



# FAITH IN OUR SCHOOLS





# WELCOME TO YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## ***Our Vision***

Making Christ known to children.

## ***Our Principles of Practice***

- We honour our children
- We provide a safe and secure environment
- We live and proudly proclaim our Catholic Christian faith
- We provide quality education in a Catholic environment
- We pray as an educational community
- We practice servant-leadership
- We focus on our mission through clarity of purpose
- We value our staff





# FAITH PERMEATION

*Faith is the founding principle in our Catholic schools. All students participate in religion classes and faith activities. They learn about Jesus and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.*

The study of world religions, morality and ethics are key components of religious education.

Students are called to model Christ in all that they do. They are taught how to build self-control, self-discipline, leadership and discipleship.

Teachers integrate faith into every subject area. We call this “***faith permeation.***”

Through prayer, celebrations, social justice projects and retreats, students develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They grow in their commitment to the Gospel’s call to actively transform the world into a better place for all of God’s peoples.





# FAITH-FILLED LEARNING COMMUNITIES

**Catholic schools are *faith-filled* learning communities.**

Daily life in a Catholic school is formed around the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. God is a mystery beyond human understanding and is revealed to us through Jesus.

In partnership with parents and our parishes, Catholic schools nurture the spiritual development of children and young people.

Symbols and religious artwork in classrooms and throughout our schools are reminders of the stories, peoples and truths of our Catholic faith and the invisible realities that surround us.

Music, prayer and visual expressions of faith are all part of every day activities in our schools.





# PRAYER

*Schools are places of prayer. Important prayer times are in the morning, noon and at the close of the school day.*

## **The Sign of the Cross**

We begin and end our prayers with the Sign of the Cross. When we bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, we remember the One who blesses us: God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Anyone who believes in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can make this prayer their own and all are welcome to pray and engage in it.

## **The Rosary**

The rosary is a sequence of prayers that focus on moments in the life of Jesus. To remember the sequence, we use a strand of beads and each bead is associated with a prayer.

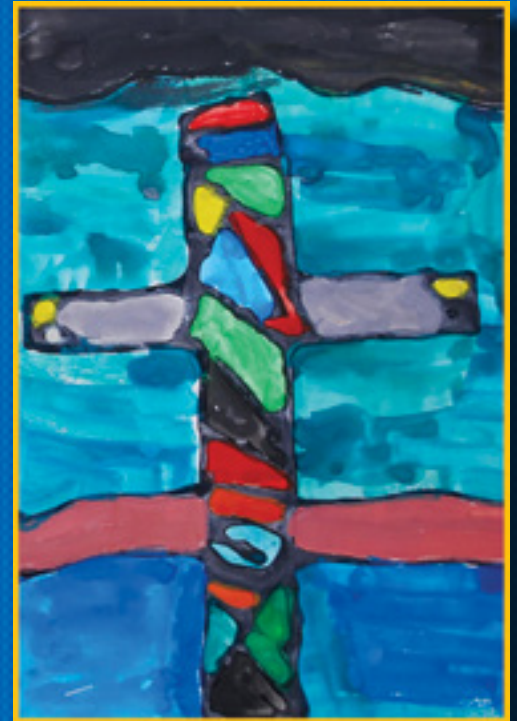




# COMMON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Some Christian beliefs fundamental to our Catholic faith include:

- God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- God is creator of heaven and earth
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the full, final revelation of God
- Humanity and creation have suffered a sinful fall
- Humanity and creation are saved through Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection
- Salvation is pure grace received by the gift of faith
- We await Christ's return and the judgment of the living and dead
- The Church, or the People of God, are known as the Body of Christ
- The Bible is God's word, inspired and without error
- The commandments are summarized in the commandment to love
- We are sent by Christ to share the good news





# CATHOLIC BELIEFS

## ***Salvation***

Salvation is a continual process of conversion, it is not a one-time event. It is with grace that we come to accept the precious gift God has given us. This is the gift of Salvation.

## ***Mediation***

We see Christ as the one mediator between God and humanity. Priests, liturgies and sacraments do not replace Christ. They are participants in Christ's mediation.

## ***Mary***

Catholics honour Mary because she is the Mother of God, she bore Jesus and said "Yes" to God's plan of salvation. Just as we ask each other to pray for our needs, we ask Mary and all the saints in heaven to pray for us.

## ***The Bible***

The Bible is known as the Word of God and a book of personal inspiration. To interpret it, we turn to the Church. We believe that the Spirit guided the Church's interpretation over the centuries. Known as Scripture, the Bible is taught in all the religious education classes and used in prayer.





# SACRAMENTS

There are seven sacraments and they are distinct moments in a person's life when one accepts that God is with us and in us. Each of these moments is celebrated with its own sacred and tangible sign. The sacraments are categorized as:

## ***Sacraments of Initiation***

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Communion)

## ***Sacraments of Healing***

Reconciliation (Confession) and Anointing of the Sick

## ***Sacraments of Service***

Holy Orders (Ordination) and Marriage

*All students learn about the sacraments in religious education classes. Students of other denominations or religions are encouraged to receive their sacraments and participate in religious rituals in their own faith community.*







# CELEBRATIONS



## ***Liturgy of the Mass***

The Liturgy of the Mass is a public prayer. We remember and participate in the central mystery of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The two parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. First we listen to God's word proclaimed from Scripture. Then we remember Jesus' saving event on the cross and his resurrection in a special way - this is also known as Communion.

## ***Other Celebrations***

### ***Grade 4 - Good News Celebration***

At this special celebration, all grade 4's receive a Bible from the parishes.

### ***Grade 5 - Rosary Celebration***

All grade 5's receive a Rosary as a gift from the local councils of the Knights of Columbus and pray the Rosary together.

### ***Grade 6 - Stations of the Cross***

All grade 6's gather for this Lenten Prayer service led by St. Francis grade 6 students in a dramatic interpretation of the Stations of the Cross.

There are many other celebrations and retreats throughout a student's journey in our Catholic schools.



# LITURGICAL SEASONS

## ***The Liturgical Year***

*The Church year has different seasons that help us celebrate the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The principal Liturgical Seasons are:*

### **Advent**

Advent is the start of the Church's Liturgical Year and focuses on the "Coming of Christ." It begins four weeks before Christmas.

### **Christmas**

The birth of Christ.

### **Lent**

The word means "Spring." Lent is a 40-day preparation for Easter.

### **Easter**

From Easter Sunday to the Feast of Pentecost (50 days), we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

### **Ordinary time**

The days and weeks between Easter and Advent.





# COMMUNITY

## ***Parishes***

Parishes are the basic unit of the Church. A parish covers a specified geographical territory or sometimes it is based on an ethnic community.

The parish is the life-long faith community for the Catholic believer. Each school belongs to a parish and the priest is the leader of the community. Parishes belong to a diocese or archdiocese. Our parishes are part of the Edmonton Catholic Archdiocese.

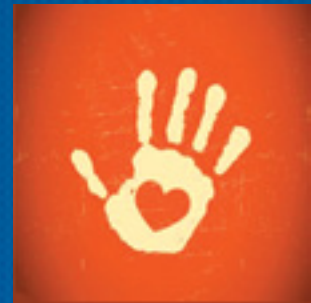
Schools cooperate with their parish in many ways especially in the area of sacramental preparation. The parish priest and parish staff often participate in school faith celebrations and visit classrooms.



## ***Learning and Practicing Social Justice***

Each school is engaged in social action and outreach. Students learn of the needs of the community and the world. They are called to reach out with a helping hand.

Our Christian response to the challenges of the world is promoted in themes centered on discipleship, community, justice, dignity of persons and being outstanding stewards of God's creation.



**Sources:**

- When Your Child Attends a Catholic School Brochure, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
- Our Catholic Schools Brochure, Ottawa Catholic School Board
- Charles Weckend, Fort McMurray Catholic Schools
- [www.cptryon.org/prayer/sign.html](http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/sign.html)



**Red Deer Catholic  
Regional Schools**

*Inspired by Christ. Aspiring to Excellence.*

**Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools**

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