditorium at the Taber Civic Center



It is with great excitement that we are able to host our annual Christmas Concert at the Taber Civic Center again this year. The theme of our concert is "Christmas Stories"

Due to limited seating capacity and fire safety codes we can no longer have an open-door policy to this concert. We have issued 4 tickets per family and have sent them home with your child(ren). SPT students who are participating in the concert, as well as young children who can sit on laps, do not need a ticket. If you don't need all of your issued tickets, please return them to the school office at your earliest convenience as we have a waiting list of people who are hoping for a few additional tickets for their families to attend.





Christmas Break

December 22nd, 2023 - January 7th, 2024

1st Day of school after Christmas
January 8th, 2024



Thank you to these four PS1 Student Teachers from the University of Lethbridge. They have been with us since November 6th. Their last day will be Thursday, December 14th.











Ms. Hodder in Grade 1V with Mrs. Visscher
Mr. Geronazzo in Grade 1F with Mrs. French



Ms. McCullough in Grade 4/5W with Mrs. Wickson
Mr. Abdalgawad in Grade 4/5G with Ms. Gross

SPT Teacher Office Hours:

Grade 1		Mrs. French (1F)	3 rd Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM *December 12 th January 18 th February 15 th <small>*December office hours changed due to conflict in teacher's schedule.</small>
		Mrs. Visscher (1V)	
Grade 2/3		Mr. De Coste (2/3D)	Last Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM December 21 st January 25 th February 29 th
		Mrs. Gutfriend (2/3G)	Last Wednesday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM December 20 th January 31 st February 28 th
		Mrs. Krishnan (2/3K)	Last Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM December 21 st January 25 th February 29 th
Grade 4/5		Ms. Gross (4/5G)	1 st Tuesday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM December 5 th January 9 th February 6 th
		Miss Paul (4/5P)	
		Mrs. Wickson (4/5W)	

Important Reminders:

Late or Absent Students – Please call our school office by 9:00 AM if your child will be late or absent from school! Our phone number is 403-223-3352.

Agenda Notes – The agenda is an important communication tool between home and the school. If there are any changes in your child's schedule, a change in bus/kidzone schedule, or a change in who is picking up your child, please make note in your child's agenda. If the change occurs during the day, give our school office a call and we will pass on the message to the classroom.

Picking up Students During School Hours – Parents, if you are picking up your child during school hours, please check-in at our office to sign out your child. While signing out, the office will contact your child's homeroom teacher to have your child sent down to the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation by helping us to continue to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Medical Notes/ Medication – If your child needs to take medication at school, please see Mrs. Mankow in the office to fill out the required paperwork. Additionally, please keep us updated on any allergies or medical changes the school should be aware of.

Microwave Use at Nutrition Times – We have two 15-minute Nutrition Breaks for our students to eat and the entire school eats at the same time. Due to the limited time please send your child with lunches that do not require a microwave. This will ensure that all students will have ample time to eat their lunch. More time will be provided in class for those students who need to eat more.

Milk and Juice Program - We are excited to be offering our chocolate milk and juice program again this year. The program will be run by our Grade 5 students with the help of Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Wickson. Chocolate milk and juice will be available for purchase during the 1st Nutrition Break. Milk cards can be purchased at the office or on SchoolCashOnline. **If you pay for a card online, please have your child come to the school office to request the card. Thank you.**



We have two types of cards available:

- 1) \$10 punch card valid for 10 individual milk/juice purchases
- 2) \$20 punch card valid for 20 individual milk/juice purchases.

If you don't want to purchase a punch card, students are also able to purchase milk or juice individually. Each drink is \$1.00

*****Proceeds from the milk program support school activities, STEM, our SPT Leadership Program and our Grade 5 Farewell.*****



Stay Connected:

Check out our school website: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca

School Calendar: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/calendars

Follow us on Social Media:



[St. Patrick School - Taber](https://www.facebook.com/St.PatrickSchool-Taber)



[@spttaber](https://www.instagram.com/spttaber)



[@SPTtaber](https://twitter.com/SPTtaber)

Board Briefs:

Each month, the School Division Trustees publish a summary of their meetings:

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/board_meetings



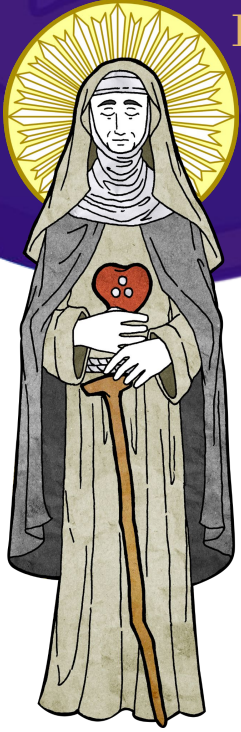
December 2023

Breakfast Program Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥ 1 Crackers Cheese Fruit	♥
♥	♥ 4 Granola Bar + Fruit	♥ 5 Cereal Fruit milk	♥ 6 Toast Fruit	♥ 7 Crackers Cheese Vegetable	♥ 8 Smoothie Day	♥
♥	♥ 11 Crackers Cheese Fruit	♥ 12 Cookie Vegetable	♥ 13 Yogurt Parfait	♥ 14 Toast Vegetable	♥ 15 Trail mix + Fruit	♥
♥	♥ 18 Granola Bar + Fruit	♥ 19 Toast Vegetable	♥ 20 Trail mix + Fruit	♥ 21 Crackers Cheese Veg.	♥ 22 PD Day No School	♥
♥	♥ Happy	♥ Christmas	♥ Holidays	♥ !	♥	♥
♥	♥ 8 Granola Bar Apple Sauce	Notes:				

December

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."

Jeremiah 1:5a

St. Margaret of Castello 1287-1320 (Feast Day: April 13)

Margaret was born in Perugia, Italy in 1287. We know that she was born with a medical condition known as dwarfism, was blind, and had other physical disabilities as well. Her parents, who were nobles, hid her from the public and eventually walled her into a room adjacent to the chapel. It was there that she began her spiritual journey, attending Mass and receiving the sacraments. She became devoutly spiritual during this time of solitude and when she was about 16, her parents took her to a church at Castello, where miracles were said to have happened, seeking for her to be cured. When this did not occur, they abandoned her there.

Consequently, she spent time living amongst the poor of the town before being taken in by a religious family. She joined the Dominican Third Order of Castello, and spent the remainder of her life in prayer, and performing acts of penance and charity to those around her. Her devotion and holiness were so well known in her community that upon her death in 1320, they demanded that she be buried in the local church. She was canonized by Pope Francis in April of 2021, and her incorrupt body still lies in that church in Castello 700 years later.

"Building" In Our Schools

It's important to remember and honour those who have served before us - be it in our community or in service to our country. With the help of Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Picton's students, St. Teresa of Calcutta School held a Remembrance Day service, while St. Mary School in Taber hosted a Community Remembrance Day ceremony. On November 9th, a special Mass was held at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre to honour retired staff for their work and support of Catholic Education. *"I thank my God every time I remember you..."* Philippians 1:3

"For we are God's servants, working together..." 1 Corinthians 3:9a



Corporal Works of Mercy

— Advent —

As we enter Advent this month, we would like to highlight a resource and a request.

In Holy Spirit, we have a divisional license for the [FORMED](#) platform. This service provides abundant Catholic content for your use with your staff, students, or your own formation. For [Advent](#), they have two new series, an interactive Advent calendar, as well as some Advent FAQs. *Rooted* will be a daily Advent reflection video series, while *Drawing Closer to God* is a Catholic art show for kids!

You will also know that we are working collaboratively this year with Chalice to support the St. Odilia building project. A number of schools are working on fundraising efforts through Advent to support this initiative, and recall that you can also make individual donations through [SchoolCashOnline](#). If you or a community partner would like to make a larger contribution, please let us know!



"...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." (Matthew 1:23)



[VIEW FULL SIZE](#)

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For people with disabilities
- Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

[Home Page](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

— Participation —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at subsidiarity - the idea that we should seek to address needs at the most local level and create solutions with those around us. Participation is closely linked to subsidiarity. As part of our living together, we also believe that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives, and to actively involve those around us in those processes, whether economic, social, or political. This is a way of balancing the dignity of each person with the pursuit of the common good.

As Pope Benedict XVI noted in *Caritas in Veritate*,

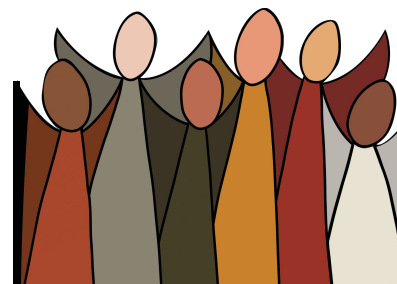
Subsidiarity respects personal dignity by recognizing in the person a subject who is always capable of giving something to others.

The Pope's Prayer Intention this month is for people with disabilities - that they may be at the centre of our societies and that we value their active participation. St. Margaret of Castello shows us the importance of this, and the positive impacts that those with disabilities have on all of us.

Learn more about Participation with one of these resources:

- The Religion Teacher - [Participation](#)
- Caritas EU - [Participation](#)
- USCCB - [Participation](#)

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)



Gospel Readings

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37

“What I say to you I say to all: ‘Watch!’” — Mark 13:37

Whenever something exciting is coming in our lives, we wait for it with great anticipation. If it is a birthday or a holiday, there is a lot to do to prepare for it. We put all our energy into the preparations without hesitation because we know how much fun it will be when the day comes. Today’s scripture reminds us to prepare ourselves with this same excitement and anticipation for Christ’s coming. Since it is the season of Advent, we are preparing to celebrate Christ’s birth. But we are also called to be prepared every day of our lives. Jesus wants us to be ready to meet him any day, any time, anywhere.

An Advent wreath helps us count the four weeks of preparation for Christ’s birth. Does your family have an Advent wreath or another Advent tradition that helps you count the days until Christmas?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, show me how I can best prepare my heart and mind to meet you whenever you come.



December 8, 2023

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

“Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” — Luke 1:38

People sometimes mistakenly believe that this feast is about when Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Instead, this feast day is about MARY’s birth. From the very moment when Mary began to grow in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, she was without sin. Mary received this special grace from God so that she could live unselfishly her entire life.

God knew that Mary would accept his plan to bring Jesus into the world as a human baby, so he prepared a perfect soul for her so she would become the Mother of his perfect Son.

Can you pray the Hail Mary? The first part of that prayer comes from the words the angel Gabriel said when he appeared to Mary.

Prayer:

Sweet Mother Mary, please help me to trust and obey God just like you did.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death.
Amen.



Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Margaret of Castello



Gospel Readings

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

“...prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” — Mark 1:3

Preparing is what everyone seems to be doing this time of the year. People are buying presents, writing cards, making cookies, and decorating homes. These ways of preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth are lots of fun. But how are we preparing our hearts? There are many special things we can do during Advent, such as a Jesse Tree which reminds us of Jesus' lineage. We could do Advent meditations as a family to help us think about Christ's coming. We could find a way to serve those in need together. Or we could just pray together as a family in front of our Christmas tree and ask Jesus to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas. Whatever we choose, let us find a special way our family can “prepare the way of the Lord.”

What will we do as a family this Advent to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to prepare our hearts in a special way as we prepare to celebrate your birth.



December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

“ Rejoice always.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:16

During this time of year, there are many things that can make us feel happy. We enjoy seeing friends and family. We may like looking at Christmas lights that decorate people's homes. The festive food that seems to be present everywhere is extra yummy. But today's scripture calls us to venture beyond “happy” into “rejoicing!” There are so many blessings around us that our joy should be abundant and directed to our God who gives us all good things! Let's share our great joy with those around us, so the light of Christ will shine during this Advent season and continue through the upcoming Christmas season.”

What will we do as a family this Advent to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to prepare our hearts in a special way as we prepare to celebrate your birth.



*“I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the light of life.”
(John 8:12b)*

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” — Luke 1:30

There are times when I do things that I know must disappoint God. There are other times that I've done things that I hope are very pleasing to God. But can you imagine being told directly by an angel that you have found favor with God? That would be amazing! Mary was someone very special to God. He wanted her to carry his Son. She always tried to do everything in her life to please the Lord. During this last day of Advent, ask Mary to pray for us to have the same desire she did, to do everything in our life to make God happy.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us through Mary such a beautiful example of faith.



December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

Today is a day of great rejoicing! Jesus is born! He has come to teach us how to live with love and compassion. He was here when the whole world was created and he is here right now! Let us spend today and the rest of the Christmas season praising him for his goodness to us.

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, thank you for continuing to love us.
Thank you for being the Word of God that speaks to
us of your love.*

Sources:

[NOVENA TO ST. MARGARET OF CITTÀ DI CASTELLO](#)
[The saint who was abandoned by her own parents](#)
[Meet St Margaret of Castello. the pope's unexpected canonization](#)
[St Margaret of Castello Experience at the NCPD Race for Belonging](#)
[In My Heart: The Life of Saint Margaret of Castello](#)
[Margaret of Castello – the unwanted saint](#)
[2023 Daily Prayers for Families](#)