



# CATS WEEKLY

HOME EDITION: January 26-30, 2026



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Monday, January 26:

- ★ Grade 4A @ Fort School **All Week!**
- ★ Boys Basketball Game @ 4:15 vs St Nicholas. **Please note that all high school students and elementary students who wish to attend our games must be in attendance with a parent.** Spectators are to arrive at 4:10 p.m. and must be respectful and rule following if they wish to stay for any game.

### Tuesday, January 27:

- ★ Homework club for those students registered with Mr. Shimelis
- ★ Girls Basketball Home Game vs Holy Cross @ 4:15
- ★ Boys Basketball practice @ 3pm
- ★ Last day of Semester 1
- ★ Progress Reports go live at 4:00 FOR GRADES 1-9

### Wednesday, January 28:

- ★ STEM Club
- ★ Boys Basketball Away Game @ Holy Cross
- ★ Semester 2 begins
- ★ Girls Basketball practice @ 3pm



### Thursday, January 29:

- ★ Staff PD Day. **No classes for students**

### Friday, January 30:

- ★ Badminton Club for Gr. 9 @ 7:30 am
- ★ Girls Basketball practice @ 3pm



## PRAYER

**Father Glenn McDonald – Little Liturgy – January 25, 2026 – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time: <https://youtu.be/KRyqav8Haj4>**

**Father Julian Bilyj – The Conversion of Saint Paul:**  
<https://youtu.be/UudM77oTe7w?si=HBSLtGPQoidHzS3m>

**Division Prayer:** Loving Father, you sent your Son into the world to redeem us by his Cross and Resurrection. Send your Spirit upon us today to make us stewards of your gifts and witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ, in our schools and in our world. We were created in your image and likeness; each of us a precious gift. Through the intercession of our Most Blessed Mother, Mary, the Mother of God, we ask you to protect and guide our students and staff, caring and watching over us at all times.

Come live in our hearts and strengthen us to love and serve you. Let us glorify your name, being kind and generous to everyone we meet. With Christ as our model and our teacher, we celebrate and witness our faith, learning together, working together, and praying together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service. We pray this through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Meet Our New Archbishop!

Archbishop Stephen Hero



St. Catherine welcomes Archbishop-designate Stephen Hero to our community! He grew up in Edmonton, served here as a priest and seminary rector, and in 2021 was appointed Bishop of Prince Albert. He now returns home and will be installed as Archbishop of Edmonton on Friday, January 23, 2026. We invite your family to take part by watching Mass of Installation via livestream.

Friday, January 23, 2026, at 7 PM

Watch live: <https://youtube.com/live/QnRhFKB6Gac>

If you cannot watch live, a replay will be available at the same link. About the event: The Mass of Installation is a special liturgy where the new Archbishop is formally seated and begins his ministry of service to the local Church.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**MENTAL ILLNESS**

Individual Actions for Reducing Stigma

- Talk openly about mental health.
- Choose empowerment over shame.
- Show compassion for those with mental illness.
- Encourage equality between physical and mental illness - draw comparisons to how they would treat someone with cancer or diabetes.
- Educate yourself and others - respond to misperceptions or negative comments by sharing facts and experiences.
- Let organizations, companies and media outlets know when they are using stigmatizing language or presenting stories of mental illness in a stigmatizing way.
- Be conscious of language - remind people that words matter.



Source: [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

### JANUARY SUMMARY REPORTS:

January Summary Reports for students in Grades 1 to 9 will be available in PowerSchool on January 27 at 4:00 PM. To help families understand what the report includes and how to access it, we have created a webpage with step-by-step instructions and additional support. Please visit our January Summary Report webpage to learn more.

### LUNCH DROP OFF:

*We are strongly encouraging families to send lunches with their children **IN THE MORNING**. We have many lunches being dropped off in the morning and it can get very busy having to distribute them.*

### ALSO, WE ARE ASKING FAMILIES TO NOT ARRANGE FOR SKIP THE DISHES ORDERS TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE SCHOOL.

*Students learn best when they feel their best! If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home to rest and recover. This helps support a healthy learning environment for everyone. If your child needs to miss school due to illness, please contact our office.*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

*Families are asked to check and remove social media from students' phones under the age of 13 as this is the age required for usage of "SNAPCHAT, Instagram, Facebook & FB Messenger, TikTok, Discord, Whisper, YOUTUBE, & WHATSAPP" - many of the elementary students have created accounts using fake birthdays (about their ages) and illegally have access to these platforms which are not safe for kids and exposing them to online concerns.*

## **NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S PARISH:**

*All grade 2 classes will be taking home a form for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. If your child is older than 7/8 yrs. old (Grade 2) and has not received their sacraments and would like to, please come to the office to pick up a form like the one below. Please do NOT send the \$30 fee to the school. That fee is for the church.*

January 09, 2026

Dear Parents,

Greetings on this New Year 2026.

The sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation experiences are grace filled events in the child's faith journey to God's Kingdom. Children who are seven years or older and have not yet received the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at Mass, can now register. Registration is ongoing until,

**The first meeting with parents and children -- on the  
First weekend of Lent – February 21/22, 2026**

**Venue: Meeting House, the new brick building at the  
parking lot of Andrew Church**

Children who are prepared will have their First Holy Communion on June 07, 2026 in celebration of Corpus Christi Sunday – the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus our Lord.

Please, drop off: to your school's office, **your completed REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST form (see attached)**. Remember to submit likewise a copy of the child's baptism certificate. The fee is thirty dollars (re: cost of books and other materials is \$30.00) Please, contact Jovita at 451-6601 Ext 3 for details or email at: [jovita.tobias-fisher@caedm.ca](mailto:jovita.tobias-fisher@caedm.ca)

**GOD WILLING WE ALL HAVE A GRACE-FILLED YEAR 2026,  
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE GENERATION.  
ALL THIS WE ASK IN JESUS' NAME, THROUGH THE POWERFUL  
INTERCESSION OF ST. JOSEPH AND MOTHER MARY. AMEN.**

Sincerely, in Christ,

*Jovita Tobias-Fisher*  
Jovita Tobias-Fisher  
Pastoral Assistant

Approved by:

*Carlos Nunez*  
Fr. Carlos Nunez  
Pastor, St. Andrew's Parish

## **SCHOOL FEES:**

**Pay Online**

*All families should have received notice about their child's school fees. Please visit PowerSchool to pay your school fees as soon as possible. If you need support with this, please do not hesitate to call the office.*

## **COOLER TEMPERATURES:**

*The weather has shifted to cooler temperatures. We are reminding families about the importance of ensuring that their children are dressed warmly.*

*Decisions regarding outdoor activities are guided by [\*\*Administrative Procedure 131\*\*](#). The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside if the temperature and wind chill factor are -20° C or colder.*

*Please remember that recess will be moved indoors only during extreme weather conditions, so students are to come to school dressed appropriately for the outdoors.*

## **BUSPLANNER APP:**



*For the 2025-26 school year, Transportation Services office will send late bus notifications via the Division website [BusPlanner Alert](#) for delays. There is also an APP for your cellphones that will provide you with alerts for delays. The App is available for both Android and iPhone. Below are instructions on how to do this or visit [Yellow Bus Delays](#) click on **How do I set up Bus Planner Delays App?***

*Download the free **BusPlanner Delays App** through the respective App Store on your phone.*

*Once downloaded:*

- 1. Open the App, select the wrench at the top, select Edmonton Catholic Schools, and click next.*
- 2. Under setup, select My Child's Bus to receive alerts.*
- 3. Select the school(s) you would like to receive notifications and click + after selecting each school. Once you finish selecting schools, click next.*
- 4. Select the applicable bus run(s) and click +. If you wish to receive notifications for more than one bus, repeat the process for each bus. Once you finish, click Done and the App will return to the main screen:*

*Please make sure notifications for the BusPlanner Delays App are turned on within your phone settings. Also, ensure your phone software is up to date. Note: Data usage and rates will occur while using the BusPlanner Delays App.*

## **BUS DELAYS APP:**

- Please check that you have all 3 runs added for the specific bus route. You must add AM (morning run), PM (afternoon run) & THURS (Thursday afternoon)
- Delays are also posted on the BusPlanner website  
<https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/Alerts>
- Please note if the student's route number has changed, you must update the app with the new information. It will not be automatically updated.

## **SNACK, BREAKFAST PROGRAM AND CONCESSION:**



Please ensure that your children have lunch packed each day. Our junior high students often come without lunch, and we are unable to provide lunch for all students that forget theirs. The concession is available for our **junior high students** who can

purchase it. If your child forgets their lunch, we will be calling you to please drop one off for them. Thank you for your understanding.

## **PARKING IN THE COMMUNITY:**



Again, this year, The City of Edmonton traffic enforcement will be monitoring parking violations and driving in the area. They receive phone calls from community members about unsafe parking and driving. If you have any questions about this, please contact the City of Edmonton at 311.

We are blessed to have an increase in the number of staff at our school. This means that we have fewer parking stalls available.



**PARENTS, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE STAFF PARKING LOT. WE ASK THAT YOU USE THE ANGLE PARKING BESIDE THE PARKING LOT.**

Thank you for your understanding.

## **SCHOOL BUS RIDERS:**



If your child/children are being picked up on occasion and not going on the bus that day, please ensure that the student lets the staff member at their bus know that they are going to be picked up. This saves us from trying to find the student that is supposed to be on the bus and avoiding bus delays.

**Parents, if you could also call the office to let them know that your child/children are being picked up on that day, that would be very much appreciated.**

## **ST. ANDREW CHURCH:**



Our school Parish is **St. Andrew**. Please visit their website for Mass times and Parish information. Here's the link for St. Andrew's Parish <https://standrew.caedm.ca/>. Father Andrew Bogdanowicz and the St Andrew Parish Community would love to have our St Catherine School Community come and celebrate with them.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

**February 9: Grade 5's at U School all week.**

**February 16: Family Day – No School**

**February 18: Ash Wednesday Celebration**

**February 24: Pink Shirt Day**

**February 25: Faith Formation Day/PD – No School**

**February 26-27: Teacher's Convention – No School**



### **ECSD DIVISION WEBSITE:**

<https://www.ecsd.net/>

### **ST. CATHERINE WEBSITE:**

<https://stcatherine.ecsd.net/>



# **St. Joseph High School Open House – February 24**

## **from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Our event is intended to provide families with as much information about the amazing programs and opportunities that St. Joe's offers. The evening will be led by our students and showcase the legacy of our school.

In our courtyard, there will be numerous post-secondary institutions and career providers, highlighting the connection between high school learning, and the world beyond graduation.

Families will be able to participate in student-led tours of our school or walk through the building on your own. St. Joe's is the only high school in Canada, that offers the programming that we do:

- Traditional Classroom Learning (TCL) – offers a structured, teacher-led environment: students attend five weekly classes focused on curricular outcomes, providing consistent classroom instruction and routine pacing.
- Guided Customized Learning (GCL) - has consistently prepared graduates for post-secondary success, fostering habits of self-regulation and independent learning valued in university and college. GCL offers a well-structured, customizable learning environment. With dedicated advisor support, personalized pacing, and meaningful assessment, students graduate equipped with both academic competence and the self-directed learning habits essential for lifelong success.
- Online Learning - is asynchronous, allowing students to work independently using the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) digital platform and Learning Guides. Teachers are available for assistance through Teams and email.

In addition, we have the largest, and most complete offerings in Career and Technology Studies (CTS), in Edmonton:

- Baking – amazing learning in a fully-equipped lab
- Culinary Arts – award winning program offered by a Red Seal teacher and 2 Red Seal Chefs
- Foods – fully-equipped lab
- Welding – large and fully equipped lab
- Autobody – one of only two high schools in Alberta that offer this program, with a Red Seal teacher
- Mechanics – very large, fully equipped lab with a Red Seal teacher
- Cosmetology – large, and fully equipped lab with a Red Seal teacher and a Red Seal instructor
- Construction – very well-equipped lab with a Red Seal teacher.
- Cabinetmaking First Period Apprentice Program – this is the first-year of this program, permitting students to complete their First Period Apprenticeship and move into industry and post-secondary completion for their Red Seal certification
- Communication Technology – graphic art computer-based programming, in a well-equipped lab
- Robotics – full programming in a well-equipped lab, with a CISCO certified teacher, to prepare students for IT and networking industry credentials

Fine Arts and Music programming is outstanding, with many offerings available for students:

- Instrumental Music
- General Music
- Instrumental Jazz
- Guitar

- Technical Theatre
- Drama
- Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre
- Art

Second languages and cultural programs:

- Cree
- French
- Spanish

Athletics are offered in many sports:

- Cross Country Running
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Curling
- Football
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Ninja Warrior
- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Badminton

Braided Journeys is available to assist Indigenous learners, offering academic supports, and cultural learnings. PASS (Part-Time alternative Self-Paced School) is offered every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 4:00 to 7:00 pm through Alternative Education at St. Joe's, for students wishing to take additional courses, or repeat courses.

Dual Credit courses are also offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in conjunction with post-secondary institutions, permitting students to earn post-secondary credits and high school credits at the same time. This year at St. Joe's, through Alternative Education, the following programs were offered in-person:

- Aviation Avionic Technology – through Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- Police Studies – MacEwan University
- Other dual credit programs are offered in an online format

A full academic program is offered for all students, in all subject areas. We currently program for 146 different in-person courses, and 96 online courses. St. Joe's offers something for every student.