



St. Stephen Parish

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Phone 403-782-3514

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Web: <https://ststephenlacombe.caedm.ca/>

Office Hours: 9:00 –12:00 & 1:00 –3:00 Tuesday—Friday

November 8, 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Catholic Education Sunday
Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 63
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday evening @ 7pm

Friday morning @ 9am

Celebration of the Lords Day Mass:

Saturday evening @ 5pm

Sunday morning @ 11am



As we come to the end of the church year, our readings remind us of the end times, and today's gospel is no exception. We are reminded to be spiritually ready and prepared for what comes next, especially our own final end in death. These reminders are especially poignant as we are living with the results of the pandemic, remembering all the lives lost throughout the world in the past 8 months.

What does this story of 1st century Palestine Jewish wedding customs have to say to us today? Traditionally, the groom negotiated for the bride with her father and family. The bartering could go on for days, a sign that the bride was indeed treasured. When both sides came to an agreement, the groom and his family attendants would arrive to take the bride to his home. Then the party would begin!

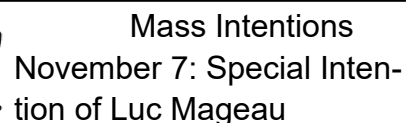
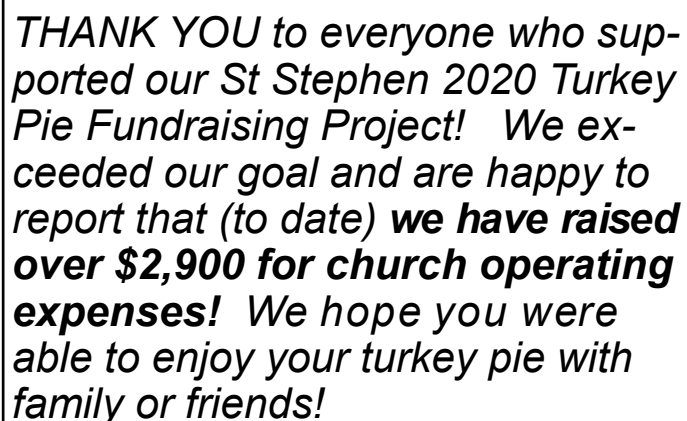
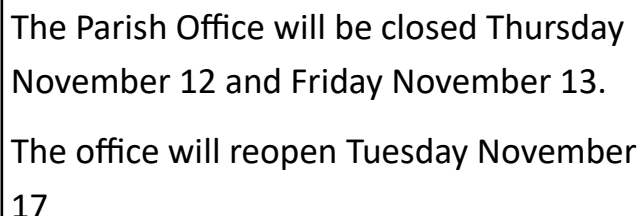
However, when the time came, half the women were locked out because they weren't ready after all their waiting; their lamps had gone out. Instead, they were at the store when it was time to enter the feast. How could this story have worked out differently? Could the women have been more prepared? Could they have changed and thought and planned ahead?

Looking to the first reading, I believe the emphasis is on being wise. Being wise in terms of Jesus means knowing that we are all waiting, and that this waiting is with the assurance that he will come; the waiting is not just a waste of time. And part of the waiting is having the oil to greet the bridegroom.

How do you wait? I'm usually impatient, trying to find the shortest line, the smallest crowd, the quickest way in and out. During these past 8 months, I have come to see the graces of waiting, of slowing down, of being attentive. I am more present to the One who will come, even though I don't know when.

We still have time to change. The door is not locked for us yet. God is available to us now with the gift of Wisdom, to show us what we must still do to keep a good supply of oil. We acknowledge our need and dependence upon God so that we may be able to shed the light of our faith on the world. May we be ready, living the life that Jesus recommended in last week's scriptures: being peaceful, and kind, and merciful... as we await our end time.

St. Matthew Church in Rocky Mountain House will be offering a chance to attend a Called to Protect Workshop. The workshop will be on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:30AM to 12:00 Noon at St. Matthew Church (5208 53 Avenue). Those attending the workshop will be required to wear a mask (no face shields). Social distancing seating protocol will be followed. Please call or text 403-845-3457 to register at the parish office.

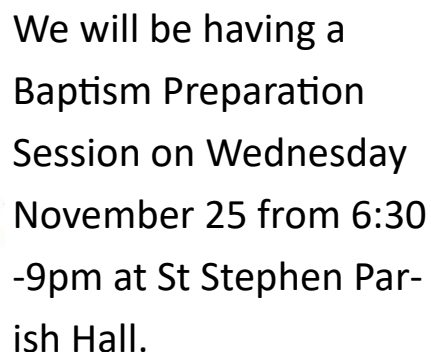


November 13: Special In-
tention of Dennis & Debra Brier

November 14: Special In-
tention of Courtney Corbel



Before weekend Masses or by appointment.
Please contact the parish office to make an
appointment 403 782-3514



The hearing of Christ's Word demands a silent and attentive listening. This requires effort and determination. Living in a world of noise, we must be always cultivating, with the help of God's grace, an inner stillness in which we are disposed to hear and be transformed by the Word of God.


October 2020

Catholic Education Theme for 2020-2021

Isaiah 40:31



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

Alberta Bishops' Letter: English
 Alberta Bishops' Letter: French

In Times like These

Catholic Education Sunday is just around the corner. This year our schools will be celebrating differently; but without doubt, we **will** be celebrating!

Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift that only two other provinces and two territories share with Alberta. It is at times like these, that the unique and distinct nature of Catholic Education becomes even more obvious.

Rooted in faith, supported by prayer and nurtured in community, our Catholic schools are inviting spaces where children, families and staff encounter Christ. Through that encounter, hope flourishes. Through that encounter, we have the opportunity to renew our mission and purpose and find our strength.

Bernie

Alberta Bishops' Letter: English
Alberta Bishops' Letter: French

- 17 Catholic School Districts exist in the province of Alberta
- 4 Francophone boards offer Catholic education at specified schools
- St Paul Education offers Catholic education at specified schools
- More than 183,500 students attend more than 450 Catholic schools in our province.

Novena for Catholic Education

October 29 until November 6, 2020

We are grateful for our Catholic Schools.

We invite you to join us in prayer for Catholic Education by praying the following novena daily, from **October 29 until November 6, 2020**, asking Our Lord to send forth His Spirit.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday in a time of COVID

Parish Priest	Father Shimit Abraham	780-932-5659
Parish Secretary	Cathy Weinkauff	403-782-3514
Finance Chair	Talia Hibbs	
Parish Council Chair	Glen Snethun	587 693-4281
Grand Knight	Dwayne Berlando	
CWL President	Donna Tugwood-	
FLCS Principal	Maria Wagner	403 782-9345
Liturgy /RCIA Co-ordinator	Annette Specht	403 782 2708
St Gregory the Great Principal	Ike Hanna	403 885-1008



ST STEPHEN MORTGAGE FUND BOTTLE DRIVES!

November 28 & 29, 2020

December - no bottle drive - Merry Christmas!!!

January 23 &24, 2021

OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesdays to Friday 9am to 12 noon/ 12:30-3pm

If you would like anyone on the Parish Pray List please contact the Parish Office 403 782-3514.

If anyone is celebrating birthdays and anniversaries , let us celebrate with you, please contact the Parish Office.

Catholic Education Sunday Nov. 8, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah. In the context of our current pandemic, it offers us the prophet's words of solicitude, prophetic fulfillment, and hope in the face of challenge. Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength. (Isaiah 40:31, NRSV.) The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope. On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Alberta Bishops released the Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal. The Pastoral Statement describes this as a "time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all." Some significant societal issues, which were hidden by the distractions of pre-pandemic life, are now very evident. This calls people of Faith, and especially our Catholic educators, to chart a prophetic path in addressing these issues now and in the future. "Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal." (Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal) This call for renewal will be embraced by our young people through the role that Catholic education must play in strengthening authentic human development, which is essential for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal for the future of our society.

Catholic Education fosters high academic achievement and provides students with personal and communal spiritual formation. Catholic Education invites students to see each other and, indeed, the peoples of the world as their sisters and brothers. This fraternity calls the students to respond to those in need locally and globally. These good works help young people to seek the common good and to bring Christ's love and hope to others. May the efforts of everyone bring hope and renewed strength to all those committed to Catholic Education. In this time of pandemic, we extend to our Catholic school communities our prayers and blessing for the celebration of Catholic Education Sunday.

Yours sincerely in Christ, Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT