



**A HOLY COMPANION IN OUR
CHRISTIAN JOURNEY**

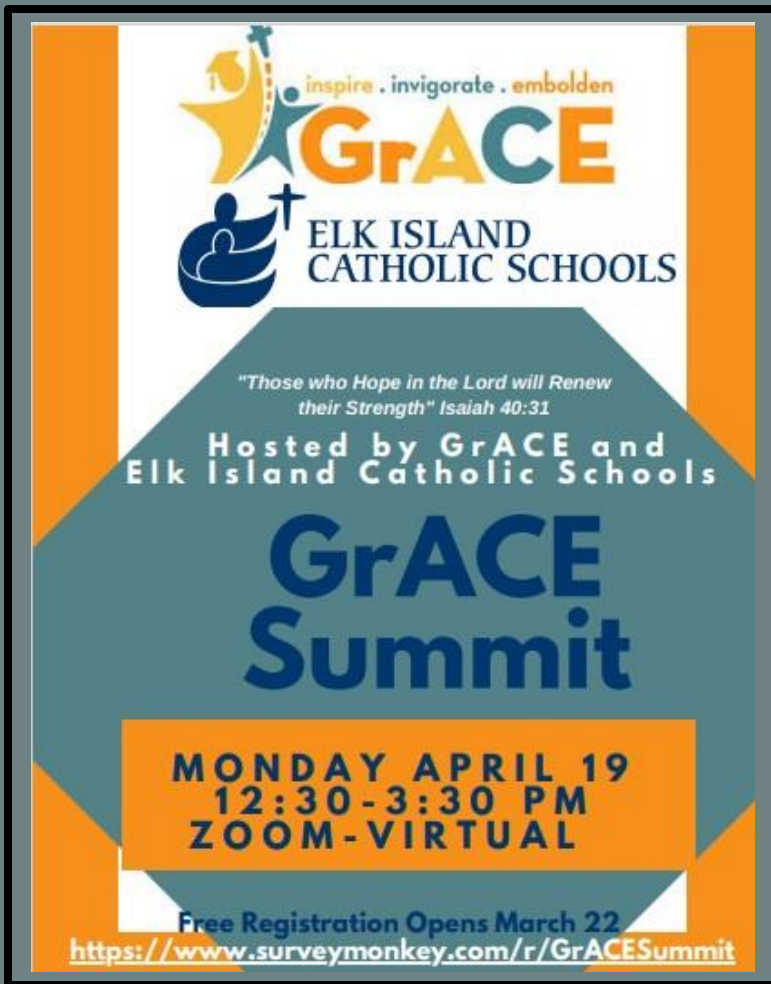
Saint Joseph, Man of enlightening dreams, obedient servant of God, accompany us, with your wife, the Blessed Virgin Mary, throughout our life to the glory and praise of God, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The CCCB has chosen “Joseph and the Child,” by Saskatchewan artist Gisele Bauche as its official image for the special Year. The image evokes the extraordinary qualities of Saint Joseph as a *beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working father hidden in the shadows* as described in Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*. (cf. No 1-7)

**Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful
April 2021**

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.



[GrACE Summit Registration Link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrACESummit)

What can you do to support advocacy in Alberta?

1. Register for Alberta's GrACE Summit
2. Invite people you know to do the same. Initiate the action.
3. Your personal actions will allow GrACE's efforts to grow. Be proactive.

Registration closes Monday, April 12

Alberta's Catholic School Districts: Meet the Diocese of St Paul in North-Eastern Alberta

The Roman Catholic **Diocese of St. Paul** in Alberta is a diocese consisting of 20 parishes and 21 missions, 24 priests in parish ministry, 6 of whom belong to a religious order, 11 women religious, 7 permanent deacons and Catholic population of **108,382**

There are 17 Catholic School Districts in Alberta. As well, Alberta's four Francophone boards and the St Paul Board of Education also offer Catholic education in specified schools. All in all, more than 183,500 students attend 450 Catholic schools in our province. **Mark 5 of a Catholic School** encourages us to build and share a communal spirit. In the spirit of community, GrACE encourages you to get to know more about Alberta's Catholic School Districts and the dioceses they belong to.

In the month of March we introduce you to the five Catholic school districts, the public district with designated Catholic schools and the Francophone district with designated Catholic schools in **the St Paul diocese**.

St Paul Diocese's Catholic School Districts

Evergreen Catholic Separate School Division serves over 4,300 students in 11 schools in the communities of Devon, Hinton, Stony Plain, Spruce Grove and Westlock.

Lakeland Catholic School District serves over 2,595 students in 8 schools in the communities of Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Waskatenau and its newest school in Lac La Biche.

Fort McMurray Catholic Board of Education serves approximately 6,800 students in 12 schools.

Living Waters Catholic Regional Division provides 7 schools in the communities of Whitecourt, Slave Lake and Edson, Living Waters Catholic serves 2,100 students.

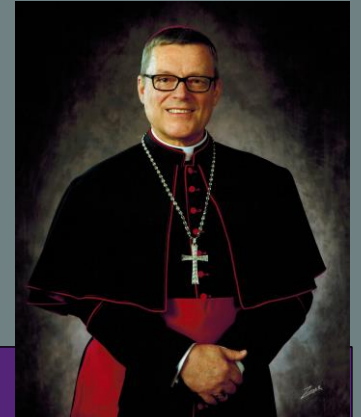
Greater St Albert Catholic Regional Division celebrates more than 155 years of Catholic Education! Today the division provides Catholic Education to over 6,000 students in the municipalities of Morinville, St. Albert and Legal as well as parts of Sturgeon County.

Meet the Bishop of St Paul

Public School Divisions in the diocese with designated Catholic Schools

St. Paul Regional Division

In 1995, parent and community stakeholders initiated the amalgamation of five school boards into what is now St. Paul Education. In doing so, St. Paul Education became the only school division in Alberta to operate both separate and public schools under one board. The Division's religious, linguistic and cultural diversity is a source of strength and pride. SPERD serves 3,878 students.



Most Rev. Paul Terrio

B.A., L.Th., Cert.Ed., Ph.L.

Bishop Terrio is the seventh Bishop of St. Paul. He was working as President of Newman Theological College when Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Bishop of St. Paul on October 18, 2012. He was ordained to the episcopate on December 12, 2012.

In 2021, preparations have begun to appoint a new Bishop for St Paul as Bishop Terrio will be retiring. He invites your prayers in support of the selection of the new Bishop. Bishop Terrio has served on the GrACE board since its inception. His wisdom, guidance and passion for Catholic education will be greatly missed. Blessings to you Bishop Paul!

Conseil scolaire Centre-Est

Conseil scolaire Centre-Est has five Catholic schools with more than 750 students in the communities of St Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Plamondon and Lac La Biche.

From Around the Province



Ken Sampson @KenSampson1 Jan 28

A beautiful way to pass on our faith to our students.

#IBelieveinCatholicEd #Believe #Catholic #hs4

Assumption School @OLAlethbri...

During our Student Retreat today students made rosaries and walked the Prayer Labyrinth. It was a blessing to share a faith filled day together. #hs4 @HolySpiritCSD



Mass for Lenten Campaign for CSS

Father Ignacy of St. Albert Parish celebrated mass for the success of our Lenten Campaign, and for the vulnerable youth supported by CSS.

Briefcases filled with student prayers were offered before the altar for the mass which was live-streamed for all schools.

Last month our division one and ES 2 students read the book, "Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?" by Lisbeth Kaiser. After reading the book, students created their own dreams for the world and we put them up in our school. It was a beautiful story that correlated with Black History Month and allowed us to all look deeper at our wishes and wants for our world and within our Catholic faith as well.

Calgary Catholic School District



Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools

GrACE CTR plans to run a 50 day social media campaign throughout Eastertide wherein they will share personal testimonies (short) each day from parents and students on how Catholic education has impacted their life or the lives of their children.



GRACE CTR: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education at Christ The Redeemer

Published by Lindsay Anne · March 2 at 1:39 PM

GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education) works year round to advocate for the gift of publicly-funded Catholic education. Throughout each of the 50 Days of Easter, it is their hope to share a short testimony/quote from parents in the CTR Catholic community on how Catholic education has impacted your life or the lives of your children. In the spirit of almsgiving during this Lenten season, we pray that you might consider filling out a brief response (1 question) accessible via the link offered here.

On behalf of GrACE CTR, thank you so much for your time, prayers and advocacy for Catholic education!

#IBelieveinCatholicEd

Fort McMurray Catholic Schools

GrACE - 50 Days of Easter & Celebration of Catholic Education

DOCS.GOOGLE.COM

GrACE - 50 Days of Easter & Celebration of Catholic Education

Publicly-funded Catholic education is a true gift and blessing in this province. As part of a social media campaign throughout the 50 Days of...



Fort McMurray division gathered this month with a small group and through a livestreamed Mass and at the recently refurbished St John's Church downtown. The church sustained a lot of damage in the flood last year and it was the first chance for many to see it for the first time. The mass was celebrated in memory of all the loss experienced in the past years.



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.

Celebrating 25 Years of Catholic Education in Brooks

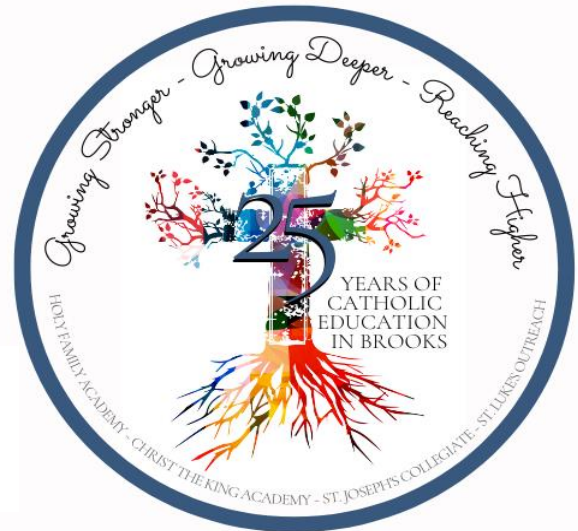


- 1996 Holy Family Academy
- 1999 St Joseph's Collegiate
- 2008 St Luke's Outreach Campus
- 2014 Christ the King Academy

Growing Stronger, Growing Deeper, Reaching Higher

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31



Father Kevin and our Kindergarten classes for opening mass/blessings.



Holy Spirit Catholic District

Be grateful. Students expressing what they are grateful for [#begrateful](#) Plus a scripture puppet show. [#hs4](#) Great things are happening! Learning through fun. [#blessed](#)

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.



GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Register and attend GrACE Summit, April 19. Take away inspiration and practical ideas.
2. Invite two friends, and two more friends, and two more friends to attend with you.
3. Follow GrACE on Facebook and Twitter and invite 2 friends to do the same!

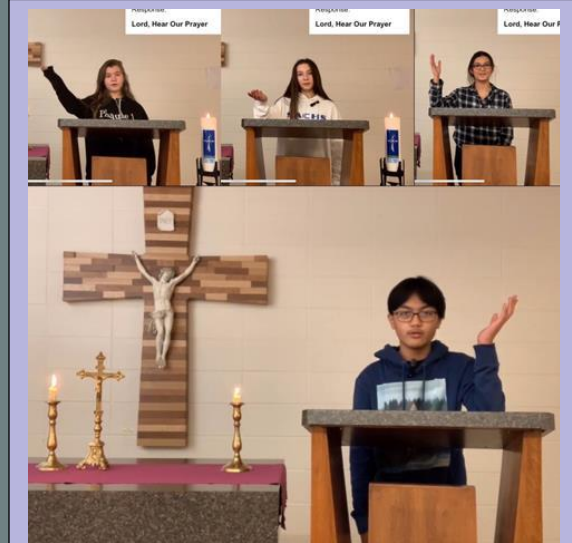
Grace email
gracedirector7@gmail.com

GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)



JJ Nearing Elementary

In partnership with St. Albert Parish, students at JJJ collected food items for the St. Albert Food Bank.



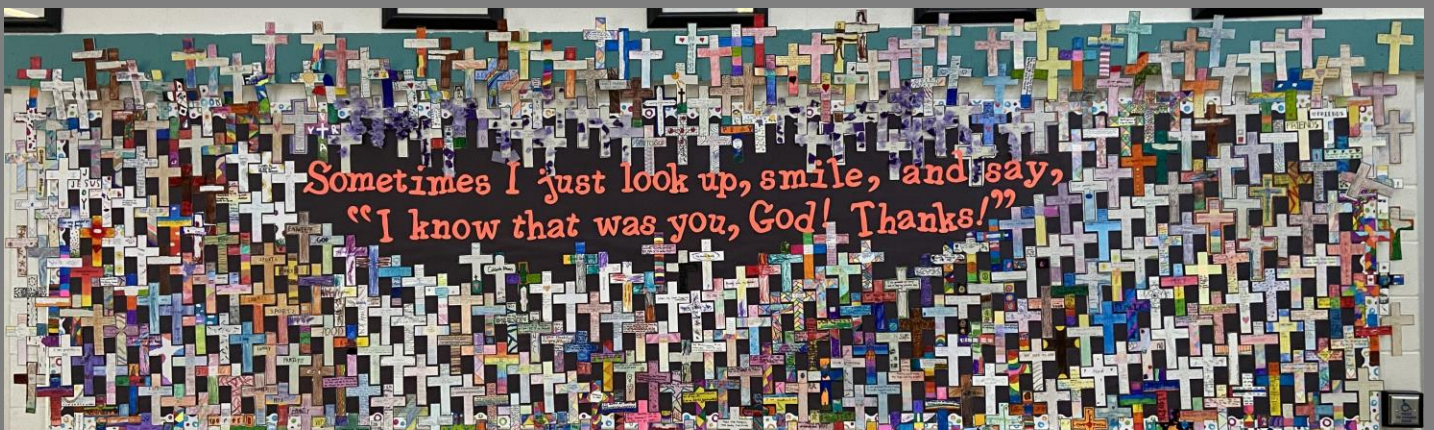
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division

FLVT Celebrates Lent Collectively as a Faith Community

The Father Leonard Van Tighem community has celebrated the Lenten Season in a variety of different ways. FLVT has come together weekly, as a faith community, to participate in and celebrate each week of Lent through virtual celebrations, liturgies and mass. In addition, the school community collectively created a visual representation of both the Calls to Action in this year's faith plan and the Lenten season

This bulletin board, part one of two of our Lenten displays, came together through the collaborative efforts of all the students and staff in our school. Throughout this pandemic we have strived to be creative and find meaningful ways that our FLVT community can come together to connect and celebrate our faith. Our bulletin boards have been a small display of the strength we have shown to remain as one in our school, our community, and our faith.

The challenge was offered up to decorate a paper cross. The intent was for each member of our FLVT family to take the time to sit in contemplative prayer, create a small piece of beauty, and bring awareness to how we are living our lives full of gratitude to God and for all the gifts He has given us. Once completed, Miss Pelletier graciously spent her time, creating the visual, purposefully creating a pattern which represents that we all fit together and remain together through everything! Nothing can stand in our way when God is with us!



Evergreen Catholic Schools

Holy Spirit Catholic School, Devon



The link below is to the 2021 Stations of the Cross prayer presentation from the students and staff at Holy Spirit Catholic School. In past years Holy Spirit has done live presentations of the Stations in their school gym for students and for parishioners. They have adapted to COVID in order to continue their long-standing faith traditions in spite of the pandemic. Teachers Paula Teasdale and Nicole Stanley are the lead teachers on this project. They channeled the talents of the students in Mrs. Michelle Niwa's class, 6M at Holy Spirit, and they were supported by their admin team, Principal Derek Brown and Associate Principal Laura Côté

Stations of the Cross



**Ascension of Our Lord
Virtual Student Faith Day Event
March 18th, 2021**



Stations of the Cross Display from St. Ambrose School: <https://stambrose.cssd.ab.ca/>

**Calgary
Catholic
School
District**

Calgary Catholic has been promoting the provincial GrACE Facebook and Twitter pages for the month of March and are encouraging all of our schools to use social media to engage with parents and community members.

**2nd Annual Notre Dame Gathering of GrACE
March 4, 2021**



On the afternoon of March 4, Notre Dame High School hosted their second annual Gathering of GrACE. This virtual gathering included the local parish, district representatives and students and staff from every school location served by Ascension Catholic Parish. In total, 16 school communities were invited to hear messages from Fr. Avinash Colaco, Trustee Linda Wellman, Chief Superintendent Dr. Bryan Szumlans and GrACE Director Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico. This was a tremendous celebration and showing of solidarity and support for Catholic education.

We would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank our wonderful presenters and distinguished guests for their involvement in making it a very special day for our school community. The day commenced with our Kick-Off Assembly livestreamed on the Zoom platform to our entire school community and distinguished guests from CCSD and the Diocese of Calgary. The virtual assembly featured members of administrative team along with Fr. Adrian Martens, Chelsea Marshall and Trustee Linda Wellman. Here is the link to the video of the kickoff if you'd like to check it out or have a second look: <https://youtu.be/4mWRMen5lpU>

The day was truly unique due to a hybrid nature of enlightening live and pre-recorded sessions coupled with engaging faith-based activities. Our students and staff were treated to insightful, engaging and inspiring presentations from Chris Bray, Michael Chiasson, Sr. Madeleine Gregg, Chelsea Marshall, Dr. Bryan Szumlas and Father Avinash Colaco. Their collective presence was a gift that served to help all of us grow in our faith in the spirit of GrACE and reflect more deeply on our district's faith theme especially during this sacred season of Lent.





STAR Catholic Schools' Monthly Division Newsletter. This month focuses on Mark 2: Catholic Worldview. The newsletter itself is attached to this newsletter.

THE 5 MARKS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

Division Newsletter



This month - Mark 2: An excellent Catholic school is imbued with a Catholic worldview.

In our schools we:

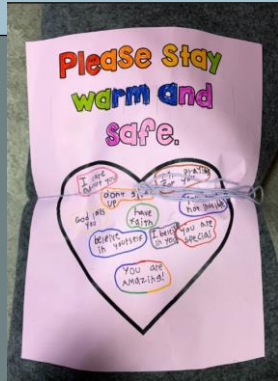
- Share a Catholic worldview through activities and events
- Create physical spaces in our schools that reflect our Catholic perspective
- Foster a Catholic worldview of reflection, service and sacramentality
- Make decisions rooted in Gospel teaching
- Embed sacramental routines (prayer, mass, liturgies,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

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Children of St Martha

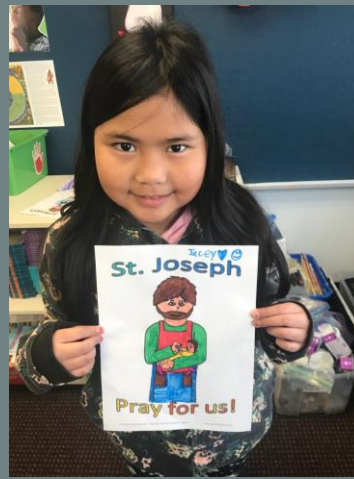
This is the story of Mike and Nick Fiorito. The brothers from New York City believe in human connection and the need to be kind in all we do in our communities. They have created Blankets of Hope to “create a global movement of kindness”.

For the third year in a row, Children of St. Martha School received 200 blankets from Blankets of Hope. The project involves having our students write handwritten notes of kindness, faith, love and hope which are attached to each blanket. This year, Streets Alive distributed CSM blankets of hope in our local community.

Our students are given an incredible opportunity to take part in an online “kindness workshop” with Mike and Nick. It involves being inspired with a video about their Blankets of Hope story and a visualization exercise where they will imagine what it would feel like to receive a warm blanket when you are cold. Our kids are encouraged to pray over the blankets for those who will receive them. This beautiful activity is one that brings our school community together every Lent through prayer and giving. <https://blanketsofhope.com/>



HFCRD celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph on Friday March 26th. This day is part of the new Saint celebration day initiative created by the HFCRD Board of Trustees. In every school in HFCRD, students and staff participated in prayers and activities to learn more about St. Joseph.



Reaffirming God's Presence Daily Through Deep Breathing, Tapping and Affirmation Statements

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

September 2020

- I am a child of God.
- I am important. – *We are all special and important in the eyes of God.*
- I am brave. – *With God by my side, I can face my fears.*
- I am kind. – *We share God's love by being kind to others.*
- I am loved. – *I am loved by God, my families, my friends, and the staff.*



Children of St Martha

March 2021

- I am a child of God.
- I am forgiving. - *I pray for God's help to forgive others when they do or say something that makes me feel sad or upset.*
- I am responsible. – *I take responsibility for my words and actions. I apologize and try to fix the problem when I do or say something that makes someone else sad or upset.*
- I am cooperative. – *I listen to others, share my ideas, and am positive when working or playing with others.*
- I am appreciative. – *I say thank-you or show gratitude with an action when someone helps me or does something kind for me.*
- I matter! – *I am part of God's creation; therefore, I matter.*

Grande Prairie Catholic Schools Division



Volunteers from the communities of Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Spirit River gathered in their communities to show their support for the Reverse Food & Necessities Drive on March 6. All donations were collected and provided to local food banks and agencies.

