



St. Joseph Pray for Us

On May 13, 2021, Bishop McGrattan, Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary consecrated Alberta’s Catholic schools to St. Joseph. During this blessed season of Advent and as Christmas approaches, we continue to entrust ourselves to the fatherly care and powerful intercession of the Church’s patron saint.

“We beseech [St. Joseph’s] help in living out those same virtues he did and so grow in the likeness of Christ ever more. We consecrate our lives and all those dear to us to him as to a spiritual father who shows us the Fatherhood of God Himself and we place ourselves in his loving care so as to better witness our faith and live lives pleasing to God and in service to our sisters and brothers.”

—Bishop McGrattan, May 2013



Advent in our Catholic Schools



STAR Catholic Schools



Artwork from
Grande Prairie
Catholic Schools



Winner of the Christ
the Redeemer Catholic
Schools student Christmas
card competition

The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.

GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Catholic Educational Leaders Gather

November 17-20 Catholic education leaders from across Alberta gathered for annual meetings. The commitment, passion and enthusiasm from Alberta's Catholic School Superintendents (CCSSA) and Alberta's Catholic School Trustees (ACSTA) is second to none. Bishop McGrattan was able to be present for all the days and Archbishop Smith joined CCSSA as an honored guest speaker. It was wonderful to reconnect in person and to celebrate the precious gift of publicly funded Catholic education in our province. You couldn't find more dedicated advocates.

Council for Catholic School Superintendents

Catholic superintendents connect with colleagues as they share ideas and experiences with advocacy and make plans for GrACE 2023.



Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association

Mark #5 of a Catholic School recognizes the essential nature of Catholic community and our joint responsibility for the common good.

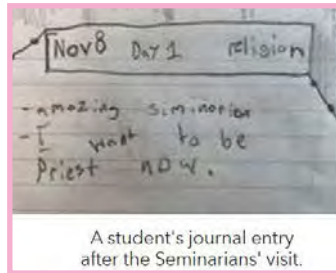
The closing mass at the annual ACSTA convention is the summit of the conference. Thank you to Bishop McGrattan for celebrating. Thank you to the music ministry for their beautiful worship.



Faithfully— Story of Catholic Education

We're pleased to share a wonderful story published this month in Faithfully. When Liisa Honish connected her students with seminarians, beautiful moments happened. Thank you to Liisa for making Mark #4 in Catholic education real by being a Gospel witness for her students.

A special visit from the seminarians - [ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholicyc.ca\)](http://ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY (catholicyc.ca))



Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for January 2023

- † For Catholic Education: That as a new year begins, we may choose Christ and embrace the spiritual practices of our Catholic faith, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may inspire students to a life of love and service, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That the teachers in our Catholic schools may be strengthened for their important task in our world, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may celebrate the richness of the Catholic faith that we have inherited, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may nurture the growth of wisdom and virtue in the young, we pray to the Lord.

Blog Links from ACSTA

Read and share these articles on Catholic education with YOUR stakeholders!

- † [Learning from Catholic Schools Outside of Alberta \(acsta.ab.ca\)](http://Learning from Catholic Schools Outside of Alberta (acsta.ab.ca)) by Matthew Hoven

GrACE Leadership Meeting Held

50 GrACE leaders from across the province gathered via zoom December 8 to share ideas and expertise in advocacy. The new GrACE engagement presentation was released. Resources and plans are shaping up to make 2023 a wonderful year! Thank you to everyone!



Catholic Education News in Alberta

National Evangelization Team at St. Joseph's Collegiate

Submitted by Andrea Schell, Principal—Brooks, AB

On Monday, November 14, Tuesday, November 15, and Monday, November 21, 2022, St. Joseph's Collegiate (SJC) in Brooks, Alberta was blessed to have the National Evangelization Team (NET) come to our community to provide faith retreats for our Grade 9, 10, and 11 classes. SJC has worked with NET for several years to help bring faith to students, and this year, like in years past, the team was phenomenal. The "Net-ers," young people in their late teens and early twenties, were billeted by members of the SJC staff while they were in the community, and were gracious visitors who were excited to bring faith into the homes that they were welcomed into. They interacted with the families of staff, playing games and discussing their own faith journeys. They asked if they could pray with the families and were thankful for the room and board provided to them.

For each day-long retreat, the NET team provided faith testimonials, relationship building games and activities that always linked back to God and His love for us, time for students to pray and be prayed for, and a chance for students to connect with each other and with God. Because they were so close in age to the students that they served, the Net-ers were able to connect well with students and make faith even more relevant and invitational for them. After his retreat, one Grade 11 student said, "Everyone needs to slow down sometimes. Time flies by and it's difficult to get a moment of silence and peace to really just consider everything. NET retreats give us a moment to slow down and think. Plus it's fun." A Grade 9 student said, "It's a fun and creative way to get students interested in growing their faith. It allows students an opportunity to be surrounded with friends and gives them another interactive option in having a relationship with Christ."

SJC was thrilled to have the opportunity to have NET in our community this year and will invite them back to help us bring God's love to all we serve.



New Bishop at St. Paul

Welcome to the new Bishop of St Paul, Bishop Gary Franken, whose recent ordination on December 12 was a celebration of joy and community.



Catholic School District's Publications

- † [Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- † [Redeemer Revelations](#)

Students from Fort McMurray Catholic explain Advent

- † [Advent 2022 - Faith - YouTube](#)

Justice Kevin Feehan

[Justice Kevin Feehan's Presentation on Constitutional Rights for Catholic Education](#)



Catholic Education Beyond Our Province

Catholic school enrolment tops 20,000 | Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (scsba.ca)

What's the enrolment story in your school district? Share your good news with GrACE!



CTR Catholic Engages Community

On December 7, CTR Catholic hosted an engagement with members of their community. An evening of conversation, relationship building and insights.



Connect Online

We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic education in Alberta. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too. Thanks for being a grateful advocate in support of Catholic education!

- † GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
- † Twitter: [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † Instagram: [@grace4catholiceducation](https://www.instagram.com/grace4catholiceducation)
- † GrACE website
- † Email: gracedirector7@gmail.com

Social Media from around the Province

Mrs. LaRose @larose_s · Dec 1

This week we had our Shepherd on the Search join our class to help my 2s prepare their hearts for Jesus's birth! He has been moving around the classroom leaving verses and quotes that remind us how much God and Jesus love us ❤️ @MCS_EICS @EICSCatholic #Advent #Christmastradition



ChestertonSILC @ChestertonSilc · Dec 2

Thank you @NTCEdmonton for hosting our students on a tour and discussion about the BA Catholic Studies program at Newman. Mass, lunch, tour and a class was amazing. @EICSCatholic @silc_eics



24 Reasons I AM JOYFUL This Christmas

1. **Andrew's** Patience and hard working attitude!
2. **Marisa's** Compassion and focus in class!
3. **Kathlyn's** Empathy and love for those around her!
4. **Mitchell's** Kind spirit, love for dogs and big hugs!
5. **Rylan's** Care + Kindness towards everyone around him!
6. **Jawel's** Joyful personality and kindness to others!
7. **Levrett's** Class focus, honesty and sweet spirit!
8. **Milena's** Love for gym and classroom effort!
9. **Dusten's** Incredible artistic ability + smile!
10. **Jack's** Selflessness and helpful/kind nature!
11. **Greyson's** Athletic ability and energy!
12. **Lucy's** Sweet spirit and thoughtfulness!
13. **Rori's** Classroom focus and hard working spirit
14. **Parker's** energy + making me laugh!
15. **Xander's** Compassion for others + hard work!
16. **Sebastian's** Kindness to others in the class!
17. **Kane's** Hard working attitude and smile!
18. **Samantha's** Big hugs @ others + helpful spirit!
19. **Arley's** Helpfulness and giant smile!
20. **Gabby's** Respectfulness to others + big smile!
21. **Conrad's** dance moves and being a great friend!
22. **Bridgette's** Gentleness and kindness to others!
23. **Skylar's** Sweetness and the love she shows others!
24. **Tristan's** Humor and inquisitive m

STAR Catholic @STARCatholic · Dec 1

Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education was created in 2018 by the Bishops of Alberta, @ACSTANews & the Council for Catholic School Superintendents. @GrACE4cathed aims to unite, engage, educate & communicate w/ one voice on behalf of Catholic education!

#IBelieveInCatholicEd



Holy Spirit Catholic School
4d · 📍

Congratulations to our students who received their First Holy Communion today! 🙌



St. Mary's Sexsmith
5d · 📍

Today was our monthly Art Show following Mass! This month we featured the artwork of grade 4. Their paintings remind us to take time this Advent season to make room for Christ, making sure our hearts are like the manger and not the Inn. We were blessed to have some of our grade 4 students assist with the Mass and a huge thank you to Immaculate Conception parishioners for hosting a pancake breakfast to accompany the art show! #gpcsd #livingthatsaintslife #IBelieveInCatholicEd #catholiceducation

Cindy Escott @EscottLearning · Dec 6

Beautiful Advent Mass @STJPIICATHOLIC today! A great message to be thankful for your blessings this time of year! #ecssdPEACE #Advent2022 #IBelieveInCatholicEd



PofPCCSD @PofPccsd · Dec 7

Grade 9 students have been studying the Beatitudes and making connections in their own personal lives #IBelieveInCatholicEd @CCSD_edu @GrACE4cathed



STAR Catholic @STARCatholic · Dec 7

Did you know you can follow GrACE on social media? Follow along them at Grace: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education on Facebook, @GrACE4cathEd on Twitter & @grace4catholiceducation on Instagram!

#IBelieveInCatholicEd



Evergreen Catholic Schools @EvergreenCSSD · Dec 1

Students and staff of Fr. Gerard Redmond Catholic School (Gr. 5-12) in Hinton, AB celebrated the Advent season with Fr. Rajesh Jesuraj, S.A.C. in a Mass at Our Lady of the Foothills Catholic Church.

#ecssdPEACE @GrACE4cathEd @archedmonton #IBelieveInCatholicEd



Legal School

November 28 at 12:06 PM · 🌐

We gathered at St. Émile Parish this morning to begin Advent. Thank you to Mrs. Pelletier for sharing her gifts and talents while leading us in music ministry it made the mass so special.

Also a huge thanks and many blessings to Father Lester as he presided over mass and telling us to remember the 3 Ps of Advent; prayer, patience and perseverance!! Thank you for your spiritual leadership and giving up of your time this morning before leaving for Plamondon. We wish you many blessings in your new parish.

#IBelieveInCatholicEd Grace: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

Joseph Dumont @PrincipalDumont · Dec 2

My first career fair in person!!! I am very excited to meet @StMarysU students today and to share with them about my amazing school Division @GSACRD!!



Holy Family CRD @HFCRD37 · Dec 8

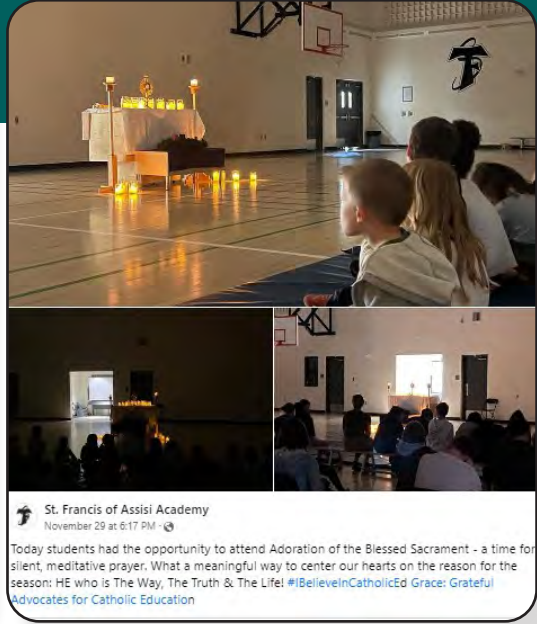
The Holy Family Catholic Regional Division and St. Andrew's School is honoured to congratulate our students and Parish members for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation with Archbishop Pettipas on November 19th. #Grace4CathEd #IBelieveInCatholicEducation #HFCRD



St. Joseph Catholic @joes4646 · Dec 1

What a wonderful way to begin the Advent season! Together. At church. Listening to the Christmas story and singing about the light of Hope that shines during this first week of Advent. ❤️ We are so grateful for this celebration! #ecssdPEACE





St. Francis of Assisi Academy
November 29 at 6:17 PM · 📍
Today students had the opportunity to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - a time for silent, meditative prayer. What a meaningful way to center our hearts on the reason for the season: HE who is The Way, The Truth & The Life! #IBelieveInCatholicEd Grace: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education



ChestertonSILC @ChestertonSILC · 3h
Thank you Bishop David for your wonderful and informative presentation to our Chesterton Academy students today on a Nativity icon and it's correlation to a Resurrection icon. @EdmontonEpa #IBelieveInCatholicEd @silc_eics @EICSCatholic



Tina Madden @MrsTLMadden · 17h
As we prepare for His coming, make us instruments of Your peace. During this second week of Advent, student's and staff @OLWChestermere have been reflecting on how they can become instruments of peace. #IBelieveInCatholicEd



St. Matthew School @StMatthew_CCSD · Nov 30
This Saturday Bennette in grade 7 made a Declaration of Faith in the Catholic Church and later in the day received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



St. Matthew School @StMatthew_CCSD · Dec 1
We are so proud of all the students that made their Sacrament of Reconciliation this Saturday at Cecilia Church.



StBonifaceECSD @StBonifaceECSD · 5h
Patiently awaiting His arrival!



St. Clement Catholic School
December 3 at 10:06 AM

A beautiful Advent Celebration led by our grade 4/5 class.



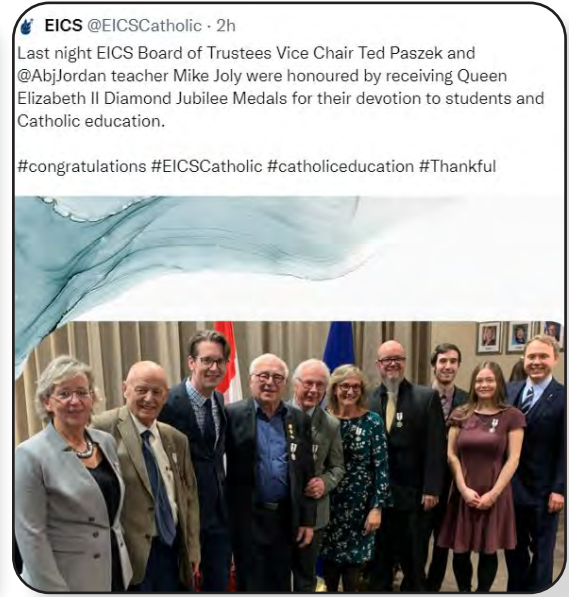
PofPCCSD @PofPccsd · Dec 7

Walking around the school seeing different displays as we prepare for the birth of Jesus 🙌 So beautiful and blessed to show this amazing event 🙏 #IBelieveinCatholicEd @CCSD_edu @GrACE4cathed



GrACE @GrACE4cathed · Dec 8

So beautiful to have students from Brooks' Catholic schools join parishioners for morning mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception #iBelieveinCatholicEd @calgarydiocese



EICS @EICSCatholic · 2h

Last night EICS Board of Trustees Vice Chair Ted Paszek and @AbjJordan teacher Mike Joly were honoured by receiving Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals for their devotion to students and Catholic education.

#congratulations #EICSCatholic #catholiceducation #Thankful



St. Alphonsus School CCSD @alphonsus_st · Dec 7

#advent



St. Maria Goretti @SMG_CCSD · 20h

Grade 6 students delivering Christmas cheer to our neighbours.

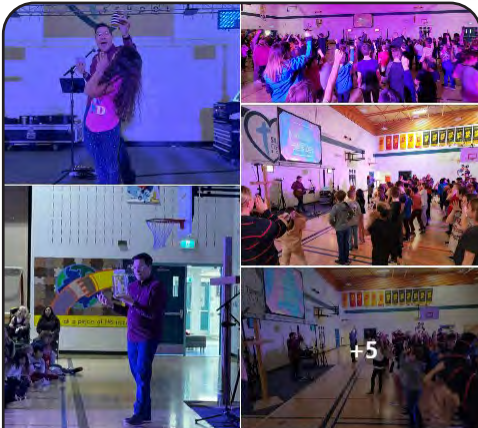
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Mark Hickie @MPHickie · Dec 7
 Today we celebrated our Advent Liturgy organizing by our Gr. 7 classes. We were blessed to have Fr. JP from @RCAscensionYYC serve as president. We were gifted in song from our liturgy choir led by Ms. Evans. Wishing all in the @Ascension_CCSD community a blessed Advent season! 🙏



St. John Paul II Collegiate
 Fr. Peter Lukas Drapal blessed our students with holy water today during our weekly Advent ceremony, with a pine branch in hand. While students waited, they wrote messages of peace and hope which will be displayed in the school.
 Today was extra special with this school-wide experience ending with Father blessing our St. Patrick room, being used to pack hundreds of backpacks in the days ahead! In so doing, we know the Lord will be with those who give to, work on, and benefit from this project for the needy in our community. 🙏
 Today's Gospel reading from Matthew 3:1-12 reminds us to "prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
 For this, let us continue to pray during this Advent!
 #StJPISaint #StJohnPaulII



St. Teresa of Avila School
 November 28 at 4:33 PM
 Our students had a faith-filled day with Masson Normand during our PULSE retreat. It was an amazing day filled with song, prayer and learning about virtues. A special thank you to our School Advisory Council and Red Deer Regional Catholic Education Foundation for sponsoring this faith retreat for us! Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools

Holy Family School @HolyFamilyECSD · Dec 7
 Father Patrick joined our G3's during Hour of Code as they create a collaborative stop motion video recreating the entire story of Jesus' birth. #ecsdfaithinspires @EdmCathSchools #ecsdhoc

