

St. Joseph High School Newsletter

January - February 2019

Message from the Administration

Whew...we are almost half way done the year – and time has flown by so quickly. The month of January was a whirlwind and is quickly coming to a close. Diploma exams and the exam break went well and students have now finished up their first semester. Please check PowerSchool regularly as the marks are finalized.

February will be a month filled with a huge number of opportunities for our students. As we look forward to Semester 2, we have lots to look forward to. We must work as a team to keep the focus on educational rigor and achievement. We want our students to finish strong! Keep up the homework routines at home. It's never too late to encourage and instill good work habits.

To start off February with a bang, we will be celebrating the 36th annual Fr. Michael Troy Basketball Tournament on Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9. Please keep in mind that we will be running a full day on Thursday and a half day on the Friday. Families are welcome to attend the Opening Ceremonies at 12:00 pm on Thursday. A full calendar of events and the stats will be posted on our website on an ongoing basis throughout the tournament.

Our next Parent Council Meeting will be March 6 in the Boardroom @ 6:00 pm.

Please check our website for more school information and an up-to-date calendar.

www.stjoseph.ecsd.net

Brad Koshka

Principal

Darrell Cleave

Assistant Principal

Nicole Duigou-Jones

Assistant Principal

Roslyn Marcelo

Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

February 1 – Start of semester 2

February 5 – **Faith Development Day** – *No School*

February 7 – Opening Ceremonies for the 36th Fr. Michael Troy Basketball Tournament,
12 noon, Troy Gym

*** Following a Friday Schedule **

February 8 – 36th Fr. Michael Troy Basketball Tournament play

*** Following a Thursday Schedule **

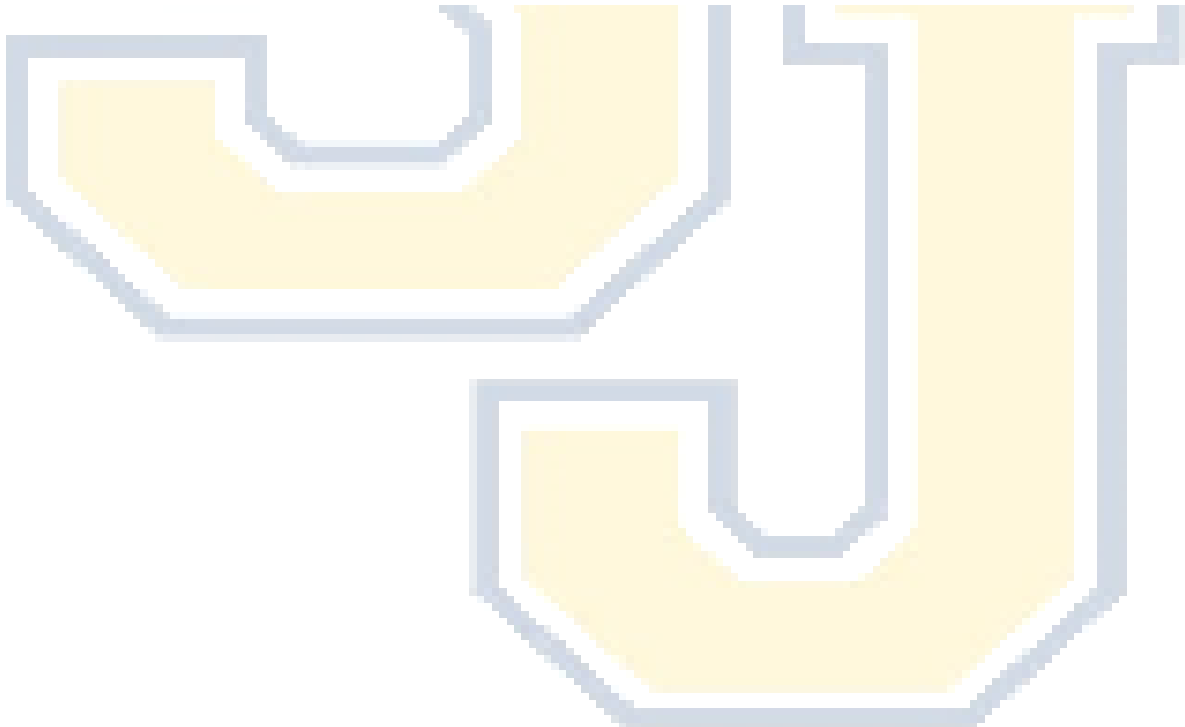
February 9 – 36th Fr. Michael Troy Basketball Tournament play, breakfast & Mass

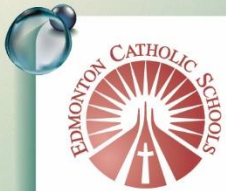
February 13 – **Blood Drive**, see Cst. Yaassoub for more information

February 14 – **St. Nicholas students visiting** for the morning (recruitment presentation)

February 22 – **Whole school assembly**, Troy Gym, TA time (11:42-12:24)

February 28 & March 1 – **Teacher's Convention** – *No School*





WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

February 2019

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see the love of God for you and me. We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen. Go make a difference in the world.

~Go Make a Difference, Steve Angrisano~

Our Catholic faith is not a destination, it is a lifelong journey. Like anything that grows and transforms, faith needs nurturing all the time. February brings two very significant faith formation events to Edmonton Catholic Schools.

On February 4, all of our grade 8 students will attend Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day. This amazing experience will see them learning from Steve Angrisano and celebrating a Eucharistic Mass together. It is inspiring to see so many young people gather to grow together in Jesus!

Our entire staff will gather together on February 5 as Steve offers his thoughts on our theme for this year, Walking Together in God's Love. We, too, will celebrate the Eucharist as a community of Christ.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success. The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning. Alberta Education has selected parents to complete surveys based on the size of each school. If you have received a survey for your child, it is extremely important that you let your voice be heard and take a few moments to fill out the survey, because you represent a larger group of parents. If you do not know the answer to a question on the survey, please phone your school principal. They will be more than happy to provide you with the information that you need to form an opinion on the question. The survey closes on February 22.

Our Board of Trustees engages in a comprehensive annual review of each of our schools. This review considers enrolment, utilization rates, neighborhood demographics, operating costs, 5-year deferred maintenance costs, and the facility condition index. As a result of this review, the Board of Trustees has initiated a series of public consultations to look at future plans for the communities of St. Gabriel, St. Jerome, St. Nicholas, and St. Margaret Schools. Information about consultations can be found on each of those school's websites.

Pope Francis shared a tweet on January 4 that captures the essence of the message that both our staff and our students will listen to attentively in the upcoming faith formation events:

Jesus is the gift of God for us. If we welcome Him, we too can be a gift of God to others.

Yours in faith,

Joan Carr - Superintendent

Chaplain's Message

A Reflection On God In Our Lives

I am often asked, "How is God working my life?" I am not able to give you a definitive answer but reading this little reflection might give you a hint.

To start, find a quiet place and sit down. Take a few slow, deep breaths. Then, when you are ready, read the following words quietly to yourself a few times, while paying attention to your reaction to them. Ready? Ok, go...

"You are called to be a saint, to be holy. God loves you."

How did you react to these words? Everyone's response is unique, but I find that the most common one is, "Maybe other people, but not me". In fact, you may have had a specific, unfortunate memory that refutes the idea that you could be holy and a saint. If you reacted this way, you are not alone.

In the Luke 5, we read that Simon Peter had been fishing all night without success. Jesus appears on the scene and tells him to lower the nets one more time. Doubtfully, Peter does so, and to his astonishment, the nets return bursting with fish.

How does Peter react to this miraculous moment? He falls at Jesus' feet and says, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" I wonder what image popped into Peter's head, telling him that he was not holy, not worthy to be in Jesus' presence?

Jesus wants to heal that memory that blocks you from feeling called to holiness. He invites you to bring that memory into your prayer time with him. Doing so requires courage and trust, but this is often where the Lord wishes to work in your life.

Fr Glenn McDonald, CSB

District Chaplain

Spiritual Message

CHAPTER 5: SPIRITUAL COMBAT, VIGILANCE AND DISCERNMENT

While Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation [*Gaudete et Exsultate: The Call to Holiness in Today's World*](#) will take some time to digest and to unfold the gift that Pope Francis has given to us, the Holy Father reminds us that we are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.

In Chapter Five, *Spiritual Combat, Vigilance and Discernment*, we learn that while evil is present from the very first pages of the Bible, we should not dismiss the devil as a myth, a figure of speech or an idea. Rather, our path towards holiness is a constant battle against evil for which the Lord equips us with prayer, the Word of God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, sacramental Reconciliation, and works of charity.

Here, the path of holiness is a source of peace and joy, given to us by the Spirit; a path that reveals itself through discernment – a gift that requires no special abilities, but it does require listening: to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways. We need the silence of prolonged prayer to better perceive God's language, to interpret the real meaning of the inspirations we believe we have received, to calm our anxieties and to see the whole of our existence afresh in God's own light.

To be sure, the life of a Christian is a constant battle. We need the strength and courage to reject the temptations of evil and to proclaim the good news of the Gospel. God asks everything of us, yet he also gives everything to us. He does not want to enter our lives to diminish them but to bring them to fulfilment. In the end, we are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.

Sandra Talarico, Religious Education Consultant