United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools

United in Prayer

Join the Bishops of Alberta, as they lead prayer at 9:00 AM each day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Bishop Terrio</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>Divine Mercy</td>
<td>Archbishop Pettipas</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Holy Mass</td>
<td>Archbishop Smith</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Liturgy &amp; Blessing</td>
<td>Bishop McGrattan</td>
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Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for May

For Catholic Education...

- That our Catholic schools may be a source of hope for the young, we pray to the Lord.
- 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.
- 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.
- That our Catholic schools may be a blessing to families through their work with the young, we pray to the Lord.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2
Grateful for…

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>• frontline workers serving those most in need</td>
<td>• Bishops, priests and clergy who shepherd us with love</td>
<td>• families who make faith real minute by minute</td>
<td>• teachers, leaders and staff who serve as gospel witness</td>
<td>• communities: parish, school and beyond who care for each other and share God’s love</td>
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Thank you to the Diocese of Calgary for designing and launching “Thank You for Having the Heart of Jesus” campaign. Thank you for sharing your logo for Catholic Education’s use. Thank YOU for having the heart of Jesus.

To access these resource click on the link Heart of Jesus

Catholic Schools

Each day of Catholic Education Week will celebrate and focus on one of the 5 Marks of a Catholic School.

1. View a daily video available at Daily Video for Mark of a Catholic School.
2. Encourage social media postings that focus on one mark each day.

Thank you to our GrACE partners
- Elk Island CSRD
- Holy Family CRD
- Edmonton CSSD
- Christ the Redeemer Catholic Division
- Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District

Daily Video for Mark of a Catholic School

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<th>May 18</th>
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<th>May 20</th>
<th>May 21</th>
<th>May 22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark 1</td>
<td>Mark 2</td>
<td>Mark 3</td>
<td>Mark 4</td>
<td>Mark 5</td>
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The 5 Marks of a Catholic School

In 2014, ACSTA hosted a symposium on Catholic Education in Sherwood Park. Keynote speaker, Archbishop Miller of Vancouver, presented to the participants. His work on the 5 Marks of a Catholic School became the focus of a subsequent ACSTA document titled: Growing Forward. CCSSA (Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta) continued this work by writing two subsequent resources for Alberta Catholic Schools: The Marks of an Excellent Catholic Teacher (2015) and The Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader (2016).

The 5 marks allow us to deepen our understanding of Catholic education. They give us common language; they give us opportunities to recognize and celebrate authentic Catholic education in action. As we continue to focus on the marks that make us genuine Catholic schools, we are able articulate our distinctness and grow in unity.

Mark 1
Created in the Image of God

Catholic schools are driven by a mission which views all men and women with an inherent dignity as sons and daughters of God.

Mark 2
Catholic Worldview

Catholic schools have a visible and tangible Catholic vision evident in their physical space, liturgical celebrations, and prayer life.

Mark 3
Faith Permeation

Catholic schools have an academic curriculum that integrates a vision of faith within the learner outcomes and teaching strategies.

Mark 4
Witness

Catholic schools nurture teachers that are living witnesses to the Gospel, and intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and his Church.

Mark 5
Community

Catholic schools recognize that each and every stakeholder is responsible for the common good.
Mark 1 Created in the Image of God

In a Catholic school we...
- Believe that each person is created in the image of God
- Know that each person has an eternal destiny
- Embrace the dignity of all
- Recognize and celebrate the gifts and talents of others
- Allocate resources to support and enhance the well being and the physical, emotional, academic and spiritual development of staff and students

Mark 2 Catholic Worldview

In a Catholic school we...
- Share a Catholic worldview through activities and events
- Create physical spaces in our schools that reflect our Catholic perspective
- Foster a Catholic worldview of reflection, service and sacramentality
- Make decisions rooted in Gospel teaching
- Embed sacramental routines (prayer, mass, liturgies, scripture and worship) and reminders in the culture of the school and district

Mark 3 Faith Permeation

In a Catholic school we...
- Incorporate a religious dimension in all learning
- Advocate for a sacred perspective within a secular context
- Encourage a critical evaluation of contemporary culture
- Provide opportunities for staff to develop their abilities to infuse faith into curriculum and pedagogy
- Teach Catholic values by fostering a love for wisdom and truth

Mark 4 Witness

In a Catholic school we...
- Witness to others a life lived in relationship with Jesus
- Participate actively in the life of the Church
- Pray personally and lead others in prayer
- Demonstrate a knowledge of faith and commit to faith development
- Create a vision for evangelization and ministry

Mark 5 Community

In a Catholic school we...
- Live in community, spiritual unity and relationship
- Recognize that God will be found in each other
- Foster reconciliation
- Develop priorities and protocols to address the needs of the marginalized
- Honor parents/guardians as primary partners in education
Celebrating the 5 Marks in Your Community

1. Learn about the 5 Marks of Catholic education
2. Pay attention and notice them happening in your school
3. Identify and share the 5 Marks whenever and wherever they are
4. Take pictures of each mark and share on social media
5. Tell stories of the 5 Marks in action
6. Teach your stakeholders about the 5 Marks of Catholic education

Celebrate Catholic Education on Social Media.
Focus on Faith by:

Uniting
- Connect Catholic schools in Alberta
- Bring the voices of all stakeholders into the conversation: bishops, trustees, teachers, parents, students and community

Engaging
- Celebrate positive news in Catholic education
- Encourage interaction, conversation and joy

Educating
- Educate all in the mission, goals and values of Catholic education
- Educate all in the broader mission of the Catholic Church

Communicating
- Communicate with all stakeholders and the larger community
- Communicate between Catholic school districts and Catholic schools

Guiding Questions when posting:

How does this post celebrate and distinguish the Catholic aspects of our school?

Which of the 5 marks does it embody?

1. The dignity of the human person
2. Permeation of Faith
3. Catholic worldview
4. Gospel Witness
5. Catholic community
From the field…

Provincial Catholic School District

Submissions

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Celebrating Catholic Education week takes on special meaning during the pandemic. Faith is a source of comfort during times of hardship. While the pandemic presents many challenges, there is also the opportunity to strengthen the connection between home, school, and the parish. At-home online learning provides a format to bring faith to the homes of our students and their families as Religion is part of our foundational core of learning. This is a return to the grassroots of our faith: sharing the good news. The pandemic has given us an appreciation for the little things. As Dr. Deena Hinshaw would say, we may be apart, but we are all in this together. To Living Waters, this speaks of the power of faith to unite us all. Each day of Catholic Education Week, we will share out on social media platforms an example of the Five Marks of a Catholic school, which shows the small acts that build a tapestry of faith and hope between our schools and homes. On May 21, in honour of World Catholic Education Day, we will encourage our students, parents, and staff to wear blue and create a collage of the many faces of faith. In the end, faith is really about coming together, even when we must remain physically apart.
Elk Island Catholic holds an annual GrACE contest where students from all of our schools can submit an entry based on our district’s theme. This year our theme is: **Love, First, Last and Always**. It is based on 1 John 4:19 *We Love because He first loved us.*

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division

This is a photo of Good Shepherd School celebrating our division-wide Faith Day on Monday April 20th. Our division usually celebrates our annual Faith Day in person altogether as a family, but this year we adapted to an online format. The response from staff was very positive!

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools

St. Stephen's School in Valleyview is praying with families through social media, and maintaining strong bonds with students through their faith. The videos are posted on Facebook and Google Classroom so all students and families can participate. Throughout the month of May, they are praying to our Mother Mary. They are including prayer videos from special guests like parish priests, our Board Chair, Superintendent and several other staff members. What a wonderful way to join in prayer at a distance!
"The opportunity for students, staff and parents to be able to openly pray, talk, and learn about God and Jesus is critical to the overall education of a community. The opportunity for parents to choose the education they desire for their children and be able to play an active role develops the strong partnership of home, school, Church and community: Powerful Partners In Education."

- George McGuigan
Fort McMurray Catholic Schools Superintendent

On March 9th, Racette Junior High School teachers met to continue their professional development on the 5 Marks of a Catholic School. Racette staff has been deepening their understanding of the 5 Marks throughout the school year with monthly PD which began in September. Their task for March was to do a visual storyboard that showed how their school lives out these marks. Divided into groups, the staff had 20 minutes to create a short video/slideshow that showed the mark they were assigned. They did awesome! Sometimes, less time is better than more.

Here is the result: 5 Marks of a Catholic School by Racette staff.

The mission of GrACE to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf summarizes the work of CÉFFA (Le Conseil de l’éducation de la foi catholique chez les francophones de l’Alberta). Created in May 2003, in partnership with the Catholic Dioceses of Alberta and the Alberta Francophone Catholic School Boards to promote Catholic faith formation for Francophones in Alberta, CÉFFA plays a key role in uniting, engaging, educating and communicating with its Alberta Francophone Catholic population.

CÉFFA was formed in response to the increasing number of Catholic Francophone schools being established in Alberta and the challenges being faced by bilingual and Francophone parishes scattered across the province. Since its creation in 2003, CÉFFA has established:

- a forum for discussion, direction and action to ensure leadership development in faith education;
- a network of collaboration, exchange and training for educators and catechists;
- a timely access to updated human and material resources in French for faith education in families, schools and parishes;
- an equitable recognition for and sustained reinforcement of the Francophone culture and character in faith education;
- opportunities for Catholic Francophones in Alberta to gather, learn and celebrate in order to break the isolation of the Francophone Catholic communities scattered throughout the province.
Some of CEFFA’s many successes since 2003, which include the CEFFA’S Provincial Francophone Catholic Conference every three years, alternating between Edmonton and Calgary, are:

- **Francophone Catholic Schools:**
  - Adopting a homogeneous curriculum & basic resources (Ontario Catholic Francophone Schools approved curriculum) and providing province-wide teacher inservicing;
  - Formation sessions for Catholic school leaders;
  - Creation of new resources in French to support Catholic teaching and developing parent course content brochures;
  - Organizing evangelization teams to tour the Francophone Catholic Schools throughout the province;
  - Creating online support in collaboration with the Francophone Professional Development Consortium.

- **Francophone Parishes and Families**
  - Organizing provincial forums for sharing with pastors and pastoral assistants;
  - Organizing workshops and Faith Formation for parishioners;
  - Adopting homogeneous catechetical materials for sacramental preparation and providing inservicing as per need.
  - Providing support and inservicing for the church ministries
  - Organizing Holy Land pilgrimages and local spiritual pilgrimages at designated sites in the province.

For the Francophone Catholic population of Alberta, we can truly say that CEFFA has played a critical role in **inspiring**, **invigorating** and **emboldening** the spirit of Catholic Francophone Education throughout the province.

CEFFA is overseen by the seven partners with the Coordinating Council overseeing the operations in coordination with the CEFFA Coordinator, Mme Caroline Maillet-Rao. You are invited to visit the CEFFA website.

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The annual CEFFA Partner Meeting is held annually in June at the Archdiocese of Edmonton with Archbishop Smith, as chair. June 2019

A glazed cross, created by a local Edmonton artist, is given to each of the Francophone Catholic Schools of Alberta upon their school opening.

Bottes et Vélo pilgrimages invites Francophone Catholics to explore Alberta outdoor sites while deepening their Catholic faith. Lac la Biche, May 2019
Banff, May 2018
Jasper, May 2020 (postponed)

Leadership in a Catholic Francophone school: shared leadership regrouping the administrative teams from each of the Francophone schools in the province. March 2020

CÉFFA organizes a conference for Francophone schools and parishes every three years, alternating between Calgary and Edmonton. Next conference, October 2020, Edmonton

Holy Land Pilgrimage - pilgrimages are organized yearly for the Francophone Catholic population of the province. Upcoming Holy Land pilgrimage is scheduled for October 2020.
Four years ago, at the invitation of Catholic Social Services, Evergreen Catholic launched the ‘Brief Project’. It is named in this way because it runs during Lent – 40 days is a brief period – and because students and staff donate new underwear (briefs) or socks for those in need. These are distributed at the annual Uplift! Day of Mercy sponsored by Catholic Social Services in Edmonton.

This year, despite classes being cancelled early in Lent due to the pandemic, students and staff donated over 3,700 pairs of underwear and socks! The total over four years is around 14,000 pairs.

Superintendent Mike Paonessa, Deputy Superintendent Dave Dempsey and other Division Office staff are seen loading the underwear and socks into the back of Mike Paonessa’s vehicle to be transported to Catholic Social Services Headquarters in Edmonton. As the boxes were unloaded at CSS, those unloading noticed thoughtful notes for those who would receive the donations from students. Evergreen Catholic Schools is delighted to be part of this worthy collaboration with CSS.

Attached please find daily prayers of Catholic Education Week developed by Edmonton Catholic Schools.

[Teachers] are “artisans” who shape the coming generations. By their knowledge, patience and dedication, they communicate a way of living and acting that embodies a richness that is not material, but spiritual, and creates the men and women of tomorrow.

Pope Francis
Introducing…

GrACE Board 2019-2020

GrACE is led and supported by the Alberta Bishops, Alberta Catholic School Trustees (ACSTA) and the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA). The GrACE board consists of two representatives from each of the partner-boards.

**Bishop Designates**
- Archbishop Richard Smith
  Archdiocese of Edmonton
- Bishop Paul Terrio
  Diocese of St. Paul

**ACSTA Designates**
- Michael Ouellette
  Grande Prairie Catholic School District
- Pat Bremner
  Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

**CCSSA Designates**
- Dr. Scott Morrison
  Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
- Paul Corrigan
  Elk Island Catholic Schools

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To all Catholic School stakeholders… THANK YOU!

Thank you for gratefully advocating for Catholic Education. Through your commitment and faith we continue to build a community of support that is inspired, invigorated and emboldened on behalf of Catholic Education.

Email gracedirector7@gmail.com
Follow us on and Twitter! @GrACE4cathed and Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed/](https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed/)

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico
Director of GrACE