



January 9, 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and joy-filled Christmas break, filled with peace, love, and special time with your family and friends.

We were blessed to begin the new term with a beautiful Epiphany celebration, led by our guest chaplain, Father Glen MacDonald, which invited us to reflect on Christ as the light guiding our journey of faith. Our hearts were further inspired by a student-led assembly from Grade 4B, who shared a powerful message about courage, reminding us to trust in God, stand strong in our beliefs, and live our faith each day. It was a meaningful and uplifting way to begin the year together as a faith-filled community.

Today, ECSD annual surveys were sent home to families. These surveys are an important opportunity for parents and guardians to share their voices, experiences, and perspectives. Your feedback helps guide our work and supports the continued growth and well-being of our school community.

Laurie Bonanni-McGee

Erin Pruski

Principal

Assistant Principal

### Chief Superintendent Message

*You can read Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's January reflection on Truth, Beauty and Goodness as we begin our Advent journey by [clicking here](http://www.ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message) or by visiting [ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message](http://ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message).*



## Upcoming Events:

Please continue to check our website calendar regularly for news and events, <https://stcharles.ecsd.net/> you can download the calendar to your devices.

**St. Charles is on Instagram!** This is where you will find a snapshot of the upcoming week and some great photos of what is happening. Follow us at: [stcharles\\_ecsd](#)

**We have also included the link to the Division Calendar for next year.** [ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026](#)

<b>Focus: COURAGE</b>		<b>JANUARY 2026</b>
January 5-23		ECSD Annual Survey Grades 4-6
January 19-21		Grade 4A to ICE school (includes Feb.9 and 10)
January 26		Grade 1 In school Field trip - Art Workshop- Clay & Glass Fusion Cardinal Leger Presentation to interested Grade 6 students
January 27		<a href="#">Family Literacy Day 2026: Make mealtime family learning time</a> <b>January Summary Reports available online at 4:00PM</b> Kindergarten Puppet Treehouse Presentation
January 28		Bell Let's Talk Day <a href="#">Tools to help everyone with mental health   Bell Let's Talk</a>
<b>Thursday January 29</b>		<b>School PD Day- No Classes</b>
Friday January 30		School Visit with Gary Gagnon (ILS) Medicines and Prayer Grade 4-6

<b>Focus: LOVE</b>		<b>FEBRUARY 2026 – Black History Month</b>
Feb. 2		Pre-enrollment and new registrations open
Feb 2-13		Alien In Line
Feb. 3		Snow Valley Skiing for Grades 4-6
Thursday Feb 5		Grade 6 Feeder School Visit to St. Edmunds
Friday February 6		School Spirit Day/ Assembly
February 9 & 10		Grade 4A to ICE School
Feb.13		<b>Family Winter Carnival Evening- 5:00-8:00 pm</b>
Feb. 14		Valentines Day
Feb. 14-20		Random Acts of Kindness Week <a href="#">The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation</a>
February 16		Family Day- no school
Feb. 17		Chinese Lunar New Year- Year of the Horse <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>
Feb. 18		Ash Wednesday
Thursday Feb. 19		<b>Fr. Marc Parish Visit</b>
Feb. 24		Pink Shirt Day <a href="#">Pink Shirt Day</a>
Feb. 25		Faith Development Day/PD
Thursday February 26-27		<b>Teacher's Convention</b>



# ECSD Annual Survey



1. Complete the paper survey
2. Fill out a survey for each child registered
3. Return by January 23, 2026

Visit [ecsd.net/annualsurvey](https://ecsd.net/annualsurvey) for more information

Have Your Say in Catholic Education!

The ECSD Annual Survey is here! A paper survey has been sent home with your child. Please complete one survey per child and return it to our school or mail it directly using the supplied Canada Post business reply envelope.

The letter inside the envelope incorrectly states the deadline as January 9. The correct deadline is January 23, 2026.

Your feedback helps shape the future of Catholic education. Learn more at [ecsd.net/annualsurvey](https://ecsd.net/annualsurvey)



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## **Important Reminders**

### **Drop Off Zones**

We had a number of issues this week and with our drop off and pick up of students. To ensure safety and speedy drop off and pick up we ask parents to please be mindful of the wait times in these zones as traffic becomes backed up very quickly.

One solution is to turn right after you have dropped off your child. Trying to turn left past the drop off is slowing everyone down and creates a backlog of vehicles especially during peak times.

With the accumulation of snow windrows our roads are more narrow and accessibility and sightlines are a bit more challenging to navigate, so please be cautious. As well a reminder to not enter the parking lot for end of day pick up as only the Baturyn Playschool parents with valid passes are permitted. In addition avoid parking by the fire hydrant to avoid getting ticketed.

Please be patient and try to help by following these simple rules. If you notice an issue, please call into the office- 780 456-5222 immediately and we will try to get a staff member outside to help direct traffic especially after school. We all must be responsible for our students' safety.

### **Snow Clearing**

The city has shared that school zone clearing is scheduled for weekends starting January 23, 2026. Work will run from Friday 7 PM to Monday 7 AM. Expected to take 3 to 4 weekends. "No parking" signs will be posted before clearing begins.

### **BusPlanner Delays App**

We encourage our families who have children who take the bus to download the BusPlanner Delays App on their mobile phones to receive late bus notifications. Instructions are located on [Yellow Bus Delays - Edmonton Catholic Schools](#)





## School Advisory Council

Our **School Advisory Council** (SAC) plays an important role in building a strong school community, and we need your help.

**Our Next Meeting is March 4 @ 6:30 in the library**

**For information on SAC, volunteering opportunities please email:**

[stcharleselementaryschool1980@gmail.com](mailto:stcharleselementaryschool1980@gmail.com)

**Northwest Solution Phase 2: New Schools in Chambery and Griesbach**

<https://www.ecsd.net/northwest-solution>



**Watch the video:** <https://youtu.be/G-JKtj5KDXy>

**More information will be shared with families in the new year. Stay tuned!**



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## Supporting Wellness in our Schools and Families

### Important Phone Numbers



- Recovery Alberta Children Youth & Families  
Centralized Intake Services: 1-780-342-4415
- Recovery Alberta Crisis and Stabilization  
Team: 780-407-1000
- Canadian Mental Health Association Distress  
Line: (780) 482-4357
- Kids Help Phone: Phone 1-800-668-6868 •  
Text 686868 • Message online [kidshelpphone.ca](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca)

### Additional tips for supporting mental health at this time of year

- AHS: Navigating the Holidays with Care:  
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page18687.aspx>
- CMHA Edmonton: Winter Mental Health - a Guide for Good Practices:  
<https://edmonton.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CMHA-Edmonton-Winter-Mental-Health-Guide.pdf>

Visit our website for tip sheets, videos, and more! [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)



### Winter Clothing

For families requiring assistance with winter clothing, please contact our office. We have sizes available. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus, and our families for the generous donations.

### Food Donations

We want to remind all our families that we are here to support you. We are still collecting food donations for our pantry, and any family in need is asked to contact the office or speak with Mrs. Moniz directly for assistance. Her email is [laura.moniz@ecsd.net](mailto:laura.moniz@ecsd.net)



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



## Parish News

Please visit [St. Charles Parish](#) for more on happening in our Parish.

Please let us know when your child celebrates their Sacraments and send along a photo for our display!



### ST. CHARLES PARISH 17511 – 112 ST. EDMONTON, AB T5X 5Z2

#### First Reconciliation (Confession) & First Communion



#### Classes for SPRING 2026



**CLASSES ARE FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLICS ONLY**

#### How Do I Register?

- **In person: Thursdays:** At the parish office on **January 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** between 10am and 6pm
- **In person: Saturdays:** At the parish office on **January 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>** between 10am and 1pm.
- **Or by appointment.**

➔ **No on-line registrations** ⬅

➔ **Space is limited** ⬅

**NO Registrations will be accepted when classes are full.**

#### When Is a Child Ready to Celebrate These Sacraments?

Children must be a minimum age of 7 years and in Grade 2 or higher.

#### What Do I Need in Order to Register?

1. A copy of your child's Baptism certificate (unless your child was baptized at St. Charles).
2. A registration fee of \$50 for materials is requested (cheque, cash, or e-transfer to [office@saint-charles.com](mailto:office@saint-charles.com)).

#### Parental Involvement:

It is mandatory for all children to be present at each class along with a parent (or another adult). Children will have homework each week to be completed with the help of a parent or another adult.

### 2026 SPRING Class Schedule:

#### Classes: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

1. Tues. Jan. 20 – 1<sup>st</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation
2. Tues. Jan. 27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation
3. Tues. Feb. 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> class for Reconciliation
4. **Wed.** Feb. 4 – **Celebration of First Reconciliation**
5. Tues. Feb. 17 – 1<sup>st</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion  
(Tues. Feb. 24 – **NO CLASS** – Spring Break)
6. Tues. Mar. 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
7. Tues. Mar. 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion  
(Tues. Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – **NO CLASS** – Parish Mission)
8. Tues. Mar. 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> class for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

**First Communion** will be celebrated at the Saturday evening & Sunday masses during the Easter Season. Parents will be able to sign up for the date they wish.

The first three classes will prepare the children for the celebration of First Reconciliation; the remaining four classes will prepare the children for First Communion.

***Because there are so few classes for each sacrament, it is necessary that your child attend ALL the classes.***

***It is mandatory that the children attend Saturday evening or Sunday mass.***

**Classes for these sacraments will be offered again in the Fall of 2026.**

*For more information, please call Linda at St. Charles Parish, 780-456-5399 or email: [Linda.Boire@caedm.ca](mailto:Linda.Boire@caedm.ca)*



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Congratulations to Victoria who celebrated her First Holy Communion at St. Charles May the grace of our Lord Jesus live in your heart and continue to bless you always.

