St. Mary Catholic Elementary School

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NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

October gave us an opportunity to celebrate our many blessings with our families with thanks to God for his goodness. November is a special time to reflect on the sacrifices others have made for us so that we can enjoy peace and freedom in Canada. We are especially reminded this month of our role in helping to keep Canada a safe and peace-filled country. Our words, actions and attitudes all affect the peace in our homes, community and country. We teach our students that "peace" begins here… In our hearts and in our daily interactions with one another in the classroom, hallways and on the playground. Watching our student's model compassion, understanding and forgiveness encourages us to have hope in the present and for our future. Please join us as we focus on peace at our Remembrance Day liturgy on Tuesday, November 10, at 10:45 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you this month and thank you for your dedication to our school and the support you provide.



PRAYER FOR PEACE MAKING

Jesus, rightful Advocate of peace, teach me to carry the torch of peace, That it may reside within my heart and radiate in my surroundings. Through the Grace of Your power, transform the world into a Heaven. You are the only hope of mankind: You are the most gracious Peace Maker. Amen.

STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:

Website: https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8237
Instagram: @st_mary_elementary https://www.instagram.com/st_mary_elementary/?hl=en

Important Dates

October 24 - November 11 National Poppy Campaign

There is NO time change this year.

Alberta remains on Daylight Savings Time the entire year

November 1 All Saints Day

November 2 All Souls Day

School Council Meeting at 6:00 pm in school or online link found on the website

November 4 Grade 5A to No Stone Left Alone Ceremony at Beechmount Cemetery

Student Preview of the Scholastic Book Fair

Healthy Hunger order deadline 11:59 p.m.

November 5 Scholastic Book Fair 9:00 am - 11:00 am - opportunity for student purchases

Parent Teacher Conference 1:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Scholastic Book Fair 1:00 pm - 7:30 pm

November 7 Inuit Day

November 8 National Indigenous Veterans Day

November 9 Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch - A&W. Order deadline Wednesday November 4 at 11:59 pm

November 10 Remembrance Day liturgy in School Gym 10:45 a.m. - All are Welcome

All Uniformed First Responders are invited to attend as special guests

November 11-13 Remembrance Day/Fall Break - NO CLASSES

November 16-20 Metis Week celebrated

November 16 Classes resume

International Day for Tolerance

Metis Day

November 18 Lifetouch Photo Retakes



November 20 National Child Day

Grades 1A and 2A Creative Caravan In-school activity

Grades 1/2A and 3A Clay for Kids In-school activity

November 23 Healthy Hunger Pizza Hot Lunch - Order Deadline Wednesday, November 18 at 11:59 pm

November 25 School Observation of Holodomor Memorial Day

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

SCHOOL FEES

Government approved school fees charged are used in student programming and/or services throughout the school year. Please review your child's school fees for payment in the parent Powerschool Portal https://powerschool.ecsd.net. Payment of fees is requested as soon as possible. Approved fieldtrip fees are added to accounts as they occur. Bus fees are available for payment through the parent portal on a monthly or yearly basis. If there are any questions in accessing your child's account in Powerschool, please feel free to contact the school office.

NO STONE LEFT ALONE - November 4 Beechmount Cemetery



On Wednesday, November 4, Grade 5A students will attend the No Stone Left Alone ceremony at Beechmount Cemetery. The mission is to honour the service and sacrifice of Canada's military by educating and inspiring youth to place poppies on veterans' headstones.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - November 5

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in conjunction with parent/teacher conferencing. The book fair will run from 1:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Thursday, November 5, giving students the opportunity to shop with their parents. The morning of Wednesday, November 4, students will have the opportunity to preview the book fair. Students will also have the opportunity to shop the bookfair on the morning of November 5 from 9-11 am before conferencing with their parents in the afternoon.

REMEMBRANCE DAY LITURGY - November 10 @ 10:45 a.m.

As part of our upcoming Remembrance Day service, we invite parents and students who are part of organizations such as **Boy Scouts, Girl Guides**, or **First Responders** to attend in uniform, if possible.

First Responders are asked to email Diane.Ngu@ecsd.net if you are able to attend.

All students will receive a poppy during the service. Donations to the National Poppy Campaign can be sent with your child to their classroom teacher or dropped off at the school office. Poppies are available in the school office from October 31.

Thank you for your support as we honor and remember those who have served.



Lest we Forget



NOVEMBER 11- 13 - NO CLASSES
Division Wide Remembrance Day Weekend/Fall Break

Edmonton Catholic School Division Remembrance Day/Fall Break weekend will have

NO CLASSES from Wednesday, November 11 through Friday, November 13.

Classes resume at 8:15 on Monday, November 16.

METIS WEEK November 16-20

Métis Week is an annual commemoration held in November to honour the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Métis people, in Canada. This week of recognition centers on Louis Riel Day, marking the anniversary of Riel's execution in 1885. Métis Week includes ceremonies, educational events, and community gatherings to celebrate Métis identity, honour historical resilience, and highlight the ongoing contributions of the Métis Nation. It serves as a time for both reflection and pride, acknowledging past injustices while celebrating the vibrant Métis culture and the strength of its people today.



LIFETOUCH PHOTO RETAKES - Wednesday, November 18 a.m.

SCHOOL COUNCIL INFO

- **November 2** - Monday - School Council Meeting @ 6 pm - In school and virtual link. See website for link and agenda. All are welcome.
- **November 9** - Healthy Hunger A&W Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, November 4 @ 11:59 pm
- **November 23** - Healthy Hunger Pizza Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, November 18 @11:59 pm
- School Council minutes are posted on the St. Mary website www.stmary@ecsd.net within days of the meeting.
- Visit the link https://stmary.ecsd.net/search?search-term=school+council+minutes&file-type=&exclude-search-term= to review and find links to attend virtually.




PROPER WEATHER ATTIRE




As the weather turns colder, it is important for students to come to school adequately dressed for the outside elements. **Please ensure that your child is prepared for the weather** so that they can still go outside and fully participate in recess. Division policy states that when the temperature, or combined temperature and wind chill, exceeds -20º C students are to stay in for recess. Office staff continually monitor the weather to ensure that the temperature is conducive to outside play. In the event of inclement weather in the early morning, at 8:00 a.m. supervising teachers will bring students into the school.



BUSSING 2026-2027



All NEW applications, changes to bussing addresses, or cancellations requests **must** be completed online through the following link

https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/

Parents are asked to monitor their Powerschool Parent portal weekly to obtain their child's route information and check for any changes to the schedule. Bus pass fees for 2026-27 are all $70.00 for both Yellow bus and ETS, with no additional family plan discount. Bus payments are made through the Powerschool parent portal. Eligibility for bussing this school year, as changed by the Alberta Government, requires access for bussing to be at least 1.6 kilometers from the school.

Bus Passes This school year there will be no bus passes issued to students. Bus drivers will take attendance of their passengers according to their updated running boards.

Bus Delays Bus delays are posted on the division website through the BusPlanner website https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/Alerts or can be accessed through the bus delay app **BusPlanner Delays** App on your mobile phone. Students are encouraged to be at their stop at least 5 minutes before their pick up time. If a bus **does not arrive within 10 minutes** of its scheduled time, please ensure your child knows to notify an adult. No matter how late a bus runs behind schedule, the driver finishes the route. But we do recommend that after 20 minutes, you make other arrangements.

Any questions on bussing should be directed to our Transportation Department directly at 780-441-6078.

CANCELLATION OF CHARTER (YELLOW) SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

RADIO STATIONS

880 CHED	AM 930 The Light CJCA	CBC	
CISN FM 103.9	SHINE 105.9 FM	CHFA (CBC Fr.)	
FRESH FM 92.5	TSN 1260	CFCW 790	
INEWS 880 AM	95.7 CRUZ FM	CAPITAL FM 96.3	The
Bounce FM 91.7	The Bear 100.3 FM	K97 97.3	
UP! 99.3 FM	SONIC 102.9 FM	102.3 NOW! Radio	
HOT 107 FM	104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM		

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

Every effort is made to keep parents informed as to any delays with school buses. **Daily bus delays** can also be checked at https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/Alerts

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PRACTICE

Throughout the year various emergency procedures will be practiced. We have had three practices since September. A practice may be an On Alert, a Lockdown, Fire Drill or an Evacuation.

- An "On Alert" is a precautionary measure issued to keep students safe inside the school or classroom until the external environment is clear. Examples of why we might issue an "On Alert" are: someone needs medial attention and the EMS is on site or coming, an emergency situation in the neighborhood is occurring and the Police have asked us to stay put as a safety measure. Normal teaching continues with the "On Alert" as students stay inside their classrooms.
- A "Lockdown" involves more of a high emergency response where there is potentially imminent danger inside or outside the school. This situation involves a lockdown of staff and students in their classrooms and a lockdown of the entire school building. Students are seated in a safe place in their classroom with the lights off and the blinds drawn to obstruct the view of the classroom from the outside.
- An "Evacuation" will only take place in extreme cases and we will evacuate to Earl Buxton School. Edmonton Catholic Community Relations will be involved in reporting information to parents should this occur.

Staff and students have responded well to these practice situations and we will continue to practice various scenarios throughout the school year. Should you come to the school during a practice, a sign on the front door will indicate such and you will be asked to stay outside until the practice is over.

BIRTHDAYS & Healthy Food Choices at School

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's well-being, and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Any food and beverages served at school for special celebrations will be from the "Choose Most Often" or "Choose Sometime" categories as outlined in the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth (2008). Along with this, parents will be notified in advance so they may inform the teacher if they would not like their child to consume the food provided. To respect and support parents in their role as providers for their children and in consideration of severe allergies, we ask that **NO food be sent to school for birthdays or to be shared with other students at any time.** The office and teachers will acknowledge birthdays in their own way and we will leave the birthday parties for home. Thank you for your support with this.

MONTHYLY REMINDERS

PARKING

Drop Off & Pick Up

Please do not park in the bus lane at any time.

The church across the street allows parents to use their lot before and after school. You are welcome to use the DROP & GO lane on the east side of the school if you are stopping to let out students only. This is NOT for parents who wish to get out of their vehicle.

Please follow the link https://arcg.is/1H4ieS1 or use the QR code to view the map explaining which zones are for parking and which are for driving through only. Parking is available in the church lot during pick up and drop off.

SICK — *STAY HOME WHEN SICK*



We want to remind families that students learn best when they feel their best. If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home to rest and recover. This helps maintain a healthy learning environment for everyone. If your child needs to miss school due to illness, please submit an absence through SchoolMessenger or contact our office.

ABSENCES — *REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE*

Need to report a student absence? ECSD uses the SchoolMessenger SafeArrival system. Download the app, visit the website, or call in anytime. It's a quick and convenient way to keep your school informed. Find all the details at https://www.ecsd.net/reporting-absences. In this app you can also view messages sent out from your school which can help you stay informed.

LUNCHES — *LUNCH drop offs*

We encourage children to bring their lunch with them as they arrive to school in the morning as to limit disruption to learning and work flow. **Noon drop offs of fast food items are discouraged. All essentials for eating their lunch should be packed as the school does not provide disposable supplies - cutlery etc. for student use.** Healthy lunches are encouraged together with reducing disposable waste.

As was the procedure last school year, students will have recess first from 11:54 am - 12:14 pm and will eat their lunch from 12:14 pm to 12:34 pm.

ALLERGIES — *ALLERGY ALERT*

In support of our students with severe allergies that can cause serious illness - or worse, we'd like to make the whole community aware that we have several students with nuts and nut product allergies. Students with these allergies are identified for staff in cases of emergency and many of the children have been taught to be 'on guard' for their personal safety. We would also like to ask you, the parent community, to please consider these children when making choices about lunches and snacks for your own children.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

VOLUNTEERING — *VOLUNTEERING IN THE SCHOOL*

Edmonton Catholic Schools appreciates the services of all its volunteers. In order to ensure your safety and the safety of all our students, all volunteers and must complete a Volunteer registration form. Forms were sent home with your child in the first days of school and are also available in the office.

Along with completion of the registration form, **all visitors to the school MUST identify themselves before entry into the building, sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge while in the building.**

We appreciate this may be an inconvenience, however it is required to ensure the safety of all students, staff, visitors and volunteers.

TOYS — *TOYS AT SCHOOL*

We know students often enjoy bringing special toys and treasures from home to share with friends. While we appreciate their excitement, we kindly ask that toys remain at home unless they have been specifically requested by the classroom teacher.

Toys brought to school can sometimes become lost, damaged, or create distractions and disagreements among students. We have noticed that some students are even making trades during school. Keeping toys at home helps us maintain a safe, focused, and positive learning environment for everyone.

Thank you for your support and partnership. If your child would like to share something special with their classmates, please encourage them to check with their teacher first.

DOGS — *DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS*

While we are a dog loving community, there are some safety considerations during drop off and pick up at school. If you are bringing your dog during these times, please ensure that you are in control of the dog and maintaining a safe distance from the students. Please click here to see the Edmonton City Bylaw regarding No dogs allowed on school grounds and some other public locations. Consider determining a meeting spot with your child/children if you will be bringing your dog to pick up or drop off. Although we know you may have a friendly dog, sometimes a situation can cause an unpredictable response from the pet. Please pass this message along to anyone who may be picking up students.

YMCA CHILD CARE at ST. MARY for 2026-2027 *(Before & After, Kindercare & 4 Year Olds)*

St. Mary continues to have YMCA Before and After School Child Care as well as Kindercare morning and afternoon programs for this school year, along with a 4-year-old program. As the daycare operates independently from the school, for more information please visit https://ymcanab.ca/programs/child-care or contact their director, Beth Pede at 587-710-7815 or by email at beth.pede@northernalberta.ymca.ca or northernalberta.ymca.ca.

The Mass Revealed: Understand. Celebrate. Participate.

Why do Catholics go to Mass? What is the Eucharist? Why do we stand, kneel, and sing?
A new video series and companion learning guide are now available to help students and families learn about the different elements that make up a Catholic Mass.

Created in partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, Edmonton Catholic Schools, and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools, The Mass Revealed features 16 short videos that provide information on the prayers, symbols, gestures, sacred spaces, objects, and traditions of the Catholic Mass.

We invite families to watch the videos together, talk about what they learn, and then experience Mass with a deeper understanding by actively participating in its celebration.

Visit ecsd.net/massrevealed to learn more.





ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3 Tel: 780 434 6313 Website: stm.caedm.ca email: communications.stm@caedm.ca



NOVEMBER SCHOOL BULLETIN



St. Thomas More Parish Sunday Mass Times:
Saturday (Vigil Mass): Confession 2:30 to 4 p.m. Mass at 4:30 pm
Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm

Spring Session for Confirmation

Registration is open for our spring Confirmation classes. Students in grade 6 or a higher grade can participate.

03-Mar: Session 1 &
Orientation (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
10-Mar: Session 2 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
17-Mar: Session 3 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
07-Apr: Session 4 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
14-Apr: Session 5 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
21-Apr: Session 6 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
28-Apr: Session 7 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
12-May: Session 8 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
19-May: Session 9 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)

15-May: Retreat & Confession (10:00am – 2:30pm)
31-May: Confirmation Mass at 7:00pm

More information can be found here:

https://stm.caedm.ca/confirmation-prep/

Congratulations to the 78 students who celebrated First Communion at St. Thomas More on Oct. 25. May God bless you as you continue your faith journey.

Check out our youth groups! An opportunity to gather with others your age at the parish.

For junior high:
https://stm.caedm.ca/junior-high-minist

For high school:
https://stm.caedm.ca/youth-ministry/

St. Thomas More welcomes two associate pastors!

Fr. Pradeep Suranga Peiris is a Franciscan priest from Sri Lanka, belonging to the Province of Our Lady of Lanka. He was ordained a priest on January 10, 2020. From 2022 to March 2026, he served as Provincial Bursar and Provincial Secretary, alongside his pastoral ministry. He looks forward to sharing faith, friendship, and Franciscan fraternity with us all.



Fr. Jude Perara is from Sri Lanka and belongs to the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. He has been a Franciscan for 28 years. He was ordained in 2007 and studied at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, then was principal at Loyola branch College in Sri Lanka. He was a missionary in West Virginia from 2018 to 2024. He looks forward to a joyful faith journey with us all.