



Alleluia! Alleluia!

The blessings of Catholic education are never more obvious than during the high point of the liturgical year, Easter. What a joy to watch our Catholic schools across the province walk the path of Lent and then celebrate Easter. The sacredness and significance is reflected in the pictures we share with you this month from Alberta's Catholic Schools. Special thanks to our pastors whose presence and involvement are evident and essential.

In this month's Newsletter:

- † Meet Alberta's Excellence in Catholic Education recipients
- † Timetable and links for Catholic Education Week (CEW)
- † Testimony from CRA journalist and Catholic Schools' graduate



GrACE Summit 2023

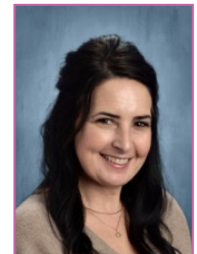
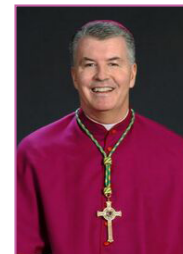
GrACE Summit 2023 is just around the corner. We hope you will join us! Focusing on the 4 GrACE goals we welcome the ECSD religious ed department to share their insights on **Engage**, Superintendent Paul Corrigan to present on **Educate**, Bishop McGrattan to encourage us as we **Unite** and Cindy Nickerson to inspire us to **Communicate**. Celebrate mass with Bishop McGrattan and find out more about GrACE: Our past, present and future.

The future is YOU! Advocacy for Catholic Education is essential. The GrACE Summit promises to inspire, invigorate and embolden you to be a voice for Catholic education as we head into this election and the years to come. Registration closes MAY 1, so don't delay!

[Registration Link](#)
(open until May 1)



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Walking Together in Catholic Education: Catholic Education Week 2023- May 15-19

Let's celebrate Alberta's Catholic Education Week with enthusiasm and action! In addition to your local plans and initiatives, here's what's happening on the provincial scene and how you can participate:

1. Read and distribute the Pastoral Letter from Alberta's Bishops:
[English](#) | [French](#)
2. Learn about, recognize, take pictures, post and celebrate each of the 5 Marks of a Catholic School every day of Catholic education week.
5 Marks of a Catholic School
3. Listen to and share the daily reflections from our bishops on the Marks of a Catholic School. See the links below:
[Archbishop Smith](#) | [Bishop Motiuk](#) | [Bishop Franken](#)
4. Wear Blue and WALK for Catholic education. Join your fellow advocates, students, educators, clergy on Thursday May 18 as you wear blue and walk in support of Catholic education. Take pictures and post your actions on social media.
5. Join Bishop McGrattan and Calgary Catholic School District on Friday, 10:00 AM for mass in celebration of Catholic Education Week. The mass will be recorded.
[Click here for the zoom link.](#)

Monday May 15	Tuesday May 16	Wednesday May 17	Thursday May 18	Friday May 19
Mark 1 Created in the Image of God	Mark 2 Catholic Worldview	Mark 3 Faith Permeation	Mark 4 Witness	Mark 5 Community
Pre-recorded reflection: Archbishop Smith Click here	Pre-recorded reflection: Bishop Motiuk Click here	Pre-recorded reflection: Archbishop Pettipas	World Catholic Education Day Provincial Day of Prayer Wear blue and WALK in support of Catholic Education Pre-recorded reflection: Bishop Franken Click here	10:00 AM Virtual Mass with Bishop McGrattan Click here for zoom link.

Connect Online

We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic education in Alberta. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too. Thanks for being a grateful advocate in support of Catholic education!

- † Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
- † Twitter: [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † Instagram: [@grace4catholiceducation](https://www.instagram.com/grace4catholiceducation)
- † [GrACE Website](#)
- † Email: gracedirector7@gmail.com

Catholic School District's Publications

- † [Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- † [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools: Redeemer Revelations](#)

Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for May 2023

For Catholic Education:

- † That as Albertans select their provincial government that decisions will be made to protect Catholic education, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Blessed Mother may wrap all children in her mantle of love and bring them ever closer to her Son, we pray to the Lord.
- † That during our celebrations of Catholic Education Week in Alberta, we may continue "Walking Together in Catholic Education" with unity and common vision, we pray to the Lord
- † That the love of the Rosary and devotion to the Virgin Mary may thrive within our Catholic schools, we pray to the Lord
- † In gratitude for the gift of publicly funded Catholic education, we pray to the Lord

Meet Alberta's Excellence in Catholic Education Recipients 2023

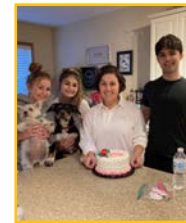
The Excellence in Catholic Education Award recognizes Catholic 'teachers' in Alberta who have done an exemplary job in preparing our youth to grow into outstanding Catholic citizens. Nominees shall be passionate about Catholic education and the students they teach, inspire their students, and demonstrate commitment to Catholic education and teaching excellence. The 'Excellence in Catholic Education Award' is recognized annually by Alberta Catholic school jurisdictions and presented by CCSSA. Special thanks to the Council of Catholic School Superintendents for hosting and leading this important event.

These excellent Catholic teachers will excel at:

- † role-modelling Catholic values and a Catholic lifestyle;
- † fostering the development of students and their spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth;
- † motivating students to exceed their own expectations;
- † attending to individual student needs;
- † working collaboratively with colleagues & parish;
- † demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter, curriculum, and the integration of the teachings of the Catholic Church;
- † being involved in professional and spiritual growth activities;
- † achieving positive results in student learning; and,
- † demonstrating caring for the well-being of students and colleagues, thereby contributing to a positive school climate.



Alison Haynes
Calgary CCSD



Mike Macdonald
Calgary CCSD



Patrick Quinn
Calgary CCSD



Matthew Reeves
Christ the Redeemer CSSD



Michelle Martin
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord



Jean-François Ouellet
Conseil scolaire Centre-Sud



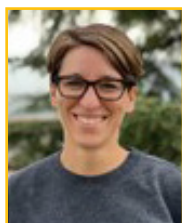
Michel Despins
East Central Alberta CSSD



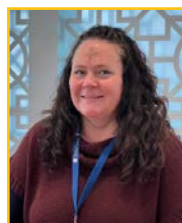
Sunata Halliday
Edmonton CSSD



Linda Johnson
Edmonton CSSD



Rebecca Martini
Edmonton CSSD



Justine Wright
Elk Island CSSD



Lynnette Tarr
Evergreen CSSD



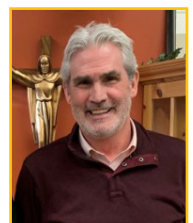
Eithne Pierre
Fort McMurray RCSSD



Lorne Pederson
Greater St. Albert RCSSD



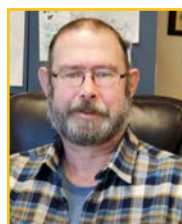
Sandra Batherson-Campbell
Holy Family RCSSD



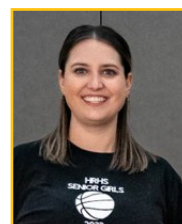
Gerry Muldoon
Holy Spirit RCCSD



Joe Marion
Lakeland RCCSD



Dan Gillmor
Living Waters RCCSD



Ashley Fullarton
Lloydminster RCSSD



Gina Betker
Medicine Hat RCSSD



Adam Locke
Red Deer CSSD



Amanda Amyotte
St. Paul SD



Erin Barrett
St. Thomas Aquinas RCSSD

Catholic Education Around the Province

East Central Catholic Schools

Submitted by Deputy Superintendent Kelly Ehalt

Engaging in Quality Catholic Education

Parish and School Division engagement is precious and critical for bringing Quality Catholic Education to life for our parish and school community stakeholders.

On March 22nd, East Central Alberta Catholic School Division hosted an engagement meeting involving Parish Priests from our communities, the “faith coaches” from each school, the senior administration team, and trustees. During the daylong event, the focus was placed on the Assurance Domain of Providing an Authentic Quality Catholic Education. The participants targeted three key areas using survey data sets, school faith initiatives, and dialogue about existing faith programming and events between the church and the schools.

The three highlighted areas of our discussions involved the successes, challenges, and opportunities we have in ensuring the outcomes and direction of Catholic Education are enriched and achieved. Rich conversation through a “deep dive” of the feedback received from parents, students, support staff, and certified staff provided a higher level of insight and understanding into what is being done and what could be done to strengthen further our Catholic Faith within the schools, the parishes, and the greater community.

ECCS wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the Priests that humbly serve our parishes and schools. Engagement with our priests reinforces and emulates God’s love and divinity for all of our schools through their shepherd leadership and role modeling. We look forward to working closely with our priests as we continue the journey of providing a rich, authentic, quality Catholic education.



BC Catholic

Math isn't neutral: putting the Catholic in Catholic teaching — BC Catholic — Multimedia Catholic News



Elk Island Catholic Schools

Site Blessing Held for Future Camrose High School



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Religion 25 Students Lead Division 1 Retreat

Our Lady of the Assumption School, submitted by by Superintendent Ken Sampson

On March 30 Religion 25 students from Catholic Central High School planned and led a variety of Faith-based activities for the students in grades K-3 at Our Lady of the Assumption elementary school. This initiative was their final class project where they were challenged to have a positive impact on someone else's faith journey.

Activities took on a variety of forms including a play, praying through colour, faith based games in the gym and a scavenger hunt. This was an amazing experience for both groups of students and the high school students were able to show mentorship through planning and leading while the younger students had positive examples and role models to aspire to.



Medicine Hat Catholic Schools

Stations of the Cross Workout

Monsignor McCoy teacher, Amber Hamilton, permeated the Catholic faith into her Fitness and Sports Performance class during Holy Week. She created a Stations of the Cross workout to help her students focus on the difficult path that Jesus walked for us during His final days.



- 1 Jesus condemned to death
Announcement of the workout
- 2 Jesus carries his cross
Partner carry across the gym (400 metres)
- 3 Jesus falls
10 Burpees
- 4 Jesus meets his mother
20 Kneels
- 5 Simon helps Jesus carry the cross
Farmer carry 40m
- 6 Veronica wipes Jesus' face
20 Plank wipes each arm
- 7 Jesus falls
10 Burpees
- 8 Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
30 Good mornings
- 9 Jesus Falls
10 Burpees
- 10 Jesus' clothes are taken
Planks
- 11 Jesus is nailed to the cross
2- minute wall sit with arms straight out
- 12 Jesus dies on the cross
40m Lunges with twist holding dowel
- 13 Jesus is taken down
10 Push-ups with elbow drop
- 14 Jesus is laid in the tomb
20 Turkish get ups

In It Together

[Order your In It Together gear and swag here!](#)



In Catholic News...

Meet Catholic School Graduate **Quinton Amundson**, journalist for **The Catholic Register**, as he reflects on the faith influences that led him to his current vocation.

During my three years serving as a reporter for The Catholic Register, God has blessed me with opportunity after opportunity to chronicle Catholic individuals and communities boldly overcoming different kinds of tribulations to become inspiring examples of Christian discipleship. I have written about Catholic social service agencies completely transforming their operations seemingly overnight during the infancy of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide impeccable care to people struggling due to public health restrictions. I have also chronicled a determined crew of parishioners in Sydney Mines, N.S., who mobilized to serve thousands of meals to a community reeling from post-tropical storm Fiona. And recently, I profiled the vibrant congregation of Sacred Heart Parish in Strathmore, Alta. This community has been devoid of a Church building for over 15 years, but thanks to the providence of The Lord, this flock has endured and thrived, celebrating liturgical services in the Holy Cross Collegiate high school gymnasium.

I was extremely blessed to be born to a mother and father who were, and still are, such excellent models of using your time, talent and treasure to serve Jesus Christ. They were resolute that my two sisters and I attend Catholic schools that would excel in instilling this value within each of us. Holy Family Academy and St. Joseph's Collegiate in Brooks, Alta. delivered on this objective – big time. Teachers, administrators and support staff exuded a passion for God in the classroom and hallways during the weekdays. On the weekend, you would witness them exemplifying Christ by volunteering at St. Mary's Parish. Parent leadership, the school and the parish worked together impeccably to afford each student every opportunity to soar.

I am grateful for the education I received at HFA and SJC. My teachers showed me that a career centred around championing Jesus Christ offers true joy and fulfillment.

Quinton Amundson attended HFA from 1997-2004, and SJC from 2004-2010.

Sacred Heart Parish in Strathmore, AB is on the brink of a new Catholic Church. Read this inspirational and encouraging story published in the Catholic Register.

[A parish reborn \(catholicregister.org\)](https://catholicregister.org) by [Quinton Amundson, Catholic Register](#)



ACSTA Blog

[Our Catholic Schools — A Heart of Service \(acsta.ab.ca\)](#)

Written by John Wasch, Director of Catholicity, CCSD



[2021 ACSTA MLA Reception Hears Bipartisan Support for Publicly-Funded Catholic Education \(acsta.ab.ca\)](#)

Written by Brendan Cavanagh, Government Relations & Advocacy, ACSTA



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.

GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Social Media from around the Province...



Liked by bio.bmw and others

stfrancis.ctr When we consider that the act of feet-washing was usually reserved for the lowliest slave, we come to realize that what Jesus did is symbolic of serving others with humility. What we can learn from his example is that our acts of love should be devoid of pride. Some acts of love and kindness don't require us to put ourselves in a position of discomfort, but the one that Christ performs here signifies that sometimes discomfort is necessary in service.

Miss Corcoran
@MissBCorcoran

@StJohnBoscoYEG started off Holy Week by journeying through the Stations of the Cross. It was so wonderful to see 4A so reflective of the journey Jesus went through. Our students are so blessed to have so many meaningful experiences that are permeated with our Catholic faith! 🙏

Holy Week: Stations of the Cross

Reflecting on Jesus' Journey

PIC-COLLAGE

École St Cecilia JHS @StCeciliaJHS · 23h

Today our community gathered to celebrate faith, hope, and love as we gathered at St. Matthew parish to rejoice at Christ's empty tomb in celebration of Easter. #ecsdfaithinspires #yeg #yegschools #Easter

0:07 | 32 views

Joclyn Beliveau @joclynbeliveau · Apr 4

Enjoying a special visit this morning from Deacon Lynn! He reminded us how we are made perfectly by God and how we are so incredibly LOVED by God ❤️ A beautiful message as we journey through Holy Week @EICSCatholic @stncatholic #BetterTogether

Ken Sampson @KenSampson1 · Mar 30

a pleasure to witness @ESMhs4 student retreat. Students were so engaged in a variety of activities. @HolySpiritRCSD #hs4

stfrancis.ctr

Liked by [claire_mossing](#) and others

stfrancis.ctr Our grade 4 students took part in a reenactment of the Last Supper this afternoon as part of their Holy Thursday activities. #SFAFaith

OLMP Catholic School @OLMPschool · Mar 30

Busy day in Rome. Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, Roman Forum, Trevi fountain, Pantheon, and Navona square.

Michelle Anton @miss_bods · Apr 9

So proud to stand up next to my friend and fellow @EICSCatholic teacher as she completed RCIA and was baptized last night at the Easter Vigil at OLPH Parish #HelsRisen

ESM @ESMhs4 · Mar 30

We had a beautiful student retreat today. #blessed #ibelieveincatholiceducation #lent #hs4

Joclyn Beliveau @joclynbeliveau · Apr 5

We practiced patience and perseverance today as we made Pysanky! Eggs symbolize new life, and as we look forward to the resurrection, we were reminded of the new life that Easter brings! @EICSCatholic @stncatholic @GrACE4cathed

StBonifaceECSD @StBonifaceECSD · Apr 13

Congratulations to Ancelin Anand who was St. Boniface's first ever recipient of the Lumen Christi Faith Leadership award. St. Boniface is so proud! Thank you Trustee Turchansky and our board for being part of this amazing evening!

Lakeland Catholic School Division @LCSD_150 · Apr 12

Join us for a night of refreshments, fellowship, presentation, and discussion about the importance of publicly-funded Catholic Education!

Interested? RSVP to mmaceachern@lrcssd.ca by April 17.

IT'S TIME TO REBOOT:
Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE)

April 20, 2023
 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 St. Louis Parish, Bonnyville
 (In-Person and Virtual)

You're Invited!

- Why is Catholic Education important? What difference does it make?
- A presentation by GrACE Executive Director Bonnie Annicchiarico

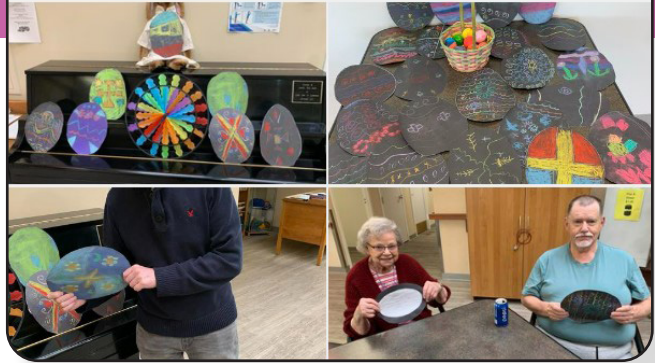
Refreshments and Fellowship!

RSVP to:



ESM @ESMhs4 · Apr 11

The 3ME & 4/5NE classes have an ongoing relationship with the residents at the Alberta Rose Lodge. They write and make gifts for each other throughout the year. This Easter, students made gifts for their friends at the Lodge. We heard the residents loved the eggs! Take a look!



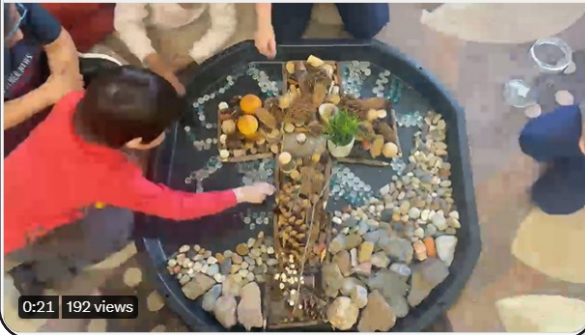
StBonifaceECSD @StBonifaceECSD · Apr 6

Thank you to our grade 6 class for an amazing rendition of the Stations of the Cross. A bigger thanks to our parents who were able to join us, a very special way to start the Holy weekend.



GenesisOnline_ECSD @GenesisonlineE · Apr 11

Gr. 1/2 students created a representation of Easter including the sharing of God's light with loose parts last week in preparation for Easter—so wonderful to see & hear the conversations & group work that went into building their art piece! #ecsdfaithinspires #ecsd #yegmoms



Sister Annata Brockman School @sabecsd1 · Apr 11

Beautiful Easter celebration at Good Shepherd Parish this morning for our elementary. 🌸

Thank you Father Leo, Mr. Nobel and Good Shepherd community for welcoming us and to our staff involved in the Easter Mass, too! ❤️

Junior High mass is tomorrow!

#ecsdfaithinspires



ECSD @EdmCathSchools · Apr 13

Today, @archsmith blessed the future site of St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Elementary/Junior High School. Located in #Secord, the school will open in Sept 2025. Learn more about the project at ecsd.net. #ECSD #ECSDfaithinspires #yegschools @archedmonton



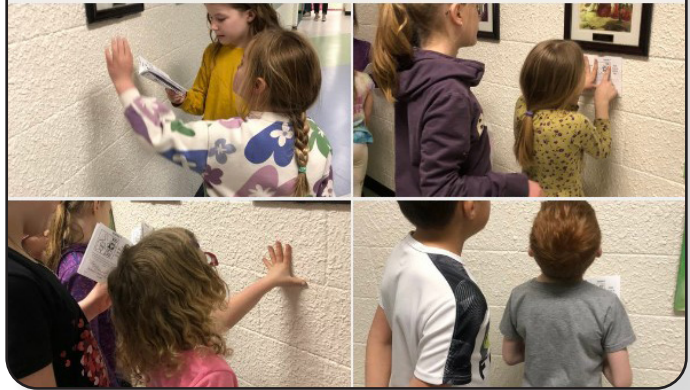
StBonifaceECSD @StBonifaceECSD · 3h

What an amazing day at St. Thomas More! St. Boniface, St. Stanislaus and St. Mary all celebrating together as a Catholic community! Father Mark is such a treasure, helping all of us to better understand our faith! Thanks to all the parents who joined us.



Joclyn Beliveau @joclynbeliveau · Apr 6

Today our grade 3/4 buddies guided us through the stations of the cross, helping us reflect on the significance of each station as we enter into the Triduum @EICSCatholic @stncatholic @GrACE4cathed



St. James CCSD @stjamesCCSD · Apr 6

On Holy Thursday, during the Last Supper, Jesus taught us about humility, service and leadership by washing the feet of his followers. Today, students and staff had their feet washed by Sr. Serena and Mrs O'Flaherty to signify a visible example of service to others.



ECSD @EdmCathSchools

Congratulations to our junior and senior high school recipients of the Lumen Christi Student Faith Leadership Award! 30 students were recognized Thursday by the #ECSD Board of Trustees for their exceptional service and commitment to spreading God's love. #ECSDfaithinspires



St Andrew School @StAndrew_CCSD · Apr 6

Today we spent time as a school in prayer and remembering Jesus' last supper. We hope all of our families have a Blessed Easter, we will see everyone back in class April 17th.



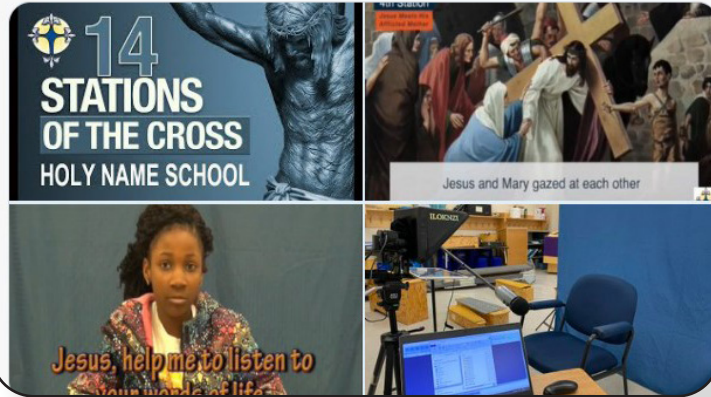
St. Jerome School @stjerome_ccsd · Apr 6

Holy Thursday.



EHNS @CCSD_HolyName · Apr 8

300+ students and staff walking the Way of the Cross together - with a little help from some student readers @CCSD_edu



Saint Gregory School @ccsdstgregory · Apr 5

So proud to share our Lenten social justice work supporting "options for the poor". Students raised \$2600 which went towards @ChaliceCanada purchasing essential items such as goats and chicks, doctor check ups and school lunches.



PofPCCSD @PofPccsd · Apr 4

Beautiful and reflective symbols all around our school for #HolyWeek. Classes are getting together with buddies for a special faith activity & Thursday we will recognize the Last Supper @CCSD_edu #IBelieveinCatholicEd



PofPCCSD @PofPccsd · Mar 30

We invite all parents to stop by our GRACE table tonight and pick up a special treat. Learn more about Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education @GrACE4cathed



Father Doucet School @frdoucet_ccsd · Mar 30

1M has been busy working on their Lenten Promises. They are eager for spring weather to get here! #Lent2023 #spring



Mrs. Oliverio @mrs.oliverio · Apr 6

Ready to begin our day with the Last Supper, sharing bread and juice just as Jesus did. @stjerome_ccsd @CCSD_edu



Father Leduc Catholic School, Leduc, AB

6d · 🌐

This morning Father Leduc School went to the St. Michaels Parish for Easter mass. 🙏 Thank you so much to Father Mathew for... See more





Dean Sarnecki @sarneckid · 23h
 Started a day of board meetings with Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with staff and students from St Mary School and St. Martin schools in Vegreville! Beautiful Easter liturgy.
 @EdmontonEparchy @ACSTANews



St. Mary Beaverlodge
 1d · 🌐
 We were so blessed to have the Archbishop visit our school today. We began the day with mass and then Archbishop Pettipas... See more



Mrs. Oliverio @mrs.oliverio · Apr 6
 The kids look forward to this day every year! Such a beautiful way to celebrate how Jesus left Himself with us in the Holy Eucharist!
 @stjerome_ccsd @CCSD_edu @GrACE4cathed

