



5302 48th Street Taber, Alberta T1G 1H3
 Phone: (403) 223-3352 • Fax: (403) 223-3855 • spt.holyspirit.ab.ca
 Michelle Nevil, Principal • Mary Tilleman, Associate Principal

January 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year!!					
7	8 1 st Day Back for Students & Staff	9	10 FREE Hot Dog Hot Lunch	11 School Council Meeting @ 3:45 PM	12 National Sticker Day (Sticker Swap)	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 • PJ Day • Gr. 4/5s Skating @ 9-10 AM • Gr. 2/3s Skating @ 10:15-11:15 AM • CEC Board Mtg @ 6 PM	25 • Pizza Hut Hot Lunch • Gr. 1's Skating at 9-10 AM	26	27
28	29 • Gr. 4/5s Skating @ 9-10 AM • Gr. 2/3s Skating @ 10:15-11:15 AM	30	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2 Groundhog Day – Wear PJs or Shorts	Feb. 3



= Grade 4/5 Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)



= Grade 4/5 Thunder Athletics Program (3:15-4:15 PM)



ROCKS



January
2024



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



ROCK TIME



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 soon take place.

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 January

Matthew 2:1-11

John 1:35-42

Mark 1:14-20

Mark 1:21-27



Thank You

Thank you to all who attended our annual Christmas Concert on December 14 and donated to our Silver Collection. Thanks to you, we raised \$ 581.05 for the Taber House and district Program of Meals on Wheels.



Energy Challenge for January



Wear your layers and keep your thermostat at a constant temp.

SPT Going to Thursday Mass Again
Starting February 1, our classes will be going to the church for Thursday 9:00 masses.



Thunder Athletics is beginning for our 4/5 students. It is happening on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on January 16. We will be starting with Volleyball.



Skating at SPT

Wednesday, January 24

Monday, January 29

9:00-10:00 4/5s

10:15-11:15 2/3s

Thursdays, January 25 and February 1

9:00-10:00 Grade 1s

All skating is happening on the large ice. Parents are welcome to join us on the ice as long as they are wearing a helmet. Parents are also welcome to help tie skates. Thank you so much.

Be prepared for the cold. We will go outside until it is -20 degrees celsius.



SPT Teacher Office Hours:

The teacher office hours are set aside for you to get to know your child's teacher, address any concerns you may have about your child's learning, or if you need help with SPACES, etc. Let your child's teacher know you would like to meet with them during their scheduled office hours.

Grade 1		Mrs. French (1F)	3 rd Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM January 18 th February 15 th
		Mrs. Visscher (1V)	
Grade 2/3		Mr. De Coste (2/3D)	Last Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM January 25 th February 29 th
		Mrs. Gutfriend (2/3G)	Last Wednesday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM January 31 st February 28 th
		Mrs. Krishnan (2/3K)	Last Thursday of each month from 3:30 – 4:30 PM 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 January 9 th February 6 th
		Miss Paul (4/5P)	
		Mrs. Wickson (4/5W)	

School Council News:

The next school council meetings will be held on:

Thursday, January 11th @ 3:45 PM

Thursday, February 8th @ 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:

- January 10, 2024 – FREE Hot Dog Hot Lunch provided by School Council
- January 25, 2024 – Pizza Hut Hot Lunch (order deadline: January 12th)

It is important that your child comes to school prepared to go outside for recess. The only time our students stay inside for recess is when the weather feels colder than -20 degrees Celsius.

Please make sure your child comes to school with warm clothes. A winter coat, snow boots, gloves/mittens and toque/earmuffs are very important. **Please label all of your child's winter gear.**



Skating – January 2024



We have booked the Taber Ice Arena (4720 50 St, Taber, AB T1G 2B6) for our Grade 1-5 students to go skating at the end of January. See the time schedule below. Weather permitting, the classes are planning to walk to the skating rink, otherwise they will be transported by bus. School Admin will be transporting their skates and helmets to the rink, so please place your child's items in a labeled bag.

January 24th @ 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 4/5's	January 25 @ 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 1's	January 29th @ 10:15-11:15 AM Grade 2/3's
January 24th @ 10:15-11:15 AM Grade 2/3's	January 29th @ 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 4/5's	February 1st @ 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 1's

If your child is planning to participate but is in need of skates or a helmet, please let their teacher know as soon as possible. We have some available at school for them to use.

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](#)



[@spttaber](#)



[@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



January 2024

Breakfast Program Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
♥	♥8 Granola Bar + Fruit	♥9 Cereal milk Fruit	♥10 Egg Wraps + Fruit	♥11 Trail mix + Fruit	♥12 Smoothie Day	♥
♥	♥15 Crackers Cheese Fruit	♥16 Cookie Vegetable Yogurt	♥17 Yogurt Parfait	♥18 Toast + Vegetable	♥19 Trail mix + Fruit	♥
♥	♥22 Granola Bar + Fruit	♥23 Cereal milk Fruit	♥24 Egg Wraps + Fruit	♥25 Yogurt Parfait	♥26 Smoothie Day	♥
♥	♥29 Crackers Cheese Fruit	♥30 Cookie Vegetable Yogurt	♥31 Yogurt Parfait	FEBRUARY ♥1 Toast + Vegetable	♥2 Trail mix + Fruit	♥
♥	♥5 Granola Bar + Fruit	♥6 Cereal Milk Fruit	♥7 Egg Wraps + Fruit	♥8 Crackers Cheese Fruit	♥9 Smoothie Day	♥
♥	♥	Notes:				

Take the next step with...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2024/2025 REGISTRATION

Re-Registration Starts January 15, 2024

Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 15-19, 2024 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2024/2025 school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.

New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2024

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to register online starting on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

- Through play, our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- **Grade 1** registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- **French Immersion** is also available. Enrollment starts:
 - in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
 - in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.

For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.

January

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"

James 2:15-16

St. Martin de Porres 1579-1639 (Feast Day: November 3)

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. His father, a Spanish nobleman, abandoned the family, and so Martin was raised by his mother, a former enslaved person from Panama. Martin grew up in poverty and eventually became an apprentice to a barber-surgeon. During this time, there was prejudice and discrimination against those of mixed racial heritage, which made Martin's life very difficult. This even extended to the religious life, as he was not allowed to become a full member of a religious order and could serve only as a lay volunteer.

Martin, however, was not deterred by this discrimination. He joined the Dominicans as a volunteer, taking on kitchen work, cleaning, and laundry in addition to his barbering so that he could live in the religious community. He considered all of this work to be holy, and during this time many miracles occurred. At the age of 34, Martin was placed in charge of the infirmary, where he cared for both the sick of the Dominicans as well as the larger community of Lima. He was known for his patience and compassion in this role. During his life he also was well known for the collection of funds to serve the poor and hungry, and he also founded a residence for orphans in Lima. He was also well known for his care for animals, and is often shown with them in his imagery. When he was canonized in 1962, he became the first black saint of the Americas.

"Building" In Our Schools

This past month, our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division joined together to celebrate the season of Advent through our Advent Blessing videos. For each week of Advent, a video was created that included a Gospel reading, reflection, artwork, and music, all provided by students within the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. The videos were a shining representation of staff and students joining together in remembrance and celebration of the arrival of Jesus, and in the hope of his return.



Corporal Works of Mercy — Give Drink to the Thirsty —

While often connected to Feed the Hungry, the Corporal Work of Giving Drink to the Thirsty is actually a separate work. If we think about the context of Christ's time, we recognize the scarcity and importance of water in the arid land He inhabited (something we know about in our area as well!). Water is often referred to in scripture, both in concrete and spiritual ways. If we think about the concrete action of giving drink to another, we can see in it a gracious act of hospitality, a thoughtful expression of love, and a desire to seek the good of the other. We all know the importance of water to our bodies, how clean water impacts health, and how access to water is limited, not just in far away places but also very close to home.

Consider one of the following practical suggestions from the USCCB:

- We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need.
- Organize a group to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families.
- Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

"Always consider others as more holy and more worthy than you, at the same time strive to be as holy as you can be." (St. Martin de Porres)

Catholic Social Teaching — Preferential Option for the Poor —

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 participation - the belief that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives. This supports subsidiarity, the dignity of the human person, and the pursuit of the common good.

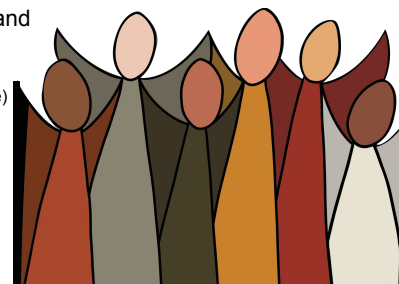
This month, we are considering the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, also known as the Preferential Option for the Poor. As Development and Peace Canada suggests,

The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable people are treated. God loves all people, but prioritizes and calls us to a unique concern for the poor.

Throughout scripture, we see constantly that God is keenly interested in those at the margins, and He calls us to live in solidarity with them, prioritizing their needs so that they can fully participate in society and have hope for a better future. Each of our recent Popes, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, have written extensively about this - and we see it constantly lived out by the saints, including St. Martin de Porres.

Learn more about the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable with one of these resources:

[Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) (YouTube)
[Preferential Option for the Poor](#)
[Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) (USCBC)



Gospel Readings

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star..." — Matthew 2:10

The Magi were called to find the child that had come into the world as a king. They knew that he was the chosen one. They made many sacrifices in order to find him, and most likely encountered hardships on their journey. They didn't quit. They didn't give up. They persevered. Can you imagine their joy in finally arriving at their destination, the place where the child lay in his mother's arms? It must have been the greatest blessing they'd ever known. We can have that same joy when we seek out Jesus in our lives and find him.

How do you seek Jesus in your life? When you find him, how does it make you feel?

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to look and search for you in our lives with the same desire that the Magi had when they set out on their journey.



January 14, 2024

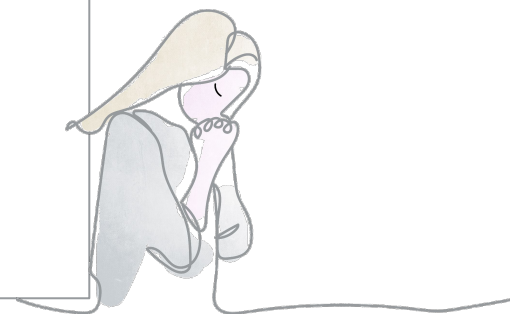
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." — 1 Samuel 3:10

Many times we enter into prayer with a long list of requests—things we think God should do for us because we know what's best. But in today's scripture, God is the one calling out to Samuel. When Samuel realizes that it is the Lord speaking to him, he doesn't say what he wants. Instead, he says that he is ready to hear what God wants of him. As usual, the Bible is setting an example for how we should live our own lives to grow closer to God. The next time you feel like sitting down with your list for God in prayer, try something new. Sit and listen to what God wants to say to you.

What are some places where you like to pray? Do they help you quiet yourself enough for you to hear God speaking to you?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to quiet myself in prayer to hear what you want to say to me.

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Martin de Porres



[Home Page](#)

Gospel Readings

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." — Mark 1:17

This is a little confusing, isn't it? The men that Jesus called to follow him were fishers of fish. What did he mean when he said he would make them fishers of men? Jesus hoped that these men he chose would set such a beautiful example of their faith in God that it would attract other people to also want to follow Jesus. This is something that we are all called to do. If we love Jesus and try to live our lives reflecting his light, then we too will become "fishers of men."

What is one thing Jesus' disciples did then that we can still do today to help people know and follow Jesus?



Prayer:

Lord, help us to love you so much that all we do, say, think, and feel will radiate the love we have for you. Please allow that light to touch those we meet each day, so that they too will want to follow you.

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

"A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." — Mark 1:27

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt the presence of evil? Maybe a TV show scared you, or you met someone who was really mean. In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us that if we ask anything in Jesus' name, especially against evil, that he can make that evil go away. What an awesome God! All we have to do is ask! So the next time you are feeling afraid or hurt, call on the name of Jesus and see what happens.

When do you feel most fearful? Remember to call on Jesus and he will help you!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, your name is above all names. You are Lord, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lamb of God. We love you and praise you for your powerful presence in our lives.



Sources:

[St. Martin de Porres Quotes](#)
[Story of Saint Martin de Porres](#)
[Saint Martin de Porres](#)

[7 fascinating facts about St. Martin de Porres, the first black saint of the Americas](#)
[Martin de Porres](#)



Holy Spirit Catholic Division
Presents:

Resiliency & Self-Care

January 16th, 5:30 pm

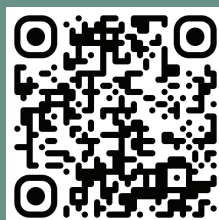
Essie's Ballroom

Sandman Signature, 320
Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge Ab

Join us as Lethbridge Family Services will
present for a night of learning and good (free)
food!

Please RSVP at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>



Billy Woitte



ISWAG
Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
woitteb@holyspirit.ab.ca
(403)635-2415

Emily Williston



SWAG
Student Wellness Access Guide
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
willistone@holyspirit.ab.ca
(403)308-2445

Lethbridge Family Services

Lethbridge Family Services provides highly-accredited health and social services to over 9,000 individuals and families in more than 30 communities in southwestern Alberta. The Outreach and Education team works with individuals, caregivers and professional to facilitate insight, awareness and enhance skills.

This is a FREE event.

Intended audience: parents, guardians, caregivers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, childcare providers, all school staff, bus drivers, parishioner's

Please RSVP at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>



Baby & Me

This class is targeted for new parents with children 0-12 months.

Join us to learn about the rewards and challenges of being a new parent, infant development and milestones, get community information and resources and make new friends.

TUESDAY

Jan 23rd - Mar 26th

10:00-11:30 am

Taber FCSS

5404 50 Ave

Classes are
**FREE of
Charge!**

**Registration
Required**

For more information contact

Lauren

text/call: (403) 331-1325

lauren.tams@fcss.ca

Register Online: <https://fcss.ca/event/baby-me-taber-rsvp/>

FCSS
Family & Community
Support Services
www.fcss.ca

Photo by Shopify Partners from Burst

Alberta Government

Stay & Play

Drop-in Program for Parents/Caregivers & Children (birth to 5).

Learning through **play** children develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences.

WEDNESDAY Evenings

6:00-7:00 pm

January 17th - March 27th

Taber FCSS

5404 50 Ave

For more information contact:

Lauren

403-331-1325

lauren.tams@fcss.ca

FCSS
Family & Community
Support Services
www.fcss.ca

Alberta Government

Photo by Atikah Akhtar on Unsplash

Rainbows For All Children



No Charge

A program for all children ages 6-8 yrs of age, that helps children who are grieving the loss of a parent or guardian due to death, divorce, deployment, or trauma.



Rainbows can...

- ⇒ Help children to engage with their own individual journey -to identify, name, understand, manage, express and share their feelings
- ⇒ Provide a safe setting to tell and retell feelings and thoughts with trained listeners
- ⇒ Support to come to terms with loss and to integrate and adapt to loss in their lives
- ⇒ Allow them to have a shared experience and identification with others' feelings... "I'm not the only one."
- ⇒ Acknowledge the grief... "It's ok to be sad"
- ⇒ Support the rebuilding of self-esteem, trust, confidence and resilience
- ⇒ It provides a model of coping and support for the future life of a child.

WEDNESDAYS, January 17th - February 28th

4:00-4:45 pm

Taber FCSS - 5404 50th Ave

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Deadline date Jan 15th ~ maximum of 6



TO REGISTER: contact Tanie - call/text 587-370-0215 or email tanie.reid-walker@fcss.ca or register online: fcss.ca/event/rainbows-for-all-children-level-i-taber-rsvp-4/

Move it! Move it!

THURSDAYS
January 11th - March 28th
1:30-2:30 pm
Barnwell FCSS

500 2st W

For more information contact

Lauren

403-331-1325

lauren.tams@fcss.ca

This drop-in program inspires movement and muscle development through activities and play. Grown-ups together with their children 0-6 years of age.



I like to move it move it !

Photo by Brett Wharton on Unsplash

Alberta Government

Saint Augustine's

Smoked Brisket

Feast

& Gift Basket Draws

February 11, 2024

Saint Augustine's Parish Hall

Two Dinner Sitzings; at 4:30pm and 6:00pm

Ticket Prices: Adults... \$20 • Kids 6-10... \$10 • Kids Under 6... Free

For tickets please ask a CWL member,
or contact the Parish Office: 403-223-2226

