



Newsletter

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Powerschool: <https://powerschool.ecsd.net> website: <http://www.stbrendan.ecsd.net>

January 2021 at a Glance

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- Chief Superintendent's Message
- Calendar



Administration Team Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2021! From all of us to our St. Brendan families - A happy and healthy new year to you all!

We truly are navigating through new waters this week, with all students taking part in full day online learning. Our teachers have worked hard to prepare a continued focus on learning and progress, even within the limited means of online learning. It is important that, for older children, parents do check-ups to make sure students are fulfilling their learning responsibilities and for our younger students, up to grade 3 especially, they have some parental support in their learning. It is not easy for anybody to learn from their laptop or device all day. However, we are in a situation, where we try to make the best of this situation. Please stay positive and do the best you can to support your child's learning through this time. We hope that there is not an extension to learning at home, and we can be together again learning, in-person, and in-school, on January 11.

There are not many additional functions or events happening in the school this month, as we just hope to focus on successfully continue teaching and learning in these complex times. We are preparing for a virtual Open House that will take place on Tuesday February 9 at 6:30 pm. We are in the process of creating a Live Teams event which will be accessible through a weblink. Once set up, we will let all of you know. Please share with friends, neighbors and family and encourage those you know with Kindergarten age children or those moving to Junior High (grade 7) that St. Brendan is a wonderful choice for their learning. You are our best ambassadors. If each family can convince one other family to visit our virtual Open House and/or register at St. Brendan you will have served our school community in an incredible way. Yes, we along with you, hope that next September brings us back to normal schooling, which includes all clubs, sports and student and community interactive activities that we have had to avoid this year.

Please remember that while most are working from home, there are some working in the office to help or we all are an email away. For specific questions about your child's work, while online or even when they are back in school, please email the teacher first. Wishing you all a blessed Epiphany, which takes place January 6 and *Христос Родився!* *Christ is Born* to all celebrating Ukrainian (Julian calendar) Christmas on January 7.

St. Brendan Admin Team



School Council Meeting
Please join us!
Tuesday, February 2, 2021.
6:30 p.m.

Next Newsletter
January 31st

Epiphany Prayer

O God
Who by a star
guided the wise men to the worship of your Son
we pray you to lead to yourself
the wise and great of every land
that unto you every knee may bow,
and every thought be brought into captivity
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Encyclical Letter: Fratelli Tutti

of the Holy Father, Francis

on Fraternity and Social Friendship

A Summary

introduction

Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis gives us Fratelli Tutti, a proposal for a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. It is a call to love others as brothers and sisters; to recognize and love every person with a love without limits; and to encounter others in a way that is capable of overcoming all distance and every temptation. Fratelli Tutti does not claim to offer a comprehensive teaching on fraternal love but seeks rather to consider its universal scope - the dignity of each and every human person.

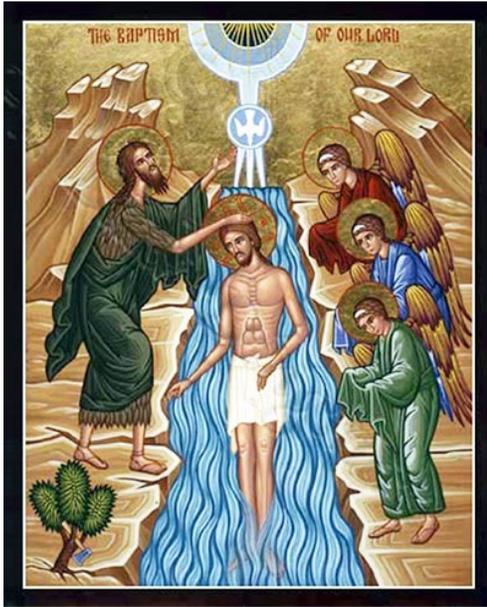
Chapter One: Dark Clouds Over A Closed World

The first chapter describes the dark clouds that extend to all parts of the world, hindering the development of universal fraternity and leaving many people wounded by the roadside, discarded and rejected. It reflects on the many distortions of the contemporary era: the manipulation and the deformity of democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the market system based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; and the disparity of rights. While these inequities may tempt us to raise our arms in surrender, this is not the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. We must follow a culture of the other; of reviving the sense that we are a global community, and that our lifestyles, our relationships, the organization of our societies, and the meaning of our existence, matter.

Chapter Two: A Stranger On The Road

The second chapter is dedicated to this figure of the stranger on the road, wounded and cast aside amid the dark clouds of a closed world; a society that has turned its back on the suffering and care of its most frail and vulnerable. Just like the Good Samaritan, we are called to become neighbours to others, to overcome prejudices, personal interests, and historical and cultural barriers. We are called to create a society that includes and integrates the fallen and the suffering. Pope Francis calls us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our own nations and of the world. He summons us to be builders of a new social order and to be aware that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to the other; that Christ is the face of the other.

By Sandra Talarico
Manager, Religious Education Services



Epiphany! Theophany! Two good Greek words expressing and proclaiming to the world the showing forth of God in His fullness. In the first centuries of Christianity, the feast of the Epiphany was regarded as a collective feast for it embraced other events in the life of Jesus which bore witness to His divinity – namely, His Nativity, the homage of the Wise Men from the East, the Baptism of the Lord in the river Jordan, the first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee and the miraculous multiplication of the loaves. St. Augustine in his homily on the Feast of the Epiphany said: “Today we celebrate the mystery of the Epiphany on earth. Today God, by means of a star in the heavens, heralded His Nativity; and by baptism in the Jordan, He sanctified water for the renewal of humankind; at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, He changed water into wine; and with five loaves of bread, He fed five thousand people.”

In the Eastern Church (Ukrainian Catholic Church) the main emphasis of the feast is on the Baptism of the Lord in the river Jordan by John and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world. Epiphany is the showing forth of God because it was there, at the Baptism of Jesus, that all three Persons of the Holy Trinity appeared for the first time. The Father’s voice testified from heaven that Jesus is the Son of God. The Son accepted His Father’s testimony, and the Holy Spirit was seen descending from the Father in the form of a dove and resting upon the Son.

“And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And the voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3: 16-17)

God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – plays an important role in the life and worship of every Christian. In the Eastern Church we make the sign of the cross with the thumb and first two fingers representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. An Eastern Catholic brings these three fingers together to signify that s/he believes not in the three Gods but in One. We are baptized in the name of the Trinity; every liturgy in the Eastern Church begins with the name of the Trinity; we are blessed in the name of the Trinity; we confess our faith in the Holy Trinity when we say in the Nicene Creed: “I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty... I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ... I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life...”

The doctrine of the Trinity may seem incomprehensible and remote; yet it is one of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. It is basic because it tells us so much about God, about how Christians have experienced His presence in the past and about how we may experience the fullness of His presence today. Saint Peter and the other apostles, for example, knew God in three ways. They knew God as “Father”. They knew God as: “Son” in the person of Jesus Christ. On Pentecost they experienced God as “Holy Spirit”, as a presence and power within their own hearts and within the Church.

The Trinity means that I believe in God the Father Who made me; God the Son Who saves me, God the Holy Spirit Who lives in me. God the Father: for us in love! God the Son: with us in grace! God the Holy Spirit: in us in power!

Resources: “A Byzantine Rite. Liturgical Year.” Julian J. Katrij, OSBM. Basilian Fathers Publication. Detroit, 1983.
<http://lit.royaldoors.net/2013/12/09/january-6-2014-the-holy-theophany-of-our-lord-god-and-saviour-jesus-christ/>

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Fr. Julian Bilyj
 ECSD Chaplain

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

January 2021

Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)

Every year, from January 18-25, Christians around the world join together for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Canadian Council of Churches shares the following:

The 2021 theme – Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9) – calls us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation. Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation. (<https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2021-week-prayer-christian-unity-theme>)

Joining together in prayer and communion with others is an excellent way to begin our calendar year, especially on the heels of repeated periods of isolation over the past many months. Visit weekofprayer.ca to learn more.

The new calendar year marks the beginning of our planning for the 2021-22 school year. This year, our planning will take on a very different look and feel. Our schools will be holding virtual Open Houses so that students and families can still get a good sense of what is offered as they make their learning choices for the next school year. You can learn more about our Open Houses by visiting our school websites. We are pleased to be taking registrations online again this year. Visit register.ecsd.net beginning January 11, 2021 to find your school and follow the steps to register if you are new to Edmonton Catholic Schools. A complete listing of Open Houses can be found there as well.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is excited to be building a new K-9 school in the Keswick and a new high school in Heritage Valley. We would like to hear your voice in naming them! The culture and ethos of the school community will evolve from the name of a Catholic school. The intention of the name is to support the mission of the Catholic school to be consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church and to establish and deepen the relationship of everyone in the school with the person of Jesus Christ as members of his Body, the Church. Visit www.ecsd.net and click on the 'name our schools' graphic to view the guidelines for submitting a name. Submissions are electronic through the site and will be accepted until 4 pm on January 31, 2021.

In the fall, we hosted a virtual opportunity for parents and guardians to learn more about supporting their children's mental health during COVID-19 times. We are pleased to offer a follow-up virtual event on January 19 from 7-8 pm. We have moved in and out of a virtual, remote existence in the past many months, and that has posed tremendous challenges to our mental health and wellbeing. We are travelling in uncharted territory as parents and caregivers, and in addition to paying close attention to ourselves, we need to be extra vigilant with our young people. It is our hope that this evening will give you a few more tools to help you support your families in establishing and maintaining good mental health in an increasingly digital world. Visit our website for more information on the event and register early!

Pope Francis published an encyclical letter, [Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship](#), last fall. Beginning this month, our Religious Education Services (RES) will be sharing monthly articles on the topic to help bring it to life for our community. This month, our RES Manager, Sandra Talarico, writes about the introduction and first two chapters.

As we anticipate the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, I will leave you with a final word from our Holy Father: "To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. #Prayer rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope." (Twitter, 12/15/20)

Many blessings in the New Year!

Sincerely,
Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent

JANUARY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
	<i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>					
3	4 D1 School resumes	5 D2	6 D3 Ukrainian Christmas Eve 	7 Day 5a Christmas Day Julian Calendar Різдво 	8 D4	9
10	11 D5 In-Person Student Learning Begins (unless there are new directives) Registrations for 21/22 open on-line	12 D6	13 D1	14 Day 1a Ukrainian New Year 	15 D2	16
Grade 6's CTBS test						
17	18 D3 Щедрий вечір!	19 D4 Водохреща Йордан 	20 D5 Kindergarten Music Maker Activity	21 Day 5p+bl.2	22 D6	23
Grade 6's CTBS test						
24	25 D1	26 D2	27 D3	28 Day 1p+bl.1	29 Day 4 Semester 1 Ends All Reports Cards Go Live - 3:00 p.m.	