

## Catholic Education Theme for 2020-2021

### Isaiah 40:31

#### In Times like These



Catholic Education Sunday is just around the corner. This year our schools will be celebrating differently; but without doubt, we **will** be celebrating!

Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift that only two other provinces and two territories share with Alberta. It is at times like these, that the unique and distinct nature of Catholic Education becomes even more obvious.

Rooted in faith, supported by prayer and nurtured in community, our Catholic schools are inviting spaces where children, families and staff encounter Christ. Through that encounter, hope flourishes. Through that encounter, we have the opportunity to renew our mission and purpose and find our strength.

In times like these Catholic Education offers hope to the despairing and strength to the exhausted. Remaining faithful, we know that God will renew our spirits, our lives and our future. *Bonnie*

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

[Alberta Bishops' Letter- English](#)  
[Alberta Bishops' Letter- French](#)

- 17 Catholic School Districts exist in the province of Alberta.
- 4 Francophone boards offer Catholic education at specified schools.
- St Paul Education offers Catholic education at specified schools
- More than 183,500 students attend more than 450 Catholic schools in our province.

**Novena for Catholic Education  
October 29 until November 6, 2020**

We are grateful for our Catholic Schools.

We invite you to join us in prayer for Catholic Education by praying the following novena daily, from **October 29 until November 6, 2020**, asking Our Lord to send forth His Spirit.

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 relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Jesus 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.**

**Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday in a time of COVID**

- † **Design a Catholic Education insert 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 Bishops' letter on Catholic Education Sunday**
- † **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: Did you know? statistics about the history of Catholic Education and current numbers. Data is in the GrACE presentation and ACSTA website.**
- † **Take and post pictures highlighting faith in your school or district.**
- † **Interview stakeholders asking the question: When do you experience HOPE in our Catholic schools?**
- † **Gather stories of Catholic education**
- † **Tell the history of your Catholic school district**
- † **Pray the intentions for Catholic Education**

### ***Evergreen Catholic suggests...***

- Pass out individually packaged cookies with a cross or symbol. Distribute to parishioners as they leave Mass.
- Interview a student/parent/teacher to share why they value Catholic Education
- Take pictures/videos of Faith alive in our school and post
- Have students create/color posters/collages with this year's themes
- Have students write with the prompt: *I love my Catholic school because...* Post quotes from their writing around the school and parish as well as websites and social media
- Complete a service project in the community and write a reflection linking the project to this year's theme for Catholic Ed Sunday

### **GrACE Top Toolkit Tips**

1. Meet with your GrACE group. Choose 1 action to do before Christmas.
2. Ensure that your parish priest has the monthly prayer intentions for Catholic education. Ask for intentions to be prayed at weekly mass.
3. Pass this newsletter on to 2 people. Invite them to join the GrACE contact list.

### **GrACE Around the Province**



### **CTR Catholic**

This picture speaks to both the beauty of the sacraments and the gift of Catholic Education. The link between the school and Church is vital!

- 100% of the children baptized (8 total) attend one of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools in Brooks
- The adult baptized is a parent of students at CTR Catholic schools in Brooks
- 90% (10/11) of those baptized or receiving the sacraments are either a student, parent or staff member of one of our schools in Brooks
- All Catechists were school staff members
- 70% of the Godparents/Sponsors were teachers from the Brooks' Catholic Schools

## Grande Prairie Catholic Schools

We will be pursuing community meetings. As well, we plan to hold a food drive in January because our work is better if it is "Well done instead of Well Said". Actively living our faith through Christian service might be something we focus our GrACE group on for awhile.

## Holy Family Catholic Schools

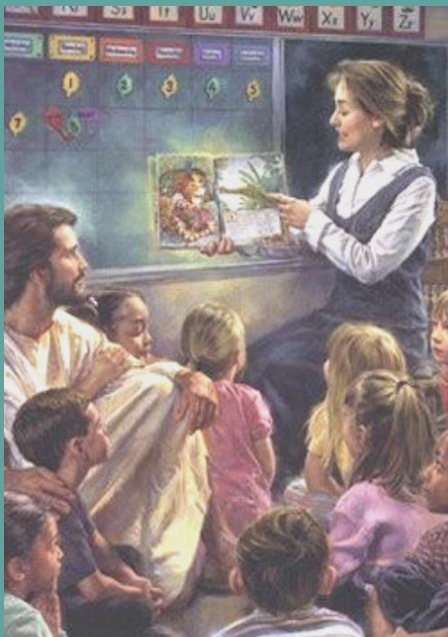
One initiative we as a Board have put forward this year is three Saint or "Feast Day" celebrations division-wide. These will be shared on social media during this time as to get exposure to all parents and communities.

October: Our Lady of the Rosary  
March: St Joseph  
June: St Thomas More

## STAR Catholic School Division and St. Michael Parish Leduc support a public rosary.

Each year, 'Canada Needs Our Lady' holds the Public Square Rosary Crusade, with rosary rallies in over 550 cities all across the country. On October 10, 2020, groups across Canada simultaneously prayed for our country and the world! This year, Public Square Rosary Rallies took place on the Saturday closest to October 13, feast of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun.

'Canada Needs Our Lady' is a special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization to win the hearts and minds of Canadians for Mary. For the past 2 years St. Michael's Parish in Leduc has hosted a public rosary on main street in the parking lot of STAR Catholic school division. St. Louis de Montfort of France was instrumental in establishing the public rosary and is known for his famous phrase: "To Jesus, through Mary."



CTR Catholic & GrACE CTR

# GrACE Teacher Workshop

Friday, November 6th, 2020  
Via Zoom - 12:50-2:00 PM

**Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools** has embedded Catholic Professional Learning Community time every Friday afternoon.

On Friday, November 6, all the teachers in the district will be part of a GrACE zoom presentation led by GrACE CTR.

The goal is to inform and educate teachers around advocacy for Catholic Education and then to send them off as confident, competent advocates!

Grade 4 students at **STAR Catholic** Ecole Notre Dame School participated in the Bible commissioning and liturgy which was planned by the grade 4 classes. Each student in grade 4 received a new Bible which was blessed by Fr. Silvichan who joined the students for liturgy.

Congratulations to the grade 4s and thank you to St. Michael Parish Knights of Columbus for donating the bibles as they do every year. We are blessed and grateful.





Our **Elk Island Catholic Schools'** GrACE group continues the important work of supporting and inspiring the spirit of Catholic education in our schools. Although things look different this year, we are working on coming up with ideas on how to move forward in unique ways.

We are putting together a video to explain the purpose and work of the GrACE group as well as to highlight Catholic education and all the great work that is happening in our Catholic schools. This video will be played before each mass in all of our communities on Catholic Education Sunday (Sherwood Park, Vegreville, Camrose and Fort Saskatchewan).



**St. Paul Education GrACE**

**“In the same way let your light shine before others...” (Matthew 5:16) is the hope we find each of you embracing in these uncharted waters.**

**Our group has focused on prayer via social media as a way of bringing Christ's *light* to others while connecting home, school and parish. Reaching out in prayer we are united and able to support each other through our spiritual union.**

**We are currently involved in two year-long projects to this end: 1) First Friday rosaries live on Facebook 2) A monthly novena for different intentions starting on the first Sunday of each month 3) Shining Quotes. This project focuses on using the wisdom from the Bible and Saints to bring hope, renew our strength, and shine Christ's light to others. These quotes will be written out by students and adorned with artwork and then posted to social media through the schools and parishes they are attached to. They will eventually become part of a larger calendar project tied to Catholic Education Week.**

**We wish each of you good health, continued strength for the tasks God has placed before you each day and strength for the journey.**

## Red Deer Catholic Schools



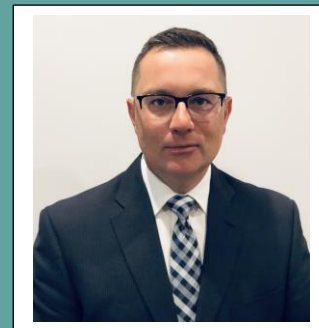
On October 19, students from across the division participated in the initiative [One Million Children Praying the Rosary](#). Not only was it a time to pray for unity and peace around the world, but also for a resolution to the worldwide healthcare crisis and anxiety the families may feel.

## Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

Students from Legal animated the division faith theme, showing courage by being leaders of faith and using their wings to fly as they are called to "Arise: Get up, get going, and go with God!"



## Meet Greater St Alberta Catholic Schools' new Superintendent



Dr. Clint Moroziuk commenced his role as Superintendent of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools on August 1, 2020. Clint brings over twenty-three years of experience in education, having served in a variety of teaching and leadership roles. Over the course of his career, Clint has worked for two school jurisdictions: Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools for the past two years as Assistant Superintendent, and Elk Island Catholic Schools for twenty-one years prior.

Dr. Moroziuk is a committed lifelong learner, holding a Doctorate of Education from the University of Calgary, a Master of Religious Education from Newman Theological College, a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Phoenix, and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta. His doctoral dissertation is entitled *The Principal as Faith Leader in Alberta's Catholic Schools: A Multi-Site Case Study* and Dr. Moroziuk is delighted to have had the opportunity to pursue his research in an area which is of primary concern in the field of Catholic education.

Clint enjoys music and plays a variety of instruments. He recently wrote a song entitled "Arise!" to coincide with the division's three-year faith theme – "Arise: Get up! Get going! Go with God!" He feels blessed that he is able to employ many of his passions, such as music, within the context of his work.

Clint is married to Larissa, who is also a teacher, and they have two wonderful daughters who are in grades eleven and twelve in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program. Clint and his family are members of St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Sherwood Park.

Dr. Moroziuk states, "I enjoy making authentic connections with the students, staff, families, parishes, community partners, and of course, our Board of Trustees. I endeavour to approach each day seeking ways in which I can be of service to others."



**ECSD Religious Education Services** @EcsdServices · Oct 9  
 What has Kathleen (@WonderWomn) been reading to kids @EdmCathSchools? "Sitting Like a Saint" by Dr. Gregory Bottaro @CatholicPsych. All the kiddos that she read to had an opportunity to practice Catholic mindfulness. #ReadInWeek #ecsdfaithinspires #IBelieveInCatholicEd



**Mrs. Oliverio** @mrs\_oliverio · Oct 20  
 What is Faith? Grade 2s captured some thoughtful responses to this question, following our district's Faith, Hope, Love theme this year. @stjerome\_ccsd @CCSD\_edu



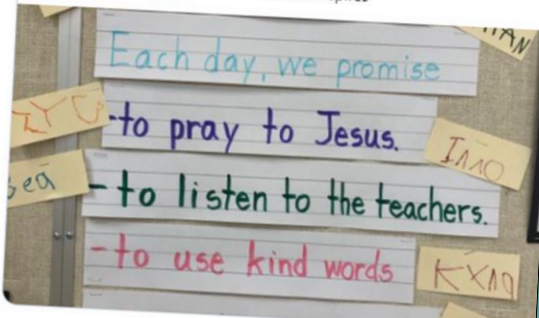
**St. Rita School** @stritacsd · 6h  
 The Catholic Social Teaching we are learning about for October is Human Dignity. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. Every person has dignity and worth. We can show this to each other my the words we choose. We are asked to Speak Life (song my TobyMac).



**Holy Spirit** @HolySpiritDevon · Oct 14  
 Our Knights of Columbus Grade 4 bible celebration looked a little different this year, but the importance and meaning of this event was just the same! Thanks @MrB61500236 and @LauCo77 for the planning and @MargaretCargil4 for attending. #ecsdLOVE



**Holy Family School** @HolyFamilyECSD · Oct 15  
 Our Kindergarten class has a great and powerful class creed. A good way to start everyday 🙏💕 #ecsd #ecsdfaithinspires



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.

**October Social Media Posts**  
 Calgary Catholic School District  
 Holy Spirit Catholic Schools  
 EXCEL Leadership Academy  
 Edmonton Catholic Schools  
 Elk Island Catholic Schools

**Laurie Kardynal** @kardynal\_teach · Oct 20  
 Opening day of the ExCEL Academy, celebrating the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine rite at St. Sophia's Ukr. Catholic Parish with aspiring leaders from @EvergreenCSSD @STARCatholic @LCSO\_150 @EICSCatholic @EdmontonEparchy



**GRACE** @GrACEcathod · Oct 14  
 "Time with God". Love our Catholic schools! #BelieveInCatholicEd

**Andrea Clarkson** @missclarkson · Oct 14  
 Today we took time out of our day to spend it with God. The students had so much appreciation for the block they got to spend today, praying and reflecting through various forms of prayer. #IBelieveInCatholicEd

