



Let Your Light Shine Forth

February 2023

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...
~Joel 2. 13~*

This scripture comes from the first reading on Ash Wednesday (February 22). It is a part of a larger call for us to reorient our lives towards God, for he loves us unfailingly. It is a good reminder for us as we begin our journey with Jesus through the desert that even though we may stray away from a loving relationship with our Father, he is waiting to welcome us back with grace and mercy.

Thanks to all our families who completed their ECSD Annual Survey. We know that surveys take valuable time from you, but the feedback that we gather from any survey is so vital in helping us determine how to meet the needs of our students and families at the school and Division level. We anticipate that Alberta Education will also be sending out their annual Assurance Survey at the beginning of this month. Depending on the size of your child's school, you may receive a survey package that has been mailed directly to you by Alberta Education. If you receive a survey package(s), please take time to complete this vital survey(s) to give us a different perspective on how we are doing. Your voice is so important to us!

Our Division offers so many learning opportunities to meet student needs. We have recently made some changes to our website to make it even easier for families to choose the programs that they would like for their children, all within the framework of an excellent Catholic learning environment. Visit ecsd.net and click on "Our Programs". You can search offerings by grade, category, or school for this current year or for next year. This is such a useful tool for families who are entering kindergarten and for those transitioning schools for grade 7 or 10.

There are many opportunities this month to spend time with those we love and to share love with others. Valentine's Day, Family Day, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and Pink Shirt Day all call us to love others as Jesus loves us. Our Holy Father shared the following wisdom on love in his [Angelus](#) from May 26, 2013:

"God is love." His is not a sentimental, emotional kind of love but the love of the Father who is the origin of all life, the love of the Son who dies on the Cross and is raised, the love of the Spirit who renews human beings and the world. Thinking that God is love does us so much good, because it teaches us to love, to give ourselves to others as Jesus gave himself to us and walks with us. Jesus walks beside us on the road through life.

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent