Food for Thought: “The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.” Benjamin Disraeli – British statesman and writer

Dear Parents and Students:

On behalf of the staff of École St. Matthew School, we would like to wish you and your family a BLESSED and PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS. We ask that the Lord's light and love continue to shine upon you and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

THANK YOU

……to Mme O’Grady, Mlle Churko and their students for leading our Second Week of Advent Liturgy.
……to Mlle Couture, Mme Favreau and their students for leading our Third Week of Advent Liturgy.

THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS WHO VOLUNTEER AT ÉCOLE ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who have spent and continue to spend some of their precious time at École St. Matthew School to help in a variety of activities, most recently, assisting with the concert, preparing the food hampers, helping serve the hot turkey lunch meal, organizing the bake sales, etc. École St. Matthew School is blessed with strong, committed parents that freely offer their skills to enrich their children's education. Thank you so much for your continued help and support!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Dear families of École St. Matthew,

Thank you to everyone that came to help with hamper packing this year! Your help is very much needed and appreciated-so thank you. I would also like to send out a big thank you to No Frills on Taylor and Clarence who worked with us again this year with the turkeys and extra groceries needed. Thank you to First On Site for donating all of the boxes. Our Christmas Hamper project would not be a success without all of your help. Thank you, Kristie Ans

Thank you from St. Michael School: Families and staff from St. Michael School wish to express their gratitude for our support for their community. They have shared that every Christmas they are delighted with the generosity we offer with our hampers. They wish for us to understand just how much this helps their Christmas season.

STAFFING CHANGE

When we return after the Christmas break there will be some staffing changes. Welcome back to Mme Carly Normand and Mme Chantal Gauthier will be returning to teach our 4 Kindergarten classes. We also extend a warm welcome to Mme Arlette Djiokeng who will be teaching Gr. 1 in Mme Valerie O’Grady’s absence. Mme O’Grady will be on maternity leave.

Due to these changes we also need to say farewell to Mme Cecile Favreau, Mme Aline Gauthier, Mme Diane Hryhor and Mme Michelle Friesen, who have been teaching in the Kindergarten classes since the beginning of the school year.
SILVER FOR GOLD – COLLECTION OF POP CAN TABS
Silver for Gold is a unique collaboration between Small But Mighty SK and EcoGenX Agricultural Recycling. It is an entirely Saskatchewan based initiative to fund childhood cancer research in Canada. Please collect your pop can tabs! They can be sent to the office at any time.

BOOK DONATIONS
We would like to offer St. Matthew families the opportunity to donate a book to our library for $5 as our community continues to grow. A sticker will be placed in each book to recognize your donation. Cheque can be made to St. Matthew School.

INDOOR TRACK
We are very excited to be starting a new indoor track season with such motivated and enthusiastic athletes once again in 2018. In order to facilitate communication, we have decided to use a tool called Remind. It can be accessed as an App, by email, or by text. We will be using Remind to send out general information regarding practices and meets. It should also be used to communicate with regards to absences at practice or any other questions or concerns. We will be asking parents to communicate athlete availability for the competitions through Remind to Mlle Couture for consistency. We ask all parents of athletes to join to ensure good communication. Please communicate your athlete’s availability for our first competition Sat. January 12th (5pm-9pm) and our second competition Wed. January 16th (6pm-9pm) to Mlle Couture via Remind message by December 21st.

*U11 first track practice is Tuesday, January 8th at 8am (and every Tuesday following).
*U13-15 first track practice is Thursday, January 10th at 8am (and every Thursday following).

To join our group called ATHLÉTISME ÉCOLE ST.MATTHEW on Remind:

Library News
If you plan on going away on holidays, we suggest you leave our library books back in the library. Books that are left at the airport or in a hotel room cannot easily be claimed, and water and sand don't go well with books either. Thanks for your understanding.

Faith Formation
During Advent and Christmas students will be busy learning about the seasons through our Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ Religious Education program. Parents are reminded that they can support their child’s or children’s faith formation by accessing the Student-Home website at: www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/student-home After you click, “Sign In”, you will be asked to enter a Username and Password as shown below:
Username: gscs
Password: Student99

Parking, Driving and Walking Safety
As the school increases in population it is becoming more important for everybody to obey driving, parking and street crossing rules. Extremely unsafe practices seem to occur almost daily and many times it is the adults who...
are setting the unsafe example. U-turns in the middle of the street or stopping in the midst of traffic to drop off or pick up students is dangerous for all involved. For the safety of all, please take an extra moment or two to park in appropriate spaces and cross the street at appropriate crosswalks.

**REMOVE WET FOOTWEAR**

Winter weather and Saskatchewan rapid changes in temperature are creating messy conditions outside. As such, we have always had signs at the doors requesting people to remove footwear before entering. Wearing wet footwear into the school leaves dirty wet messes on the floor creating a slipping hazard. Please be mindful of everybody and remove your footwear, especially during the winter months.

**HANDICAP PARKING SPACE**

Please be aware of the handicap parking space in front of our school. There are several students and parents who need to use this space and they often find it unavailable. It is directly in front of the walkway leading up to the front doors of the building.

**MORNING DROP OFF**

A reminder to parents that children should only be dropped off before 8:30 am if they are participating in the Before and After School Program or if they are part of an extra-curricular activity. Students who arrive earlier will be asked to wait in the boot rooms.

**INDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2019/2020**

Registration for Kindergarten students will begin **Monday, January 7th, 2019**. If your child will be **5 years of age by January 31st, 2020**, he or she may begin Kindergarten in September 2019. Contact the school to register your child or drop in for a visit. Please share this information with neighbors who have Kindergarten age children. For more information, please call 659-7410 or check our website at [www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MAT](http://www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MAT). We will be having a kindergarten / French immersion information night on **Wednesday, February 6th at 7:00pm in the library**.

**PRESCHOOL EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2019/2020**

Mes Amis Preschool will begin early registration for St. Matthew families starting **January 7th, 2019**. Please also join us for the Open House on **January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** in the Preschool Room. Registration forms are available at the École St. Matthew School office or online at [http://saskatoonmesamis.ca/](http://saskatoonmesamis.ca/). Questions regarding registration or the Open House may be emailed to Tracey Kowalchuk at mesamispreschool13@gmail.com.

**DATES TO NOTE:**

*** December 21st
  * Last day of classes for K to 8 - **3:30pm dismissal**
  * Advent Liturgy week 4 @ 9:45am

*** December 24th to January 4th
  * Christmas Holidays – NO SCHOOL

*** January 7th
  * Classes resume K – 8

*** January 8th
  * U11 Track Practice @ 8:00am

*** January 10th
  * U13-15 Track practice @ 8:00am
  * 3A, 3B & 3/4L go skating @ 1:00pm
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Volleyball Saskatoon’s Cool Moves Volley WINTER Program for boys and girls is held on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 from January 16th to March 13th at the Henk Ruys Soccer Centre in Lawson Heights at 219 Primrose Drive. Mini Volley for 6-8 year olds, Atomic for 9-11 year olds, and TripleBall for 12-13 year olds, come and learn how to play volleyball. Cost is $140.00. For more information text or call Michael Rush at 306-609-0105.

Holy Spirit Parish Liturgies/Events: Phone 374-1425; Fax: 374-3190 www.holyspiritsaskatoon.ca; www.facebook.com/holyspiritsaskatoon - Sunday Mass Schedule: Saturday -5:00 pm; Sunday -10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm.

Holy Spirit Parish Mass Times for the Christmas Season

CHRISTMAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 24</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 25</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 29</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 30</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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NEW YEAR’S DAY, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 31</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 1, 2019</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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</tbody>
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Baptism for Older Children

In the past year or so we have had inquiries from the parents of a number of children who have not been baptized; and their child is showing a keen interest in receiving the sacrament of baptism. Because of this, Holy Spirit parish will offer a program beginning in November for children 8 years old and older who would like to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic. We will meet three times before Christmas right after school for one hour on whichever day works best for the most children. I’d love to speak with you if you’d like more information. I can be reached at Holy Spirit parish 306-374-1425 or by email sharon@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca. I look forward to hearing from you!
The 10 Building Blocks of Catholic Social Teaching – How to Live a Culture of Encounter as Directed By Our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

To live a culture of encounter we must focus on the basic fundamentals of our social teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Building Block #5 - The Principle of Preferential Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable.**

"In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the last judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first."

Why is this so? Because the common good--the good of society as a whole--requires it. The opposite of rich and powerful is poor and powerless. If the good of all, the common good, is to prevail, preferential protection must move toward those affected adversely by the absence of power and the presence of privation. Otherwise the balance needed to keep society in one piece will be broken to the detriment of the whole.

Celena Komarnicki
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Holy Spirit Parish

㈇㈇ St. Philip Neri parish ([www.stphilipneriparish.ca](http://www.stphilipneriparish.ca)) Parish facebook page: Saint Philip Neri parish

*Mass times* – Weekdays Tuesday through Friday 8:30 am.; Saturday 5:00 pm. and Sunday, 9:30 am and 11:30 am.

*Youth Choir* - Those ages 8 through 14 are invited to be part of the choir. We practice every Wednesday after school until 4:45 pm. in the church. Please contact Shirley at the parish if you are interested.

*Baptisms* - The next parish Baptisms are December 23, 2018 and January 27th, 2019 and if you or you know of someone who would desire to have their baby Baptized, please contact Shirley at the parish.

*Parish Penitential Service* - On Thursday, December 6, 2018 beginning at 7:00 pm., there will be an opportunity for everyone to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be many priests in attendance that evening.

*Christmas Season Masses* - On Christmas Eve, December 24th, there will be an opportunity to attend mass at 5pm.; 8pm.; and 10pm. but on December 25th, there will only be one mass at 10:00 am. here. On New Year’s Eve, there will be Mass at 5:00 pm. and on New Year’s Day, there will be Mass at 10:00 am. for everyone. Please come out and celebrate the birthday of the baby Jesus! It is an awesome time of the year for families!