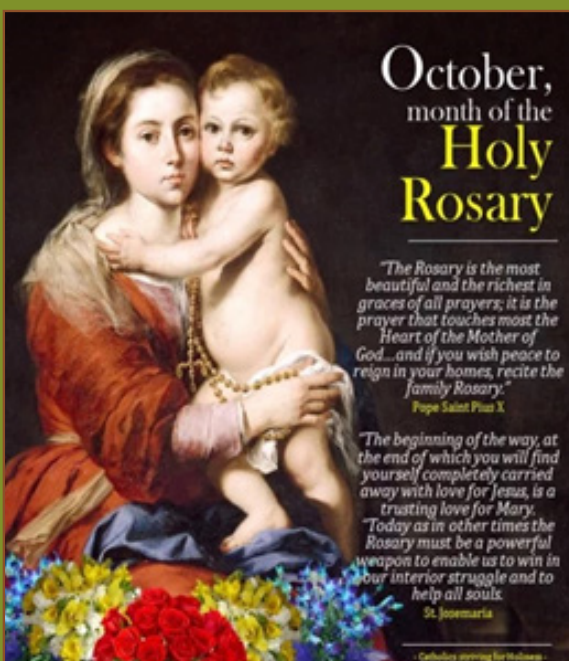
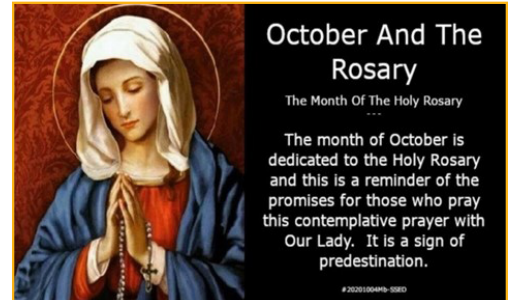




## October is a month dedicated to the Rosary

Pope Benedict XVI in an address at the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he prayed the Rosary with the faithful said:

*‘Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ’s mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. May Mary help us to welcome within ourselves the grace emanating from these mysteries, so that through us we can “water” society, beginning with our daily relationships, and purifying them from so many negative forces, thus opening them to the newness of God. The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the centre of each ‘Hail Mary’.*



## October and the month of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary sustain us! Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis

Castel Gandolfo, 15 August 2013

The passage from Revelation presents the vision of the struggle between the woman and the dragon. The figure of the woman, representing the Church, is, on the one hand, glorious and triumphant and yet, on the other, still in travail. And the Church is like that: if in heaven she is already associated in some way with the glory of her Lord, in history she continually lives through the trials and challenges which the conflict between God and the evil one, the perennial enemy, brings. And in the struggle which the disciples must confront – all of us, all the disciples of Jesus, we must face this struggle – Mary does not leave them alone: the Mother of Christ and of the Church is always with us. She walks with us always; she is with us. And in a way, Mary shares this dual condition. She has of course already entered, once and for all, into heavenly glory. But this does not mean that she is distant or detached from us; rather Mary accompanies us, struggles with us, sustains Christians in their fight against the forces of evil. Prayer with Mary, especially the rosary – but listen carefully: the Rosary. Do you pray the Rosary every day? But I’m not sure you do [the people shout “Yes!”]... Really? Well, prayer with Mary, especially the Rosary, has this “suffering” dimension, that is of struggle, a sustaining prayer in the battle against the evil one and his accomplices. The Rosary also sustains us in the battle.

## Message from GrACE Executive Director

Dear GrACE Colleagues and Advocates,

Celebrating Catholic Education, GrACE's mission is to inspire, invigorate, and embolden the spirit of Catholic Education and reflects a commitment to excellence and a vision for a well-rounded education that prepares Students to be responsible and compassionate members of society.

GrACE reinforces the value of choice in education; the importance of diversity within the educational landscape and supports a vibrant educational environment that respects individual points of view while contributing to the common good.

In telling the story of Catholic Education and addressing the historical and current issues it faces, GrACE plays a vital role in creating awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of the value and importance of Catholic Education.

By uniting, engaging and communicating with one voice, GrACE creates an effective vehicle to advocate for Catholic Education.

Bringing together individuals and organizations from different backgrounds and perspectives, GrACE encourages sharing of experiences and plays an essential role in promoting understanding, cooperation, and appreciation for Catholic Education.

GrACE has its 2017 roots in conversations and alliances with the Catholic Education Community throughout Alberta, Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

The continued encouragement and support of the Alberta; NWT and Yukon Bishops, alongside Alberta's Catholic Schools Trustees' Association and the Council for Catholic School Superintendents, plays a pivotal role in the mission of GrACE to successfully create and share the value and necessity of Catholic Education and also to engage stakeholders.

The selection of the name 'Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education' (GrACE) reflects the gratitude and advocacy central to GrACE's clear purpose and a commitment to promoting and advocating for Catholic Education, recognizing the positive impact on the lives of Students and the communities it serves, nurturing not only academic excellence but also the spiritual growth of Students.

When celebrating Catholic Schools and Education, it's important to acknowledge and appreciate those aspects that have made the Catholic Schools and Education system influential and valued throughout Alberta; NWT; the Yukon and beyond..

- 1. Commitment to Values:** Catholic Schools provide an education that goes beyond academic subjects and fosters character development, empathy, and compassion.
- 2. Academic Excellence:** Catholic Schools often have a strong academic reputation, rigorous curricula and dedicated teachers who strive for academic excellence focusing on providing a quality education that prepares students for future success.
- 3. Faith Formation:** Catholic Schools integrate religious education into their curriculum, allowing students to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. Thereby providing opportunities for spiritual growth, including prayer, sacraments, and involvement in the local faith community.

- 4. Community Engagement:** Catholic Schools frequently foster a strong sense of community and promote service to others. Students are encouraged to engage in volunteer work, community service projects, and social justice initiatives, teaching them the importance of making a positive impact on society.
- 5. Inclusivity:** Many Catholic schools strive to create inclusive and welcoming environments for students from diverse backgrounds. They promote diversity, respect, and tolerance, fostering an atmosphere where all students can learn and thrive regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.
- 6. Holistic Education:** Catholic schools emphasize the development of the whole person—academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically, encouraging students to explore their talents, participate in extracurricular activities, and develop leadership skills.
- 7. Alumni Networks:** Catholic schools generally have strong alumni networks that offer support, mentorship, and networking opportunities for former students. These networks can be valuable resources for career development and personal growth.
- 8. Positive School Culture:** Catholic schools often prioritize a positive and nurturing School culture that promotes respect, discipline, and a sense of belonging. The objective is to create safe and supportive environments where students can thrive academically and socially.
- 9. Partnership with Families:** Catholic schools recognize the importance of collaboration between educators and families. Parents are actively involved in their child's education, providing opportunities for parent-teacher communication, involvement in school activities, and a shared commitment to the student's well-being.
- 10. Contributions to Society:** Catholic schools have a long history of making significant contributions to society. Many graduates of Catholic schools go on to become leaders, professionals, and active members of their communities, using their education and values to make a positive difference.

I am honoured to be part of the GrACE Team and am here to support and to advocate for the advancement of Catholic Education in Alberta and beyond.

If you have any questions for GrACE or need assistance from GrACE in the future, please feel free to reach out to me.

**Kate**

Executive Director GrACE  
gracedirector7@gmail.com

*You must never grow weary of doing what is right. -2 Thes 3:3*



# Catholic Education Sunday

## November 05, 2023 — Mark your Calendars

**Thank you to the Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories for the Pastoral letters celebrating Catholic Education Sunday in Alberta.**

**GrACE invites you to read and share these letters with Friends, Family and your Community.**

[Bishops' Pastoral Letter- Catholic Education Sunday 2023- English](#)

[Bishops' Pastoral Letter- Catholic Education Sunday 2023- French](#)

In an increasingly secular society, where religious values are less prevalent, Catholic Parents seek a genuine Catholic and publicly funded Education for their children.

Catholic Education Sunday is a day of hope and a reminder to all Catholics of the enduring strength that our Faith provides us in an ever- changing cultural landscape.

It is a significant moment in the Catholic calendar, dedicated to acknowledging the value of Catholic Education, fostering a sense of community and seeking spiritual guidance and blessings for the journey ahead.

Catholic Education Sunday serves as a special occasion for prayer, reflection and solidarity among the Catholic Community, including Parents; Students; Educators; School Administrators; Trustees and Clergy where we can all express gratitude for the role of Catholic Schools in nurturing the faith and education of our young people.

Hence it is an opportunity for the Catholic Community to come together in a spirit of unity and shared purpose, acknowledging the importance of publicly funded Catholic Education throughout Alberta; the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and the impact of these Schools in the lives of Students and wider society.

In addition to giving thanks, we offer petitions for the well-being and spiritual development of our young people entrusted to the care of Catholic Schools.

With rights come corresponding obligations with this opportunity and – as Catholics – we are all called to ensure that our faith-based education aligns with the values and beliefs of the Catholic Church even in face of our society's changes and challenges.

As Catholics, we summon our courage, as a community of faithful, assured that God is with us wherever we go.

We are not alone in our journey, we have our Catholic Faith and God's reassurance, as our Father and our spiritual source of support.

The theme 'Courage to Lead' is seen as a source of inspiration and guidance for all Catholics, not just those directly involved in Catholic Education.



*Almighty God bless all people involved in Catholic Education, and also the year ahead.*

**Whether you are an Educator, Trustee, Parent, Student, member of the Clergy or Parishioner you are invited to celebrate Catholic Education Sunday.**

**As a GrACE Advocate and Leader in our Catholic Education system, ensure that you are celebrating, showcasing and highlighting the faith of your Schools.**

**If you are a GrACE Supporter, read, listen, follow, repost, share, support and cheer for Catholic Education on this day and always!**



## How Will you Celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on November 05, 2023?

- † Begin with prayer. Journey with Novena for Catholic Education Sunday, beginning October 28, 2023 and ending November 05, 2023 [CLICK HERE](#)
- † Share Catholic education prayer intentions with your community
- † Design a Catholic Education inserts for your Parish Bulletin and School Newsletters. Use pictures, statistics and quotes to paint a picture of your District
- † Contact your Local Media to do a story on Catholic Education
- † Distribute the Alberta; NWT and the Yukon's Bishops' letter on Catholic Education Sunday
- † Be present at Mass and share information about your Catholic schools
- † Personally ask a 'keen' Student, Parent, Teacher, Trustee and Priest to record their perspective on 'Why I choose Catholic Education'. Post testimonies on websites and social media
- † Share pictures highlighting faith in your School or District
- † Gather stories of Catholic Education
- † Tell the history of your Catholic School District
- † Pray the intentions for Catholic Education for the month of November 2023

## Upfront with the Archbishop

Upfront with Archbishop Smith is a weekly podcast where we seek to bridge the gap between the hierarchy and the faithful by discussing the beauty, truth, and challenges of our Catholic faith.

A new episode is released every Tuesday. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts! Our own "made in Alberta" Catholic podcast!

Check it out!



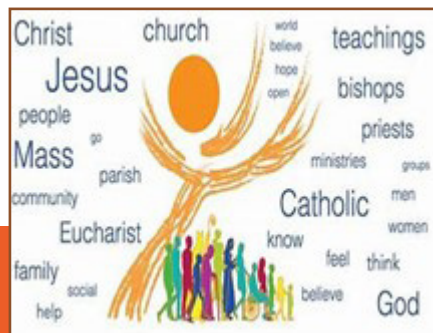
## Also in October

During his keynote address at the Archbishop's Dinner last Friday, Archbishop Smith preached to more than 1,200 people from throughout the Archdiocese that our calling as Christians is to offer hope to an anxious and often hopeless world.

Read our Archbishop's address [HERE](#) and [on youtube](#).



Pray a Rosary for the Synod in Rome also this month of October that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit.



## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for November 2023

- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may reveal the glory of God in all that they do, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our year of 'Courage to Lead' may be rooted in the synodal practices of listening, dialogue and discernment, 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
- † For Catholic education: For unity and solidarity within our communities and province, we pray to the Lord

## Connect with GrACE Online

Follow GrACE on Facebook and Twitter. 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! @GrACE4cathed

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

## We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic Education in Alberta.

Assist GrACE:

- † Sign up for GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- † Share GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- † Celebrate Catholic Schools and Education
- † Provide information to share in GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- † Tell your positive stories and benefits from your Catholic School and Education
- † Subscribe to GrACE's Facebook; Twitter and social media pages
- † Enrol Parents to become more actively involved in GrACE
- † Support local GrACE groups in your Parish
- † Ensure the GrACE Database has your correct contact information
- † Encourage a sense of collective responsibility in upholding the mission and values of Catholic Education in our shared society
- † Make a stand for Catholic Schools and Education in Alberta and beyond
- † Assert your choice in favour of Catholic Schools and Education and its values
- † Champion the benefits of Catholic Schools and Education, alongside its broader implications for the spiritual, intellectual, and social development of individuals and society as a whole
- † Action a movement
- † Provide information to share in GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- † Subscribe to GrACE's Facebook; Twitter and social media pages
- † Share your positive stories and benefits from your Catholic School and Education
- † Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too

## Students; Parents and Family Engagement

Aligned with GrACE's core values, let's explore innovative strategies that will enhance engagement with all of you; your Student bodies and all stakeholders within the wider Catholic Education movement in Alberta and beyond.

How can we more actively involve Parents and Families in our Student's education?

What can we do to foster a strong home-school partnership and provide Parent's with further support for their Child's Catholic School experience?

## The Gift of public funded Catholic Education

In unity with the Bishops of Alberta, Trustees, Superintendents, Educators, Clergy, Parents, Parishioners, Stakeholders and Catholic Influencers the Catholic Education Family provide authentic Catholic Education to more than 183,500 Students at more than 450 Catholic Schools in 19 Catholic School Districts and 4 Francophone Boards in an effort to support and affirm the values, principles and spiritual foundation that Catholic Schools are built upon to ensure continued success and impact.

Our Catholic Faith is at the centre of all our efforts, fostering an environment that nurtures both academic excellence; spiritual growth and a sense of collective responsibility in upholding the mission and values of Catholic education in our shared society.

## Celebrate Catholic Education

Publicly funded Catholic Education in Alberta is a unique and cherished historical gift for which we are all grateful.

It is an invaluable offering to both the Catholic Community and wider society, carrying growing responsibility in an increasingly secular world.

Catholic Schools provide an education that goes beyond academic subjects and fosters character development, empathy, and compassion.

Providing exceptional educational opportunities that integrate faith; academic excellence and service to the community, Parents; Teachers and Catholic Educators; School Administrators; Trustees and Clergy create an enriching transformative experience for Students within the Catholic Education System.

Dedicated to nurturing the spiritual; intellectual and social growth of all Students in Catholic Schools, Catholic Educators contribute to the continued growth and success of Catholic Education, preparing students to become compassionate and capable individuals who positively impact society.

With the evolving landscape of Education, it is increasingly important to celebrate Catholic Schools and to extol those aspects that have made the Catholic Schools and Education system influential and valued throughout Alberta and beyond.

## ACSTA Links

Links to ACSTA's two critical government relations items for the purposes of information and advocacy as follows:

- † [Briefing RE: Separate School Districts Establishment Process](#)
- † [Briefing RE: Proposal to Repurpose Education Property Taxes](#)

# GrACE's Newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta. There are so many positive stories about Catholic Schools and Education in Alberta.

## Lakeland Catholic School Division

### About Lakeland Catholic Schools

Lakeland Catholic School Division offers faith-based education to 2,700 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and to 150 Pre Kindergarten students.

Our eight schools located in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche, and Waskatenau offer unique extra curricular opportunities, excellent academics and athletics programming, and caring and inspiring learning environments.

With our mission statement at the heart of everything we do, Lakeland Catholic strives to provide a learning experience that develops our students' whole being: mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Through our Mental Health Matters Campaign, we are continuously supporting our students as they navigate their personal mental health journey. Student-led leadership groups host activities and events that reduce stigma, increase awareness, and promote mental wellbeing at each of our school sites.

We support our staff and students in their efforts to achieve excellence. Our Lakeland Catholic Community is already achieving incredible things. So far this school year, one of our talented students is a member of the Minister's Youth Council, while another has received a Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award.

On our staff, Assumption Jr.Sr High School Teacher Chantal Sakowich has been named a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM, and our division is being recognized through a BRAVO! Award from the Canadian Association for Communications in Education (CACE).

### BRAVO! Award

On October 29, Lakeland Catholic will be accepting a BRAVO! Award from CACE during a national conference after submitting a video project created for the former Alberta Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange.

The video features interviews with students, staff, and parents of Holy Family Catholic School in Waskatenau, as well as footage of the aging building in hopes of getting a new school in the small community. Filming, editing, and overall production of the video was done by our communications department.

This video, in addition to previous efforts at division and school-levels, resulted in an announcement early 2023 that a replacement school has been included in the provincial budget. This news was deeply appreciated by our staff, students, and families.

Our division is proud of the incredible accomplishments of all of our students and staff so far this year.



## Holy Spirit Faith Day

Holy Spirit Catholic school, a part of CCSD hosted its first ever student Faith Day on September 28, 2023 at St. Mary's parish in Cochrane. Teachers Audrey Bahrey, Lana McNeice and Jennifer Mah had a vision of a whole day connecting school and parish. They had worked for months in preparing for the day.

The morning started off with our school opening mass. After mass, students jumped right into activities based on their grade. Stations were set up throughout the church and outside in many areas, including the church's prayer garden, parking lot and chapel.

Activities ranged from an Amazing Race where older students read Bible passages and completed activities before racing to the next pit stop; playing Kahoot while learning more about our faith and the Bible; making rosaries with church volunteers; painting prayer rocks which will be placed along paths in Cochrane; hearing Bible stories and playing games with Father Joe; singing while Father Dan played guitar; video and question session with Father Dennis and time for prayer, reflection and journaling in the chapel with a parishioner.

Our junior high students listened to Father Rob and will use their ideas to generate social justice activities this year giving them an opportunity to demonstrate faith leadership in our school community. Each division prayed the rosary in the Serenity garden at the end of the day.

The day included a delicious BBQ lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers cooked by members of the Knights of Columbus. Special guests who stopped by for lunch were our Chief Superintendent, Dr. Bryan Szumlanski and the principal of our feeder high school.

The culmination to a great day was a PowerPoint put together to showcase all the students partaking in activities. What a wonderful start to our school year and a great way to celebrate our Catholic faith!



## Catholic News in Alberta and beyond

### GrACE Says Thank You...

Special thank you to the dedicated GrACE volunteers for their tireless efforts to support the work of GrACE. You are SO appreciated by us all!



**Michelle Collette**  
GrACE Treasurer



**Jolyne deMarco**  
GrACE Instagram Administrator



**Grant Gay**  
GrACE Facebook Administrator

### Further Opportunities to Volunteer

Student Volunteers are warmly invited to represent their School in GrACE's social media campaign; GrACE's new outreach and GrACE's database development.

All thoughts on how we can better utilize technology platforms to ensure even more timely communication channels between and within the wider Catholic Education Family and beyond gratefully received.

Please email [gracedirector7@gmail.com](mailto:gracedirector7@gmail.com) to express interest and suggestions.

### Statement from the Executive Committee to the Catholic Faithful on the occasion of the 2023 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

The Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops once again welcomed the 2023 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation as an opportunity to reflect on the tragic legacy of the former Indian Residential Schools and to pray for a continued path of healing with our Indigenous Peoples.

As noted by Pope Saint John Paul II in his 1987 Apostolic Voyage to Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, quoting from his Encyclical Letter Redemptor Hominis, no. 18: 'The soul of the native peoples of Canada is hungry for the Spirit of God, because it is hungry for justice, peace, love, goodness, fortitude, responsibility and human dignity'.

The Catholic faithful of Canada were, once again, invited to enter into this day with a spirit of charity and compassion, as followers of Jesus Christ, members of his 'living body of reconciliation', so that together with all Canadians, we may continue to walk forward with Indigenous Peoples on the path of truth, justice, healing, reconciliation, and hope.

Let us recall the words of the Holy Father during his recent Apostolic Voyage to Canada: 'The Church is the house where we 'conciliate' anew, where we meet to start over and to grow together. It is the place where we stop thinking as individuals and acknowledge that we are brothers and sisters of one another.'

### A day of healing, truth-telling, and reconciliation.

On September 30th, in honor of Truth and Reconciliation, **Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples** observed the day with the Holy Mass, followed by drumming, a smudging ceremony and candlelit procession into the St. Kateri Hall.

There was a sharing circle which offered an opportunity to share feelings about National Truth and Reconciliation Day and the day concluded with singing, a memorial round dance, and a soup-and-bannock lunch and fellowship.

The Catholic community in Lac Ste. Anne also commemorated the day with Mass, going to a "healing tree" prayer in 4 directions, led by Indigenous leaders, drumming, tying of the ribbons on the tree and a feast afterwards.

Although not pictured, Archbishop Smith also celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica in honor of the day. To read his homily, [click here](#).

Let us all continue to pray for healing and strong community as our Church and our country continues to move towards a flourishing relationship between Catholicism and all Indigenous people.







Artist Ellie Lagrandeur and her daughter Stacey Shearing stand beside a mural made with the help of students at Bruderheim School to recognize and honour Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



“Each year, EIPS staff and students learn more about the history and legacy of residential schools and how to make meaning in an age-appropriate way,” says Cheryl Devin, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Consultant at EIPS. “Teachers are skilled at selecting resources and activities that help students learn this dark chapter in our shared history, yet protect their hearts, give them agency to make change and provide hope for our future together on this land. I’m grateful to everyone who leans into this learning and makes commitments to be in good relation with others.”

Throughout the day, EIPS staff guided students through activities to deepen their understanding of Indigenous cultures and the effects of colonization. Activities include stories of Survivors, lessons about the context of residential schools within our shared history and engaging in the topic through art, storytelling and dialogue. School-specific details include:

- † **A.L. Horton Elementary:** Students and staff decorated the trees outside their school with orange decorations to bring awareness to Orange Shirt Day in their community. Leading up to the day, the school also highlighted different Indigenous cultural practices, such as throat singing and ribbon skirt making.
- † **Bev Facey Community High:** The School’s Aboriginal Studies students travelled to the Mission of Hope to help deliver food to people in need on September 26 and 28. Bev Facey Community High also had Turtle Talk in its library, focusing on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s mandate and its significance to the school community. On September 29, the school is hosting a five-minute ceremony along with a minute of silence, honouring the students who never returned home from residential schools.
- † **Bruderheim School:** The school’s staff and students have been participated in the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium’s week of daily interactions with Elders and Knowledge Keepers from across Alberta. These daily events showcase Indigenous languages and cultures through dance, sport, music, art and storytelling. Bruderheim School also teamed up with the Town of Bruderheim to repaint the “Every Child Matters” crosswalk—an initiative led by Bruderheim School student McKenna Bonner last year—and create a mural that will be proudly displayed in Bruderheim.
- † **Fort Saskatchewan Christian:** The school displayed a bulletin board covered in paper feathers around the theme “Every child deserves.” Each class is being given a set of feathers for students to colour and to write a word or a sentence of what each child deserves, such as to be loved or to feel safe.
- † **Fort Saskatchewan Elementary, Wes Hosford Elementary and Westboro Elementary:** Students are creating their own paper orange t-shirts or hearts, which will have messages of hope and love. The finished art projects will be displayed throughout their respective school buildings.
- † **James Mowat Elementary:** For Orange Shirt Day, the school is put together a visual display of orange shirts on its front lawn to bring attention to, and remember, First Nations, Métis and Inuit children who were forced to attend residential schools. James Mowat Elementary is also conducting a schoolwide reflection and remembrance assembly.
- † **Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary:** The school’s student activism group Teens Against Violent Oppression, or TAVO, created 600 orange ribbons leading up to Orange Shirt Day. Today, every student in the school will receive one and wear it for a moment of silence.

## GrACE says farewell for now to GrACE Board Member Trustee Michael Ouellette (2022-2023) and warmly welcomes Trustee Linda Ellefson in his stead (2023-2024)

Sincere thanks to departing GrACE Board Member, Trustee Michael Ouelette. Michael served as a GrACE Board Member 2022-2023 on behalf of ACSTA.

Michael is very dear to us all at GrACE and continues as a GrACE Advocate and top influencer promoting the work of GrACE Provincial Local groups promoting and engaging with all stakeholders throughout Alberta; NWT; the Yukon and beyond.

Michael passes the baton this year to Linda Ellefson who joins the GrACE Board for 2023-2024.

Linda has served Catholic Education for 37 years as a Teacher, Administrator, Curriculum Consultant and Deputy Superintendent.

Throughout her years, she has also served as Chair of Religious Education Network (REN) and as President of RMEC (Religious and Moral Education Council), Holy Spirit Catholic School Division; Greater St. Albert School Division and STAR Catholic School Division.

Currently, Linda is a Trustee for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division and now looks forward to serving as an ACSTA representative to GrACE.

Linda shares her vision and thoughts for the coming year and says that:

*'People live in the shadow of each other. We need one another. GrACE is a vehicle to Gather, Receive, Advocate, Communicate and Engage so that together we can encourage supporters around the value and gift of Catholic Education. We need to embrace the evangelizing mission of Catholic school by becoming more and more fluent in sharing our stories of Catholic education. We must continually share those stories as a dialogue between catholic schools, families and parishes.*

*Commit, Celebrate, Embrace, Advocate, Proudly Proclaim the gift of Catholic Education.*

*Embrace the doing and the being.*

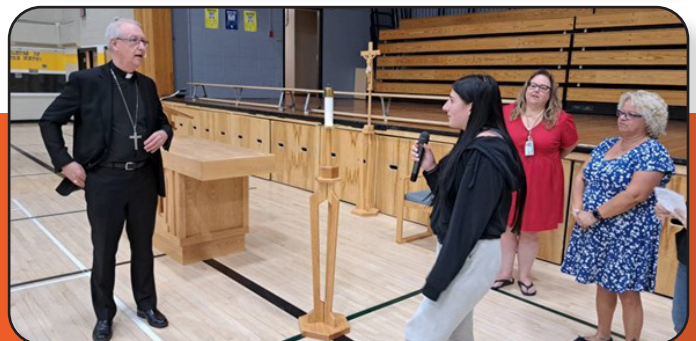
*You can't start a fire without a spark. GrACE is that spark that fans the flames of hope for catholic education'.*



## Social Media from around the Province...

### Edson

Archbishop Smith made a pastoral visit to the Catholic community of Edson, Alberta. During his stay in Edson, Archbishop Smith visited Vanier Community Catholic School and Holy Redeemer High School. His GrACE also celebrated Mass at the local hospital and shared meals with local parishioners.



## Lakeland

Two Lakeland Catholic high schools did their part to tackle hunger in their local communities. At the end of September, École Notre Dame high School and Assumption Jr/Sr High held their annual food bank fundraisers.

### École Notre Dame High

Each year, students and staff from École Notre Dame High School in Bonnyville collect food and monetary donations for the Bonnyville Food Bank through their Hungry for the Homeless event.

“Hungry for the Homeless is the event of the year for many of our students. Not only are we helping those less fortunate in our community but we are having fun. It really makes us proud to be a Wildcat any time we can give back,” said NDHS Teacher Erin Murphy.

### Assumption

For the second consecutive year, Assumption held their ‘Hungry for Change’ fundraiser.

“After our success last May, it only seemed right that we took on this initiative again leading up to a season where we should both give thanks for all we have been given, and share the abundance in what we have to help those in need,” said AJSH organizing Teacher Siobhan Squires. We hope to see our community once again come together to ensure that no one goes hungry this Thanksgiving season.”



École Notre Dame High



Assumption Jr/Sr High



Students from Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary race to the finish line at the school's annual Terry Fox School Run.

## Elk Island Public Schools

### EIPS Students and Staff Follow in Terry Fox's Footprint for Annual Terry Fox School Run

In the memory of Canadian icon Terry Fox and his inspirational dream, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students and staff take time out of their day to run, jog or walk a set distance for Fox's goal. They also spend the month doing various fundraising activities as they learn about the values Fox displayed. “Terry Fox and his legacy touch the hearts and minds of many in our classrooms and communities,” says Cathy Allen, Board Chair of EIPS. “This year's theme is Dear Terry, which asks people to share their own stories and messages of love, hope and inspiration.”

EIPS schools have participated in the Terry Fox School Run since 1992. Over that time, students and staff have raised substantial money for The Terry Fox Foundation. Last year alone, EIPS schools raised more than \$57,000 with the community's help. All funds raised during this year's event will go directly to the foundation to support Fox's dream of a world without cancer.

“Terry pushes students to persevere through hardship, stand courageous against adversity and come together to succeed,” says Allen. “All of these values contribute to a healthy and resilient mindset, empowering students to cross their own finish lines.”

Founded in 1981, the Terry Fox School Run has evolved into one of the largest fundraising events in Canada. To date, the foundation has raised more than \$850 million and funded 1,300 projects on behalf of Fox's legacy. EIPS congratulates all staff, students, volunteers and community members supporting this year's Terry Fox School Run.



# 2023-2024 GrACE Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for September 2023

- † For all students and families in Catholic education: For a safe and fruitful school year, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: that our year of ‘Courage to Lead’ in Catholic Education” may be rooted in the synodal practices of listening, dialogue and discernment, we pray to the Lord
- † For clergy and school staff: For love and grace to serve Catholic education with humility and zeal, we pray to the Lord
- † For trustees who have been entrusted with the sacred gift of Catholic education, for their wisdom and their leadership, we pray to the Lord

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for October 2023

- † For Catholic Education: That our Blessed Mother may wrap all children in her mantle of love and bring them ever closer to her Son, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That gratitude be our way of living and being in this world, we give thanks to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That the love of the Rosary and devotion to the Virgin Mary may thrive within our Catholic schools, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be inspired by the example of the many great saints who have gone before them and who intercede for them, we pray to the Lord.

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for November 2023

- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may reveal the glory of God in all that they do, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our year of ‘Courage to Lead’ may be rooted in the synodal practices of listening, dialogue and discernment, 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
- † For Catholic education: For unity and solidarity within our communities and province, we pray to the Lord

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for December 2023

- † For Catholic education: That during this season of Advent we may prepare our heart, minds and lives to welcome the Baby Jesus
- † For Catholic teachers: That their witness to hope in the Lord will be manifest daily, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic education: That each one of our Catholic

school districts will seek to build Bethlehem in our schools and our hearts, we pray to the Lord

- † For Catholic education: That JOY may be manifest in our every word, action and thought, we pray to the Lord

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for January 2024

- † 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

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for February 2024

- † For Catholic education: For unity and a true desire to seek the will of God, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may fill students with a love for learning and a desire to change the world for the better, 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

## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for March 2024

- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may make known God’s plan for all creation, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That the leaders of our Catholic schools may be encouraged and comforted in the love of God, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may always receive their identity from the teachings of Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be a place of healing and safety in a hurting world, we pray to the Lord

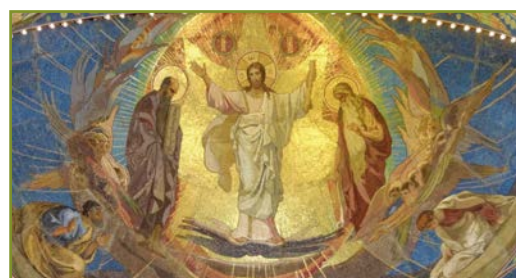
## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for April 2024

- † That during this most Holy Week, our Catholic schools will be places of prayer, reflection, penance and faith, we pray to the Lord
- † Alleluia! Alleluia! That our Parents, Students, Staff, Families, Educators, Community Leaders and Parishioners rejoice in the Risen Lord, we pray
- † For Catholic Education: that hope in the risen Lord abounds in our hearts, our homes and our schools, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be a blessing to families through their work with the young, we pray to the Lord



## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for May 2024

- † For Catholic Education: That Government decisions will be made to protect Catholic Education, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Blessed Mother may wrap all children in her mantle of love and bring them ever closer to her Son, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That during our celebrations of Catholic Education Week we continue with the 'Courage to Lead' in unity and common vision, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: the love of the Rosary and devotion to the Virgin Mary may thrive within our Catholic schools, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic education: in gratitude for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education, we pray to the Lord



## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for June 2024

- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may reveal the glory of God in all that they do, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be always able to draw excellent and faith-filled teachers to serve in the classroom, 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 be a source of hope for the young, we pray to the Lord





# CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 5,  
2023



CELEBRATING IN  
PARISHES WITH  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
AND ADVOCATES

---

GRATEFULLY  
ADVOCATING FOR  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION

---

THE MISSION OF  
GRACE IS TO  
INSPIRE,  
INVIGORATE AND  
EMBOLDEN THE  
SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION IN  
ORDER TO UNITE,  
ENGAGE, EDUCATE  
AND ADVOCATE  
WITH ONE VOICE ON  
ITS BEHALF

---

FOLLOW GRACE ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA

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[GRACE WEBSITE](#)

# NOVENA

for Catholic Education Sunday



The Catholic Bishops  
of Alberta and the  
Northwest Territories

# What is a novena?



9 DAYS

PRAYER



We are grateful for our Catholic schools.  
Let us unite in prayer  
that the Holy Spirit may intercede  
for Catholic Education throughout Alberta; NWT;  
the Yukon and beyond



Leader:

- ✠ Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts  
of your faithful.

**All:**

And kindle in them  
the fire of your love.



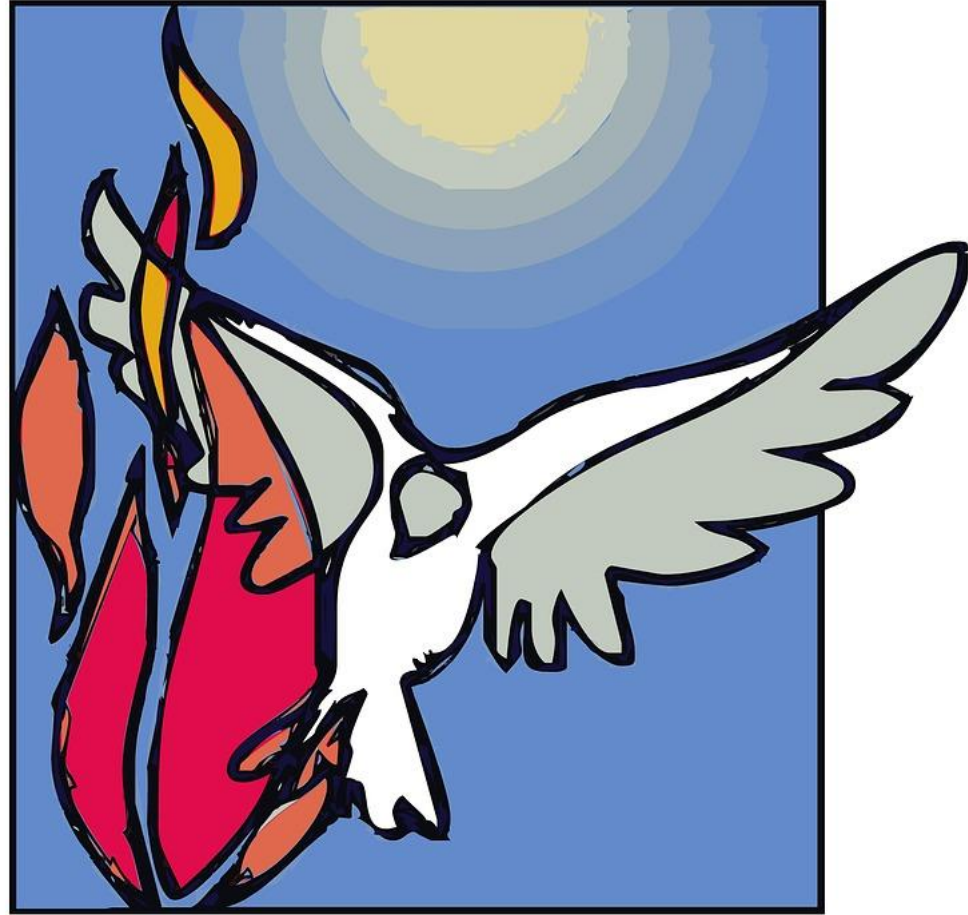
Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created



**All:**  
and  
you will  
renew  
the face  
of the  
earth.

Leader:  
Let us pray

**All:**  
Lord,  
by the light  
of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught  
the hearts  
of your faithful.





In the same  
Spirit  
help us  
to attain  
our happiness  
in what is right

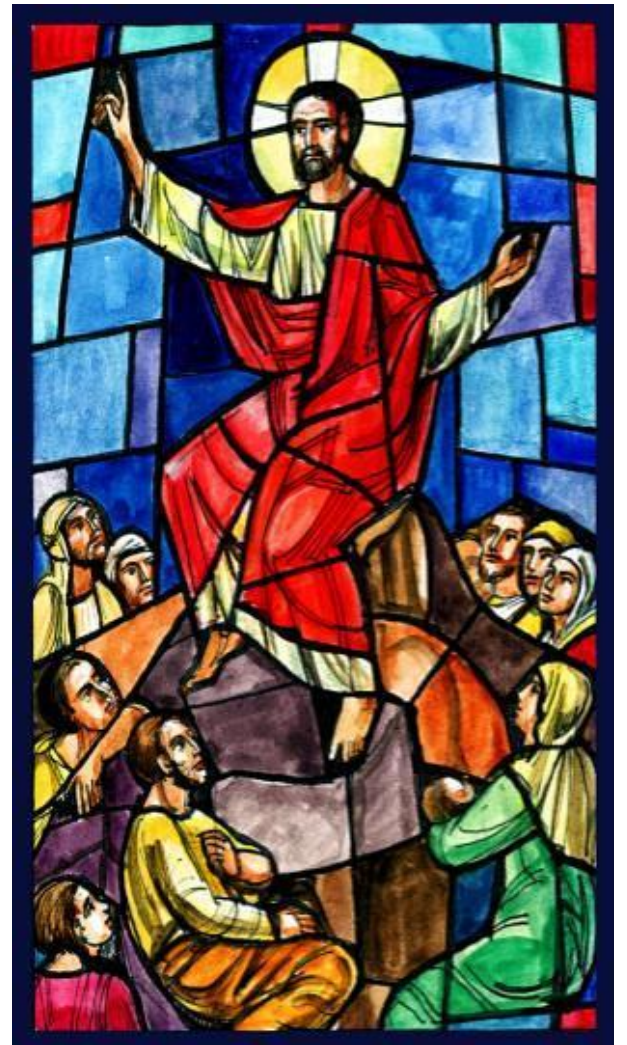
and to always rejoice in your peace and consolation.



May you inspire Catholic Education  
with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit



That it may  
remain faithful  
to your teachings  
and committed  
to living  
the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ





We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:



**All:**

As it was  
in the beginning  
is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. ✠