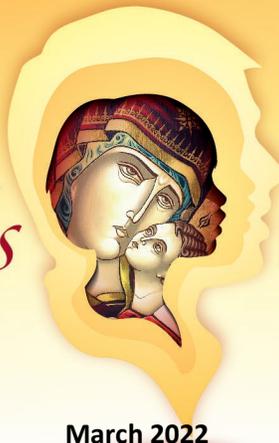


God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

March 2022

'Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).'

(Pope Francis, [Message for Lent 2022](#))

Lent is the 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2 this year) and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. Edmonton Catholic Schools is pleased to invite our families to take a virtual Lenten journey, [40 Steps with Jesus](#). Over the 40 days of Lent, this site will provide your families with opportunities to participate in prayer, little-liturgies, and reflections on weekly Scripture passages, as well as activities that will highlight the lives of saints and our call to fast and to give alms. You can access this family resource by clicking on the link above or by visiting the News section on www.ecsd.net. Join us this Lenten season as we follow the 40 steps with Jesus.

You might have noticed that we have conducted many surveys this year to gauge how we are doing in many different areas. Alberta Education is currently running their Assurance Survey across the province to get feedback on how schools and jurisdictions are performing in specific areas. If you are the parent or guardian of a student who is in grade 4-12, you may have received a survey package in the mail with a letter, instructions, and the Random-Access Code (RAC) used to access the online survey. Parents or guardians who have been selected by Alberta Education to complete the survey who are wishing to complete a paper survey (hard copy) or a translated survey (in the additional languages available) can request one through their Principal or the System Assurance Branch via email at EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-643-9193. The survey is open until March 25.

At their February 23 Public Meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to close St. Basil Catholic K-9 School and to move the junior high program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic K-9 School to St. Brendan Catholic K-9 School and Louis St. Laurent Catholic 7-12 School. The process for a school closure is rigorous and designed to consider multiple perspectives and hear diverse voices. The Division will now work with those communities to create the conditions for a positive transition for all students and families impacted.

The Government of Alberta tabled Budget 2022 on February 24. At first glance, the budget offers dollars to support curriculum implementation and a 1% increase in base funding and operations and maintenance funding, and a 4.6% increase in transportation funding. Education funding is quite complex; we will receive actual numbers from the Government in the upcoming weeks and then can begin to unpack the nuances of any implications for our Division. We will table our Budget 2022-2023 at the May 25 Public Meeting of the Board.

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For the past several years, ECSD has hosted the Father Michael “Catfish” Mireau Youth Faith Day for grade 8 students. One of the things that we have learned as we have moved to virtual events is that we can have a farther reach when we don’t need to worry about venue size. We’re taking a different approach this year by involving all junior high students. We are excited to have internationally acclaimed presenters Jesse Manibusan and Steve Angrisano join us for our virtual Youth Faith Day on Thursday, March 17.

I will leave you with a further thought from Pope Francis’ Lenten message: *“In this season of conversion, sustained by God’s grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity.”*

Have an uplifting Lenten journey!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent



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