

# Catholic Central High School

# NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Message

January 2026

Happy New Year!

As we embrace 2026, we look forward to the growth, learning, and faith-filled experiences that await us. January is a wonderful time to reflect on our many blessings and to set renewed intentions for the year ahead. Together, as a school community, we begin this new year with hope, gratitude, and a shared commitment to supporting one another.



Before turning fully toward the year ahead, it is important to acknowledge the joyful gifts that our students and staff shared with the larger Catholic Central High School community during December. The Santa's Anonymous Group once again demonstrated extraordinary generosity, surpassing 50 hampers for families and students in need within our school division. From September through December (with a slight "pause" in October), students and staff fundraised, organized, took inventory, and assembled hampers with great care and compassion. Moreover, we would like to recognize that we

could not have pulled it all off without the efforts of all the schools within the Holy Spirit School Division. As we were certainly pressed for time, various schools across the division stepped up to help with collection of non-perishable food items and donations. Thank you to all who came together to ensure this meaningful initiative and legacy project could be fulfilled.

We were also blessed by the many talents within our school community. The Music Department brought us together through song and celebration at the "Merry and Bright Christmas Concert," and the Athletic Leadership Team ensured the successful hosting of the Cal O'Brien Classic Tournament. Congratulations to our Senior Varsity Girls for capturing the Cal Classic trophy and to our Junior Varsity Girls for an impressive third-place finish. I would be remiss if I did not



mention that: both our Junior Varsity and Senior Varsity Boys' Teams are also off to a great start to the season with wins in both league play and at invitational tournaments and that both our wrestling and curling seasons are both off and running. Well done, Cougars!



As we continue in the season of Epiphany, we are reminded of the journey of the Magi, who followed the star in search of Christ. Inspired by their witness, may we each bring our own gifts—kindness, service, and faith—into our daily interactions, sharing Christ's light with those around us. We also continue our journey to *Know God* and are invited to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, learning, and reflection as we enter into the new year.

January is also a time of significant transition. We begin preparations for Graduation Ceremonies 2026 (with ongoing updates available on our website under the "Graduation"



tab and in the Grad 2026 Google Classroom), while also welcoming future Cougars through incoming Grade 9 visits and planning for the next school year. Additionally, January marks the conclusion of Quarter 2 and the beginning of Quarter 3 as we move into the second half of the academic year. We encourage families to review the school calendar carefully, particularly with respect to exam dates and key upcoming events.

Thank you for being an integral part of Catholic Central High School. We are grateful for your ongoing support and partnership, and we look forward to all that 2026 will bring. May this year be one of continued growth, learning, and faith for our entire community.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and hope-filled New Year!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Polec



# IMPORTANT DATES

## January

**January 5** - Return to classes after Christmas break; Staff to bless larger gathering areas after school

**January 6** - Blessing of the Classrooms in block 1

**January 15** - tentative division date for Re-registration for next school year (2026-2027)

**January 21** - Last Day of Q2 classes - Be reminded that ALL Q2 diploma exams have been cancelled but teachers have scheduled their own exams or final assessments for Thursday, January 22 and Friday, January 23

**January 22** - Exam/ Final Assessment Day as scheduled by individual teachers

**January 23** - Exam/ Final Assessment Day as scheduled by individual teachers

**January 26** - CCH PD Day - No classes

**January 27** - Transition Day from Q2 to Q3 - offices will be open for business but students are NOT required to attend

**January 28** - First Day of Q3 Classes



## February

**February 2** - New Students to HolySpirit School Division will be able to register through School Engage

**February 2** - Grad Parent Information Evening @ 7:00 pm on Campus East in the Cafeteria

**February 4** - Grade 9 Parent Information Evening @ 7:00 on Campus East in the Cafeteria

**February 5** - Grade 9 Parent Information Evening @ 7:00 on Campus West in the Gathering Space

**February 9, 11, 12, 13** - Grade 9 Visits for Course Selection (CCH will visit Saint Francis Junior High, Father Leonard Van Tighem, St. Joseph (Coaldale), and St. Catherine (Picture Butte)

**February 16** - Family Day - No School

**February 17-20** - Reading Week - No School; Teachers' Convention on February 19 & 20

**February 23, 24, 25, 26, 27** and **March 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12** - Course Selection for current CCH students (grade 10s and 11s)

## March/April

**March 2** - Grad 2026 Fees due through School Cash Online

**March 5** - Quarter 3 Midterm and Parent/ Teacher/ Student Conferences 6:00-8:00 pm Campus East (conferences by appointment)

**March 13** - Division Collaborative Day - No Classes

**March 16** - Spiritual Development Day - No Classes

**March 17** - Last day for course selections

**April 2** - Last Day for Quarter 3 classes

**April 3** - Good Friday - No classes

Take note ... Take Note ...



The yearbook committee is busy planning next year's book. Be on the lookout for a contest to design the cover art!



The Grad Parent Meeting will be held on Monday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Campus East Cafeteria.

## GRADE 9 PARENT MEETINGS

will be held on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. on Campus EAST and Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. on Campus WEST.

Take note ... Take Note ...



## 2025-2025 Annual Awards Night Thank You!

Thank you to the following for supporting our Annual Awards Night:

- Our Donors: CCH School Council, Knights of Columbus Council #1490, Knights of Columbus Council #5726, Ferrari, Westwood, Babits Architects, Kiwanis Club of Green Acres, The Weiler Family (Fred Weiler Memorial), Pahulje Family (Ludvik & Danica Pahulje), Mr. William Kolysher and Family, Cal O'Brien Memorial Fund, Class of 1965 50th Reunion, The Beresnak Family (Douglas Beresnak Memorial), B'Nai Brith Lodge, 1st Choice Savings & Credit Union, The Hurkens Family, CUPE #1825, Cougar Basketball Club, The Genevieve Yates Foundation, CCH Music Parents Association, The Yamashita Family, Mrs. Pat Kensley, Phyllis and Ray White, Rotary Club of Lethbridge, Mirella Zappone Endowment Fund, Vittorio, Kathy, and Cara Oliverio, Banditos Incorporated, Holy Spirit Catholic Teachers A.T.A Local #5, St. Martha's Knights of Columbus Council #9280, St. Martha's Knights of Columbus Council #10547, Vera and Albert Kenwood, and the Government of Alberta.
- London Road Market for providing the cookies for our grade 10 and 11 Honors Certificate recipients.
- Our Special Guests: Elders and Knowledge Keepers, Board of Trustee members and Senior Administration for Holy Spirit Catholic Schools who attended, members of School Council, CCH staff.
- The Awards Committee: Mr. Hansen, Ms. Magill, Mrs. Sutter, Mrs. Aasman, Mrs. Wilson, and our Masters of Ceremony, Mr. Comchi and Mr. New.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER: Quarter 3 Diploma Exam Days

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Currently, AB Education has scheduled diploma exam sittings during Holy Spirit's Easter Break. **English 30 (both -1 and -2) Part A is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 from 9:00-12:00 and Social 30 (both -1 and -2) Part A is scheduled for Friday, April 10.** Should these NOT be moved, students and parents/ guardians need to be aware of this commitment to write these exams. Catholic Central will be the “writing centre” for both of these sittings. Further messaging to come.

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Did you know that our school crest was created by the well-known local artist, Michael Pisko?



The crest is rich with symbolism:

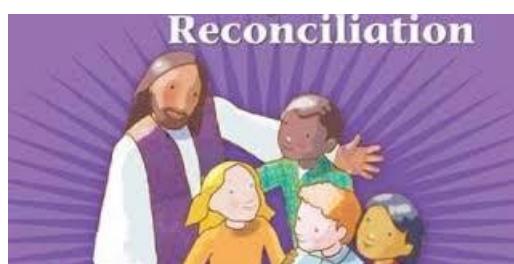
- ★ The cross: the sign of our faith with Christ, our model and our Master Teacher.
- ★ The book: symbolizes knowledge and the Scriptures, giving us the Word of God.
- ★ The flame: symbolizes the light that education brings into our lives.
- ★ The wild rose: emblem of Alberta.
- ★ The sun, bridge & coulees: symbols of Lethbridge.
- ★ DOCE ME: teach me
- ★ BONITATEM: goodness
- ★ DISCIPLINAM: discipline
- ★ SCIENTIAM: knowledge

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### Friday Afternoon Masses

Father Kevin invites staff and students to come together as a school community for Friday Afternoon Masses. They will be held in the Chapel on Campus East on Fridays at 12:45 p.m. and will begin on Friday, January 9th.

Gathering in faith helps us grow spiritually, strengthens our community, and reminds us of the power of growing in our faith together. All are welcome, and we look forward to sharing this time of prayer with you.



### First Reconciliation Boot Camp

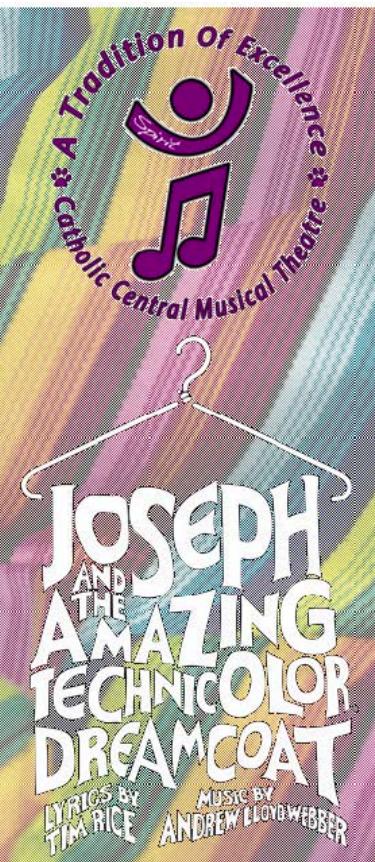
Saturday, January 17 & Sunday, January 18, 2026  
From 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.  
At Assumption Church.  
Cost for materials is \$50.00

Snacks will be provided.

CCH is proud to present *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in the Knights of Columbus Eggplant Theatre.

Students and the production team have been working hard to bring this fantastic show to life and can't wait to share it with you.

The show runs from Thursday, March 12 until Saturday, March 21. Tickets will be available by February 2026!



Thank you all for your generous contributions toward the successful completion of the 2025 Santa's Anonymous initiative. These acts of kindness helped create a brighter holiday season for 55 families within the Holy Spirit School Division. This goal would not have been possible without the incredible support of The Lethbridge Firefighter Charity, Save-On-Foods, Little Caesars (South Location), Costco, and the many families who went out of their way to make donations. As contributions continue to come in, we are deeply grateful to all the organizations and Holy Spirit families who support this amazing initiative.

A special thank you to the staff and students of Catholic Central High School, St. Francis Junior High, École St. Mary Elementary, Children of St. Martha Elementary, Trinity Learning Center, St. Joseph School, and Our Lady of the Assumption. Seeing so many schools come together for one cause truly embodies the spirit of Santa's Anonymous.

On behalf of all students and staff, thank you to the families within our school community who helped make this year's Santa's Anonymous initiative such a success. Whether through donations of money, food items, or time, we could not have done it without you.

God Bless,  
Mr. New



## Academic Advising - Counsellor's Corner

Happy New Year CCH community. As we approach the midway point of the school year, thoughts begin to turn to next year. For grade 12s, planning for post-secondary can be stressful. Planning early is the key. Although application deadlines are later in the year, entrance award deadlines often come sooner. Don't miss out on possible scholarships by delaying a decision.

For Grade 10s and 11s, planning for the future begins now. Parents, the *Career, learning, and employment information for Albertans* website ([alis.ca](http://alis.ca)) is a great resource to explore career options. The [Career Insight page](#) is a great place to start as students narrow down potential careers that match their interests and skills.

### **Key Scholarship Deadlines for students entering university in Alberta**

While application deadlines may stay open to a later date, the scholarship application for first year students at many universities is early spring. [Applying early](#) is important. Please be aware of the following deadlines:

[University of Alberta](#) - January 10th (March 1st deadline to apply to UofA)

[University of Calgary](#) - March 1st (March 1st deadline to apply to UofC)

[Mount Royal University](#) - March 1st (March 1st deadline to apply to MRU)

[MacEwan University](#) - March 1st (March 1st deadline to apply to MacEwan)

[University of Lethbridge](#) - March 15th (June 30th deadline to apply for UofL)

[St. Mary's University](#) - Deadlines vary - see website (August 1st deadline to apply to SMU)

[Lethbridge Polytechnic](#) - July 15th (September 2nd deadline to apply to LethPoly)

### **Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines (SOME BIG ONES):**

See attached the [CCH Scholarship Resource](#) for application links



January 31	Don Bossi Leadership & Innovation Scholarship	\$5,000	Post-secondary
January 31	Schulich Leader Scholarships	\$100 000	Post-Secondary
January 31	Calgary Stampede Bill Kehler Memorial Awards	\$750	Post-Secondary
January 31	Canadian Soroptimist Grants for Women	\$8,500	Post-Secondary
January 31	Mensa Canada Scholarship	\$1,000	Post-Secondary
January 31	Chartered Professional Accountants Scholarships	Varies	Post-Secondary
January 31	Lethbridge East Rotary Club Ag Scholarship	\$10,000	UofL / Leth Poly
January	TC (TransCanada) Energy Trades Scholarship	\$5,000	Post-secondary
February 1	Hal Rogers Endowment Fund Bursary	\$1,000	Post-Secondary
February 1	Kin Canada Bursaries	\$1,000	Post-Secondary
February 1	Masonic Higher Education Bursary	Varies per year	Post-Secondary
February 1	Cenovus Energy Aboriginal Education Awards Program	Up to \$5000 per year	Post-secondary



#### **Where to find/ contact me**

Email: [hansenm@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hansenm@holyspirit.ab.ca)

Phone: 403.327.4596 ext. 46502

Website: [https://cch.holyspirit.ab.ca/academic\\_counselling](https://cch.holyspirit.ab.ca/academic_counselling)

Instagram: @CCHAcademicAdvising

CCH East Campus E309 (found in the library)

CCH West Campus W502 (found in the main office)

# GRADUATION 2026

It's time to plan for grad! Here are some important dates and items to know:



- Grad Statement - complete through your RE 35 class.
- Name change form can be found on Google Classroom.
- Grad Parent Meeting – February 2, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. on Campus East
- Grad requirements – grad list will be posted on both campuses and in Trinity Learning Centre after the end of quarter 2 exam week. Please see Mr. Hansen if you are NOT on this list.
- Grad Hoodies go on sale January 16 until February 13, 2026. They are \$45. Hoodies can be purchased through School Cash Online. Proceeds from sales will go to the Business & Entrepreneurship program.
- Grad photos:  
There is NO CHARGE to grads to have their picture taken. Our photographer this year is Lifetouch Canada. There is NO CHARGE to grads to have their picture taken. Pictures are taken on these dates and times:
  - Week of Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6th
  - Week of Feb 9<sup>th</sup> to 13th
  - Week of Feb 17<sup>th</sup> to 20th

Grads can book these sessions online at <https://schedule.prestigeportraits.ca/schedule/home.html>  
Grads/ parents/ guardians need to search by the school's postal code - T1J 3E5. There is NO appointment code. The online booking system is now open. If you cannot book any of these times, please call Lifetouch at 780-437-2431 to arrange a time and date. All Grad Photos will be taken at Sandman Hotel on Mayor Magrath Drive- Lower Ballroom, 421 Mayor Magrath Drive South Lethbridge, AB

Grads will have their pictures taken with cap and gown (as provided by Lifetouch at their studio). The following are suggestions for the best photos:

- look like the “best version” of yourself, which means if grads plan to have hair and makeup done for pictures, make sure you look like you!
- the grad gown is a v-neck, so it is wise to wear either something that is also a v-neck or a shirt with a tie. Do not wear a hoodie or a sweater that adds any sort of bulk to the neckline/ underneath the gown.
- You may also choose to have other pics taken ie: with a grad dress or suit or with “props” like hockey sticks or dance shoes, etc.
- The sessions will be 30 minutes, and we will do formal cap/gown photos as well as casual photos. Graduates may also bring appropriate props to be included in their sitting. (ex. sports equipment, musical instruments, etc). The use of props provided by Lifetouch (roses, diploma scroll) is voluntary, we have implemented safety protocols for sanitizing props or will provide one time use props for each sitting.

Please note: Students are NOT required to purchase packages from Lifetouch but each graduate must have this picture taken from Lifetouch as CCH will not accept other headshots taken by another photographer.

- Grad fees: \$160 due on March 2. Fees can be paid through School Cash Online, which can be accessed from our homepage: <https://holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com/> For your convenience, we will be able to accept payment at the grad parent meeting (we can only take cash or cheque; NOT credit or debit). If you require assistance with this, please contact Mrs. Wilson at the school.
- Access CCH Website: <http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/cch/> for grad updates

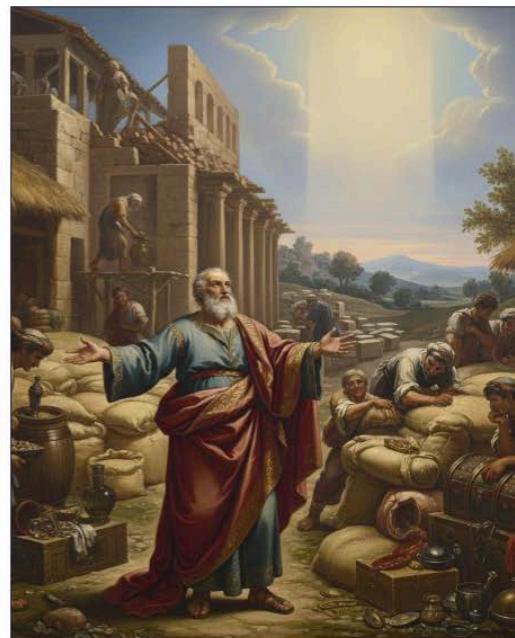
## Dates and Details:

1. **Grad Mass, Friday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., VisitLethbridge.com Arena** (plan for 1 ½ to 2 hours)
2. **Grad Ceremonies, Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., VisitLethbridge.com Arena** (plan for 3 hours)
3. **Grand March (with Grad Dance to follow), Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m., VisitLethbridge.com Arena** (plan for 2 hours)

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'

<sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."



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## Reflection

Where do I fit in this parable?

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

(Matthew 6:21)

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## Reflection

What does this parable teach me about my relationship with God?

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

(Matthew 6:19-21)

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## Parable Conversations

"What does it mean to be 'rich in God' instead of rich in things?"

The man in the story had plenty, but he thought only about himself. Jesus wants us to see that real wealth comes from love, kindness, and faith — not from what we own. What do you think makes someone truly rich?



Both parables and Indigenous traditional stories . . .

- Use metaphor and symbols rooted in place-based knowledge
- Are passed down with care, from generations of experience and wisdom
- Reveal truth slowly — are told and heard multiple times to invite reflection throughout one's life
- Offer guidance about growing in faith, character, and relationship



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# PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS ADORATION NIGHTS

COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR  
ALL OF OUR STUDENTS THROUGH PRAYER



Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

At: Assumption Church  
(2405 12 Ave S, Lethbridge)

After the 6:00 pm Mass  
(7:15 pm - 8:00 pm)

Whether you can stay 10 minutes or the whole time,

Your Presence Matters



## Lethbridge Family Life January Event Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
-	-	-	-	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### First Fridays

#### Mass & Adoration

- At: Assumption Church
- 9:00 AM Mass
- 10:00 AM Adoration
- 12:00 PM Rosary
- 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 7:15 PM Teaching
- 7:45 PM Benediction

#### Soup Supper

- At: Assumption Hall
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

#### Youth Ministry

##### Youth Nights (Grades 9 - 12)

- At: Assumption Hall
- 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM

##### Youth Nights (Grades 6 - 8)

- At: St. Martha's Parish
- 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

### Family Events

#### Family Trivia Night Saturday Jan 17<sup>th</sup>

- At: St. Martha's Parish
- 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Trivia For All Ages

#### Pray For Our Students Adoration Nights

Sunday Jan 18<sup>th</sup> + 25<sup>th</sup>

- At: Our Lady of the Assumption Church
- After the 6:00 PM Mass
- 7:15 PM - 8:00 PM

# Family Life Trivia Night

**Saturday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

From 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Hosted at St Martha's

## Trivia for All Ages

From Faith and History to  
Movies, Cartoons and Games!

All Are Welcome  
All Are Wanted

All Saints Roman Catholic Parish

St. Martha's Lethbridge

## GET CONNECTED

To All Lethbridge Family Life and Youth Events  
BY SCANNING THE QR CODES  
AND ADDING THEM RIGHT  
TO YOUR PHONE

**FAMILY  
EVENTS  
(ALL AGES)**



**YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
(GRADES 6 - 8)**



**YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
(GRADES 9 - 12)**



ALL ARE  
WELCOME  
ALL ARE WANTED



## New Year's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we step into this New Year, we lift our hearts to You in gratitude for the blessings of the past year and in hope for the days to come. Thank You for Your steadfast love, guidance, and mercy that have carried us through every joy and trial.

Lord, we entrust this New Year to You. May it be a time of growth in faith, love, and service. Help us to walk closer to You, seeking Your will in all we do. Fill our days with Your peace and our hearts with Your joy, no matter what we face.

Bless our families, friends, and communities. Strengthen the bonds of unity among us, and inspire us to be instruments of Your love and kindness to all we encounter.

We ask for Your wisdom in our decisions, courage in our challenges, and perseverance in our efforts to live according to Your Word. Teach us to trust in Your plan and to surrender our fears and uncertainties to Your care.

Lord, may this year be marked by Your glory, as we grow in holiness and bear witness to Your light in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior.

Amen.