



Artist Lorraine Spence  
Principal of Holy Family  
Academy, Brooks

**Catholic Education Week May 10-14**

**5 Marks in 5 Days**

*Social media celebration: 5 Marks in 5 Days. School districts are asked to focus on one mark each day and post pictures related to each mark on the appropriate day.*

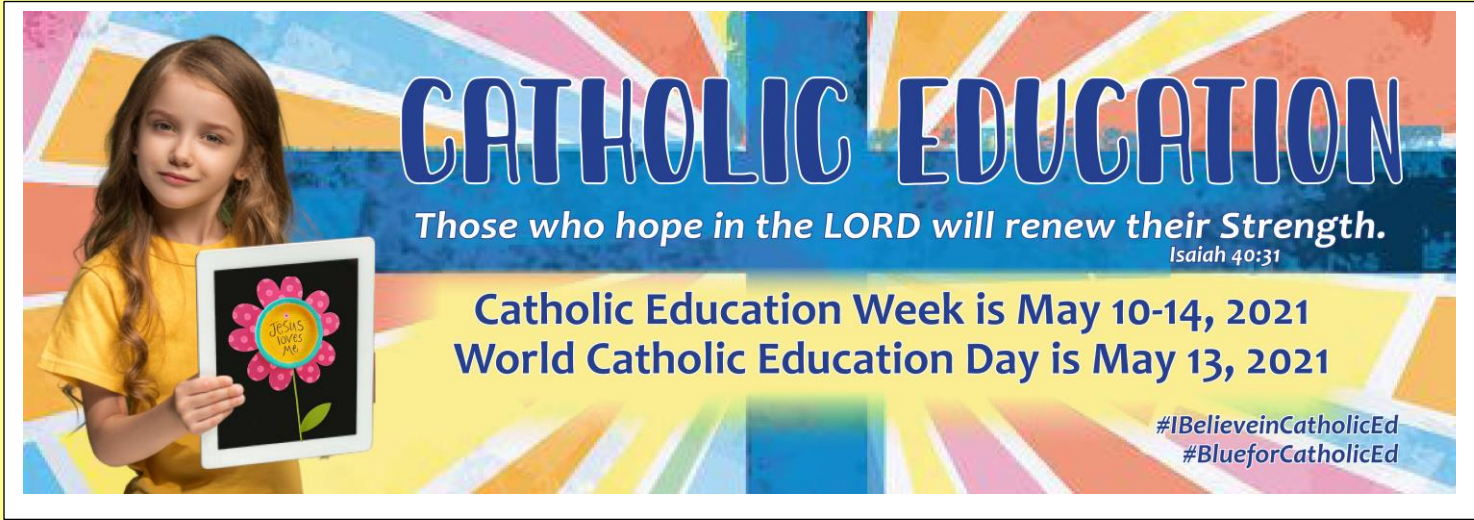
Monday	Mark 1 Created in the Image of God
Tuesday	Mark 2 Catholic Worldview
Wednesday	Mark 3 Faith Permeation
Thursday	Mark 4 Witness
Friday	Mark 5 Community

**Provincial Day of Prayer for Alberta's Catholic Schools  
Thursday, May 13**

**Provincial Prayer with Alberta Bishops**

*Provincial Prayer with the bishops of Alberta. Hosted by Catholic school districts and shared virtually at 11:00 AM each day. The focus will be a devotion to St Joseph.*

		Bishop	School District
Monday, May 10	Liturgy	Bishop David Motuk Eparchy of Edmonton	Edmonton Catholic
Tuesday, May 11	Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph	Archbishop Pettipas Archdiocese Grouard-McLennan	Grande Prairie Catholic
Wednesday, May 12	Holy Mass	Archbishop Smith Archdiocese of Edmonton	Edmonton Archdiocese
Thursday, May 13	Liturgy World Catholic Education Day	Bishop Terrio Diocese of St Paul	Calgary Catholic
Friday, May 14	Liturgy Consecration to Joseph	Bishop McGrattan Calgary Diocese	Calgary Catholic



### Prayer Intentions for Catholic Education Week

- We pray for all educators, administrators and staff who dedicate themselves daily to authentic Catholic education
- We pray for all students, for their safety and their learning, that they may know the love of God
- We pray for all families, that they may grow in faith and unite in their prayers

### Prayer Intentions for May

For Catholic Education:

- That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world.
- That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society.
- 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.
- That our Catholic schools may nurture the growth of wisdom and virtue in the young.

**Thursday, May 13 is World Catholic Education Day.** ALL are invited to wear blue in support of Catholic Education.

Alberta's Catholic schools have been under tremendous strain as they strive to provide excellent, faith-based Catholic education to every student. Challenges have been multiple. Fatigue is evident. Our communities embrace our schools, their students, educators, staff and families during these difficult and trying times.

**Thursday, May 13 has been designated by Alberta's Bishops as a provincial day of prayer for Catholic Schools.** Consecrated religious, clergy and all stakeholders in Catholic Education are invited to pray for Alberta's Catholic schools especially on this day. Post your plans and prayers on social media to spread your support.

<b>Monday May 10</b>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191840999?pwd=Sk5JeHZvQmhmRXRrekxoMGJaRTFPUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191840999?pwd=Sk5JeHZvQmhmRXRrekxoMGJaRTFPUT09</a> Meeting ID: 851 9184 0999      Passcode: 103446
<b>Tuesday May 11</b>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86991504909?pwd=SkxqdHBSbkd0K0k1Yko5bU1KSmVBZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86991504909?pwd=SkxqdHBSbkd0K0k1Yko5bU1KSmVBZz09</a> Meeting ID: 869 9150 4909      Passcode: GPCSD
<b>Wednesday May 12</b>	YouTube: <a href="https://youtu.be/qOjMsQci4EM">https://youtu.be/qOjMsQci4EM</a>  Facebook video link for sharing (will appear on this page at 10:55am): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/archedmonton/live/">https://www.facebook.com/archedmonton/live/</a>
<b>Thursday May 13</b>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/98213029174?pwd=ZIZ3UzBzUXAveTB0NEpGelU3RmFrDz09">https://zoom.us/j/98213029174?pwd=ZIZ3UzBzUXAveTB0NEpGelU3RmFrDz09</a> Meeting ID: 982 1302 9174      Passcode: ss8L2Z
<b>Friday May 14</b>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99274799089?pwd=VGMyL3NaUWlmSFg3d3VrSjJxaFJlZz09">https://zoom.us/j/99274799089?pwd=VGMyL3NaUWlmSFg3d3VrSjJxaFJlZz09</a> Meeting ID: 992 7479 9089      Passcode: 1drDm3

**Zoom  
and  
Facebook  
links for  
Catholic  
Education  
Week  
11:00 AM  
Prayer**

# GrACE Summit 2021...

*Advocacy at a provincial level is needed now more than ever.*

On behalf of Elk Island Catholic Schools and GrACE, sincere thanks to all stakeholders for your enthusiasm and participation in the recent GrACE Summit. With more than 250 participants, conversations were dynamic and encouraging. The Summit was an opportunity to gather as community, pray together, learn together and grow together.

*Advocacy needs to come from all stakeholders. We are stronger together. We are all sons and daughters of God and we need to work as a family.*

*It is critical to include parents as advocates of Catholic education. They are the stakeholders with the most invested in Catholic education their children.*

*Advocacy is so important to maintaining our Catholic Schools. We need to share what sets us aside from our counterparts.*



*Communication is key to achieving GrACE's goals. We must look outside of the direct school community, reach out, be present, visible and speak-out.*

*We need to be "inviting" people to engage in Catholic Education.*

*Inviting parishioners, parents, students, and past students to give testimony on WHY Cath Ed is important and how it has affected their lives.*

*Teachers who actively live as Gospel witnesses are evangelizers. This is how we can combat the disconnect of the pandemic.*

*Our youth are our hope in our Catholic schools. We need to encourage and empower our youth to be witnesses to their faith.*

Getting the message of GrACE out to all stakeholders of Catholic Education is vital for the future of Catholic Education in Alberta. We cannot take for granted the importance of this message to our stakeholders. They need to understand what we have is a privilege.

*Bridging the gaps between parish, schools and home are essential for success. It builds identity for children to be proud of their faith and allows for our youth to become Grateful Advocates*



**Congratulations to Alberta Catholic School Trustees (ACSTA) on the success of their annual SPICE and Blueprint Conference! OUTSTANDING!!**

## St Joseph Schools in Alberta and Northwest Territories

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has declared this year as the Year of St Joseph.

Many Catholic Schools have been named for St Joseph. In Alberta and Northwest Territories there are 10 schools who have the St Joseph namesake. Over the course of GrACE's newsletters we will introduce you to the St Joseph Schools in our province and territory.

Calgary Catholic Schools
Brooks, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
Edmonton Catholic Schools
Spruce Grove, Evergreen Catholic Schools
Grande Prairie Catholic Schools
Coaldale, Holy Spirit Catholic Schools
Whitecourt, Living Waters Catholic Schools
Red Deer Catholic Schools
Yellowknife Catholic Schools
Lloydminster Catholic Schools

This month meet:

St Joseph's School in Calgary, Calgary Catholic Schools

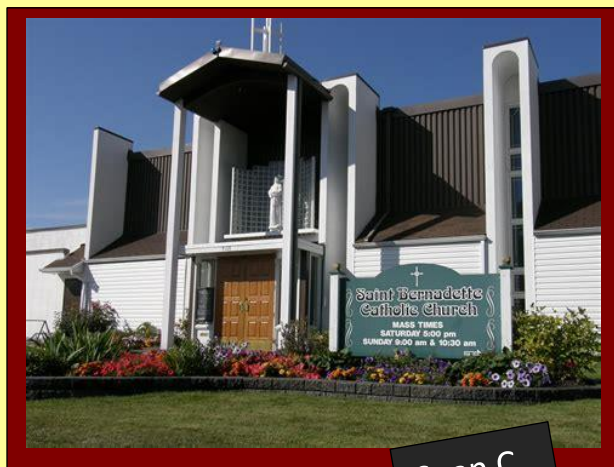
St Joseph's School in Red Deer, Red Deer Catholic Schools

St Joseph's School in Whitecourt, Living Waters Catholic Schools

Wall sculpture commissioned to Al Gerritsen in 1985 to commemorate the Centennial of Catholic Education in Calgary.



### St Joseph's School, Calgary Catholic School District



Sean C.

Our St. Joseph school serves 406 students in a K-9 school in the community of Mount Pleasant in North West Calgary. The current building has been in use since 1957, but we've had a school with the name "St. Joseph" since 1914. The original school was actually attached to St. Joseph church and was located about three blocks from the present location.

### In the words of our students...

Austin

When I reflect about each school I went to, I guess what stands out most is that at St. Joe's an emphasis was placed on academics, but a premium was placed on service. How would I serve God? Never alone because I had a community of like-minded students to practice my values with. To quote C.S. Lewis, "It's not about thinking less of yourself, it's about thinking of yourself less." Shifting my focus from individual competition to pulling together to make a difference in someone else's life was a game changer. This speaks to the heart of who I want to be. I am proud to be part of the Jaguar Nation at St. Joseph School. No matter where I go or what I do, it is my second home and my favorite school. Once a Jaguar, always a Jaguar!

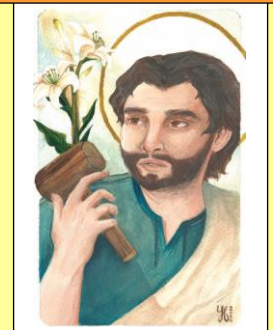
### A Whole New Family

As soon as I opened the front door and walked in, I was enveloped into a warm, welcoming, wonderful environment. Just like the kids in the Narnia series when they step through the wardrobe, I found myself in a magical place. On that first day, the students were so excited to meet me, welcoming me as though I were an old friend! I was invited to choose the recess games! I had people to eat lunch with! My new teacher was so kind, patient and helpful. Immediately, my fears began to melt away and, surprisingly, I was smiling and having fun!

In time, I came to realize that what made that place so special was that the teachers, the students, everyone was living their faith. Their core belief was that we could not look into the eyes of someone whom God did not love. Where two or more are gathered God is there, right? Every corner of that structure was teeming with Christ's love and I had just become part of it, building up my faith even more.

At St. Joe's, I didn't just find a friend, I found a whole new family to call my own.

To celebrate the Year of St. Joseph, our school created prayer cards featuring the artwork of one of our staff and shared them with all the other schools in our district.



**École St. Joseph School, Whitecourt**



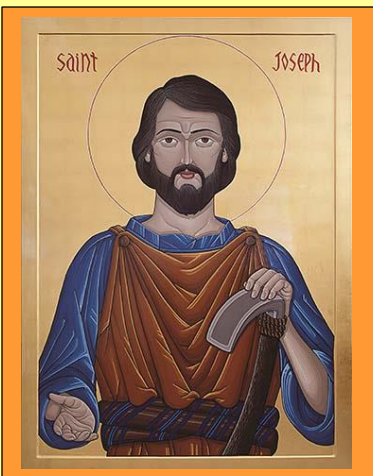
Our École St. Joseph School has an enrollment of 501 students and serves grades 4-12. We were blessed with a new school building in September 2017. The old St. Joseph School was open for over 50 years serving K-12 with many versions in between.

École St. Joseph School is a faith-centered school that integrates Catholic teachings at all levels. Our school fosters a strong approach to inclusion and to building a positive and welcoming environment. Our unique grade configuration provides opportunities for leadership and mentorship between students.

Our 2021 graduating class is working on a Grad Class Project to support local families that have been affected by the hardships of COVID. These initiatives encourage our students to demonstrate their faith at all levels by practicing the Catholic social teachings of Respect for Human Dignity and Respect for Human Life.

We are proud of École St. Joseph School's well-developed athletics program and in the leadership opportunities with the Saints Athletic Leadership (SAL) program. As well, students can choose between a variety of clubs which promote active stewardship and creativity.

We are currently located in a new subdivision near the edge of our town and we love opportunities to use our fields and wide open spaces for outdoor learning and adventures. Conceptually, our building is very modern and open and encourages connections and collaboration—pre-COVID of course!



**Evergreen Catholic**



**St Joseph School  
Red Deer Catholic School District**

The History of Catholic Education in Red Deer and the St Joseph Connection.

In 2008, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools celebrated 100 years of Catholic education. On October 8, 1908, the Daughters of Wisdom (Filles de la Sagesse) arrived in Red Deer to start St. Joseph Convent. The sisters came on the invitation of Father Henri Voisin, the head of the missionary order of priests, the Peres de Ste. Marie de Tinchebray. In November an application was made to create a separate school district in North Red Deer. On January 8, 1909, the North Red Deer Roman Catholic School District #17 was formally established. By February 21, names were on the school register.

Over the succeeding years, the school was expanded and the convent enlarged. The St. Joseph Convent School closed in 1960 and the boarding program ended in 1962. However, the convent continued to be a place of community service. In 1978, a new convent replaced the old one. In 2005, a decision was made to close and sell St. Joseph Convent. While an era had come to an end, the legacy of many decades of faithful service continues.



**The History of St.  
Joseph in Red Deer:**

[History of St Joseph in  
Red Deer](#)

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, St. Joseph High School had its grand opening ceremony. Located between the subdivisions of Evergreen and Timberlands in Red Deer, the school serves approximately 740 Grade 10-12 students.

Our students would tell you that St. Joseph High School is like a family. Our community has worked hard to establish a safe, caring and welcoming atmosphere. We celebrate diversity and welcome all.

While we are a relatively new school, students have had an excellent and fulfilling high school experience. Students have accessed first rate fine arts programming and participated in any sports they wish to. We have opened a Ball Academy supporting both baseball and softball players within Central Alberta. We have established strong traditions that students know about and look forward to (Grad Stolling Ceremony, Awards Night, Christmas Activities, Inter Varsity Game Nights and amazing opportunities to participate and celebrate our Faith (Confirmation, Holy Thursday, Advent).

<https://www.international.rdcrs.ca/our-schools/virtual-tours/st-joseph-high-school>

# Catholic Education Around Alberta

## Diocese of St Paul



As a means of uniting the diocese to parish-home-school, Vice Principal, Joe Marion, has created a project to “strengthen the relationship between the school, home and parish”. Currently enrolled in the Excellence in Catholic Education Leadership Academy through Newman Theological College, Joe prepares a short video which features the artwork of students. This video is then included at the end of the live-streamed Sunday Mass at the Cathedral. “Catholic education is a critical instrument to carrying out the saving mission of the Church and my goal is to ease some of our families back into the mass through authentic evangelization and celebration of student artwork”.

### 25 Years of Catholic Education in Brooks Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools

#### 25 Masses for 25 Years

25 masses are being said across Southern Alberta with the intention for Catholic Education in Brooks.

#### 25 Hours of Adoration- May 13

Alberta Day of Prayer for Catholic Education

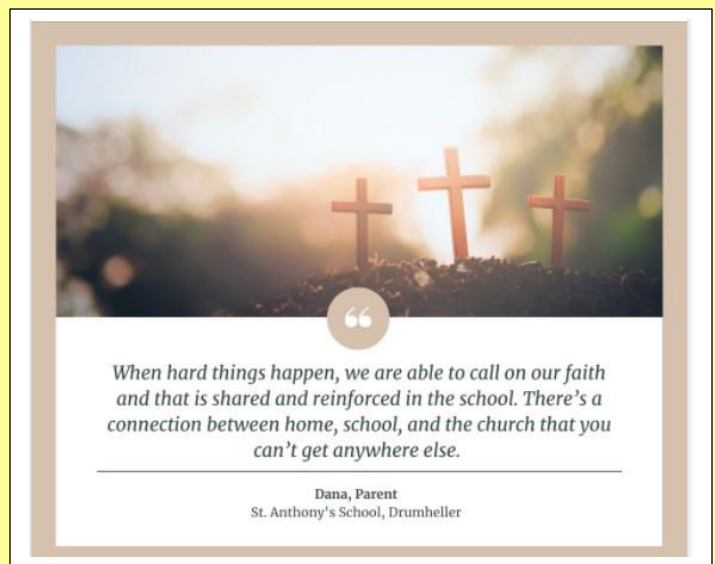


## Evergreen Catholic Schools

A little Mary's Meals update from St. Marguerite.... We held a “Cookies for Kids” day on April 8. St. Marguerite School Council partnered with Subway to provide a cookie for every student and we invited students to donate loose change to be shared with Mary's Meals and Holy Childhood Association. Our students generously donated \$560 (\$280 each for Mary's Meals and HCA)!

### Holy Spirit Catholic Schools St. Teresa of Calcutta School and the Leader in Me

This year we have focused on the integration of the 7 Habits and our Catholic Faith. We linked Advent and Lent to the 7 Habits and we have also been looking at meshing together our faith with the 7 Habits. We liked the idea of finding Bible stories where the people demonstrated the different habits. God does work in mysterious ways because we received a copy of the book *Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teaching of Mother Teresa*. The book provided us with statements made by St. Teresa for every day of the year and as we read through the book we realized how much of her teachings we could relate to the meaning of the 7 Habits.





**Christ Our Model.  
Children Our Focus.**

**Haying in the 30's  
Social Justice Project Cold Lake, AB  
April 20, 2021**

Holy Cross Elementary School has a tradition of doing a school-wide Lenten Social Justice Project each year. In February, the school's principal, Mr. Will Baker, lost his courageous battle with cancer and passed away. As a school in grief, they decided to launch a fundraiser for the Haying in the '30's Cancer Support Society. This wonderful organization provides financial support to individuals diagnosed with cancer in the Lakeland

Typically the school raises about \$2000.00 for their Lenten project. This year, the students went above and beyond by raising \$5000.00! Each time a class raised \$50, a green ribbon (Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) with the class name was put on the wall around the memory quilt created to honour the life of their incredible school leader. Staff and students from École Notre Dame High School (ÉNDHS) in Bonnyville were also working on fundraising for this cause. They organized the Wildcats 2021 Virtual 3Km Challenge for Cancer.



"Cancer has affected so many of our staff and students' families that we at École Notre Dame High School felt called to do something about it in this season of Lent" said principal Vince Spila. The organizers invited students, staff, parents, and the Lakeland Community to participate in their event. They were overwhelmed with the response from the Community (Lakeland and Wildcats), and are proud to be able to present a cheque for \$3,600.00 to Haying in the '30's Cancer Support Society



Organizers of the Wildcat Run would like to thank the community and Marigold Lane Creative for donating the medals to participants. Martin Naundorf from Haying in the 30's will be at the Holy Cross Elementary School to receive the donations on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Lakeland Catholic School Division would like to thank all who participated in these important fundraising events. They are so proud of the hard work staff, students and community members dedicated to making these fundraising initiatives such a success.

**Faithfully**

Every month the Calgary Diocese publishes two stories of Catholic Education in their Faithfully newsletter. We are pleased to share the April stories with you. Enjoy and Share!

[A Chesterton Academy in Alberta](#)

[When You Walk into a Catholic School](#)

You are invited to share your own story of Catholic Education. Please send to

[gracedirector7@gmail.com](mailto:gracedirector7@gmail.com)

**Consecration to St Joseph**

The Act of Consecration inspires prayer and specifies those gestures that build up Christ's Kingdom. Why not let Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Guardian of the Redeemer, Patron of the Church, of workers and of a good death assist us in drawing closer to the Lord and deepen our Christian commitment? We can thus give ourselves to Jesus more wholly and deeply through Mary and Joseph.

[CCCB Website Re: St Joseph](#)