

UPCOMING DATES:

Please keep an eye on the **Website calendar for the most up to date events as changes may occur. It's a busy time of year!*

May 1st – Suckers for Spring Sale (50 cents each)

May 3rd – KINDERGARTEN Grad Photos

May 3rd – Hats on for Mental Health

May 4th – Star Wars Day

May 5th – NO Kindergarten

May 8th – Suckers for Spring Sale (50 cents each)

May 10th – School Council Meeting 6pm

May 16th – Tacky Tourist Day

May 17th – Grade 6 PAT English LA Part A

May 18th – Wear Blue for Catholic Education

May 22nd – NO SCHOOL – Victoria Day

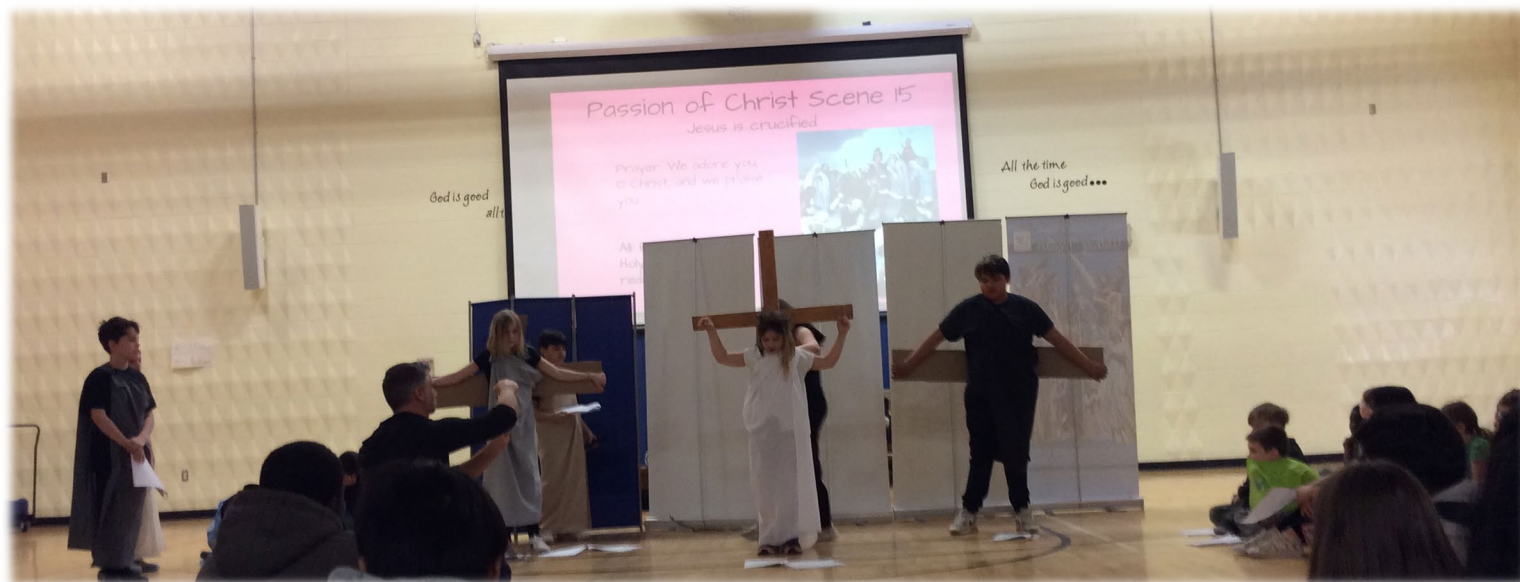
May 23rd – NO SCHOOL – PD Day

May 24th – Marian Mass @ Assumption Church @ 9am

May 26th – Kindergarten Mother's/Father's Day 9-11am

May 29th – Marvel Disney Day

May 31st – Jun 2nd – Grade 6 CAMP!



Newsletter May 2023 Mme Bouchard

May has arrived and what a beautiful beginning. It feels like spring and the warmth of the sun has made an appearance. May is a magical time in elementary school. Routines are established, and students tend to show so much growth at this time of the year. They hit their stride and there is no stopping them now! It is a time for growth, for fun, for great learning experiences, all the while celebrating how far they have come since the beginning of the year.

During the month of April, we celebrated many things, including Easter. The field trip season has begun, so be sure to keep your eyes on class and school communication.

The month of May is the month of the Blessed Mother Mary. We will be celebrating St. Mary in many ways throughout the month of May at ESM. We have our Marian Mass scheduled for May 24th at Assumption Parish at 9:00 am. It is truly one of the most beautiful liturgical celebrations of the year as we celebrate our First Communicants and our school's Patron Saint, Saint Mary. Please join us if you are available.

We will celebrate Catholic Education week from May 15th to 19th. Please wear Blue on May 18th to help celebrate World Catholic Education Day. We are blessed that Catholic Education is publicly funded in Alberta. It celebrates the good news, gospel values, and it is where children can thrive and grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Catholic schools are communities of inclusivity, love, care and respect. Alberta Catholic schools are a beautiful place for families seeking faith-based education for their children, and they are certainly something to celebrate. Thank you for choosing Catholic Education for your child. [#ibelieveincatholiceducation](#)

JUMP Rope for Heart is on May 19th. Information has been shared with students and has been sent home. If your family is in a place to contribute, we welcome your support. May 19th will be a day with several jump rope and skipping activities. We also have our Student Wellness Day scheduled for May 26th. It will be a day full of fun, activities and a wonderful day for students.

The end of May will be the first time returning to SABC for our Grade 6 Camp in several years. The grade 6 team has been working hard to plan for an exciting and memorable time at camp as a culminating activity for our grade 6 students. We are certainly looking forward to it.

The 2023-2024 School Calendar and bell times will be shared as soon as they are confirmed and approved. Please remember to continue to check your child's Spaces account for updates on your child's progress and learning. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are a team, working together in your child's education.

We hope you have a lovely May. We pray for St. Mary to watch over your child, your family and our school community. St. Mary, pray for us.

God Bless,
Mme Kiera Bouchard

Mr. Harper's April Message 2023

Welcome to May! We rejoice: He is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia! It is a wonderful season, and we are in the last stretch of the school year! Warmer weather, new life, more sunlight, green all around us! With the Easter season, we receive all the joy it brings.

It is going to be a busy month of May this year! During May, we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education. Catholic Education Week is from May 14 - 19. Throughout the week, there will be different opportunities to celebrate our faith, and each day focuses on a different Mark of Catholic Education. On May 18th, we will wear blue and go for a school walk to demonstrate our support for Catholic Education. Our division will also share many resources throughout this week to share how we live out the Marks of a Catholic School at ESM and throughout our district. Please make sure to watch for them!

May is the month of the Blessed Mother Mary. We will celebrate our Marian Mass at Assumption Parish on May 24th at 9:00 AM. The Mass will be hosted by our grade 2's! Please join us at the church! Father Kevin will be presiding. Congratulations to the students from ESM who have received or will receive their first Holy Communion over the coming weeks! May God watch over you and bless you! We will also host the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue at our school from May 17th - May 19th. What a great week!

Our students successfully fundraised over 600 dollars for our sister school, Chandarua Primary School, during our Change for Chalice fundraiser! Great work, everyone! We will continue to have some activities, such as letter writing, throughout the year and continue our partnership with Chalice and Chandarua Primary School next year. Our donation page is still open if you would like to donate to help support their access to building upgrades, solar light acquisitions, and the many other improvements they desperately need. The link is found below!

This month, we will learn more about the Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit during our Gospel time. We will also learn more about our Saint of the Month, Saint Isidore Bakanja, a devout believer in the Blessed Mother Mary. During this month, we will also celebrate St. Mary! It is the month of May, of course! Also, Happy Mother's Day in May! St. Isidore Bakanja, please pray for us! St. Mary, please pray for us! Happy May, everyone!

[Chalice/Ecole St. Mary donation page](#)

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Continue Support for Chandarua Primary School

For the rest of the year, we have partnered with Chalice, an organization that helps partner schools in Canada with a school worldwide that is in need. They have partnered us with our sister school, Chandarua Primary School, in Tanzania, Africa!

Chandarua Primary School has 415 students from pre-primary to grade seven, with nine classrooms and twelve teachers. They have a school farm that provides a hot lunch program for the students, and many of the families make their livelihood from raising crops. Even though our Lenten journey is close to an end this April their school has a lot of needs. We continue to pray and fundraising for the students, staff, and families of Chandarua Primary School. Chalice will use our fundraising efforts for classroom repairs as most floors are dilapidated, the classrooms have cracked walls, and termites have eaten the doors and window frames. We will also share information about Ecole St. Mary, Alberta, and Canada with them. In turn, they will share information about Chandarua Primary School, Tanzania, and Africa with us. This is a great opportunity to do what we can to help others worldwide.

To DONATE: [2023 - Chandarua Primary School \(e2rm.com\)](https://e2rm.com)



BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

We are blessed to have a "grab and go" fridge for Students who would go without or don't have enough. These snacks are open to all students; however we encourage the kids to eat what is in their lunch kits first before grabbing more. If you find your child is coming home with all their food please talk to them about only taking snacks when they finish their lunches.

SAMARITAN STARS

As the students do good deeds and display exemplary actions/attitudes, their fellow classmates can nominate them and put their name in the "Samaritan Stars" jar. From here we draw names to win a cheque for \$25.00 which is graciously donated by Ward Bros. Construction. Thank you, Ward Bros., for your continued generosity to our school!

For the month of April our winners were: Andres 1DI and Gabriel 3DI

HOUSE TEAMS

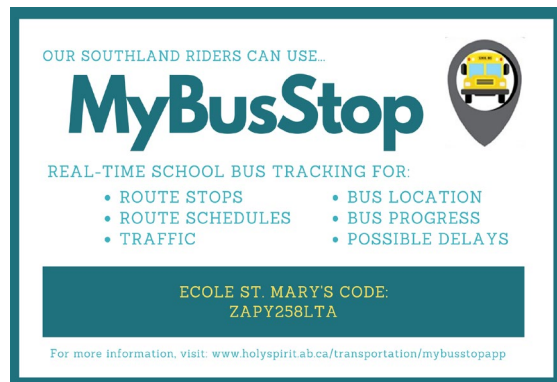
The students are assigned a house team (colour team) so be a part of for the year. This encourages the kids to interact with kids in other grades. Our leadership team comes up with special days and activities for students to earn points to go towards their house team.

For the Month of April the winning house team is: Black Bears.

SICK KIDS

If your child(ren) is sick – KEEP THEM HOME.

We all need to do our part to take care of ourselves and others. Staying home while you are sick is the best way to not share germs with classmates and teachers.



SCHOOL BUS

Our Code is: ZAPY258LTA

Please download the app for the most up to date route changes and delays.

There has been changes and additions to routes this month. Also remind your kids to check the sign on the bus as they may not be in the same line up at the end of the day.

<https://www.southland.ca/lethbridge/>

ATTENDANCE

Children thrive and succeed when they attend school regularly. We understand things come up, appointments made during school hours, emergencies, sickness etc. Please call the office to let us know if your child(ren) will not be at school on any given day. You can call 403-327-3098 (leave a voicemail or email esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca)

STUDENT DROP OFF/ PICK UP

Students can be dropped off at 7:45am. There will be no supervision before 7:45am if you choose to leave your child unattended at the school this is your parent responsibility.



NO PARKING IN PARKING LOT

Parking lot is for STAFF ONLY.

You may park on the east side of the street. In the morning the sidewalk between the flag pole and the parking lot is a drop off zone. Hug and Go. Please do not park there for long periods of time.

Kindergarten & ELP – There are school buses here at 11am for the high school shuttle.

Please don't block the bus lane. Park on the East side of the street and encourage your children to use good habits by using the cross walk to cross the street.

DO NOT BLOCK THE BUS LANE.

We can't say it enough. For the safety of the students please do not block the bus lane. The buses drop off students from 3 schools and it is a busy place in the morning. Even as the snow falls and the days get colder parking is still not allowed in the bus lane. Busses need all the space and ask for your help in leaving the bus lane clear.

MAY 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|----------|
| | 1 Suckers for Spring Sale | 2 | 3 Hats on for Mental Health Kindergarten Grad Photos | 4 Star Wars Day | 5 NO KINDERGARTEN | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Suckers for Spring Sale | 9 | 10 <u>Growing Smiles Delivered to School</u> | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Mother's Day | 15 PAT FLA Part A Catholic Education Week | 16 Tacky Tourist Day | 17 PAT ELA Part A | 18 Wear BLUE for Catholic Education | 19 Jump Rope for Heart | 20 |
| 21 | 22 NO SCHOOL Victoria Day | 23 NO SCHOOL PD Day | 24 Marian Mass 9am @ Assumption Church Divisional Board meeting | 25 | 26 Wellness Day Kindergarten Mother's Father's Day 9-11am | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Marvel/Disney Day | 30 | 31 <div>Grad 6 Camp @ SABC</div> | 1 | 2 | 3 |

June



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 NO KINDERGARTEN | 3 |
| | | | Grad 6 Camp @ SABC | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Blackfoot Blessing and Face Painting | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 NO SCHOOL PD Day | 13 | 14 Sports Day School Council 6pm | 15 Kona Ice Last day for Kindergarten and ELP | 16 NO KINDERGARTEN PAT French LA | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 PAT L.A. | 21 Closing Mass @ Assumption 9am | 22 PAT Math Part A | 23 PAT Math Part B | 24 |
| 25 | 26 PAT Social | 27 PAT Science Last Day of school | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

May

Arise! Pilgrims of Hope



“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

Colossians 3:12

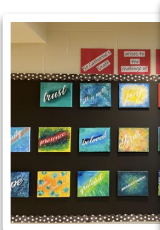
Blessed Isidore Bakanja 1887-1909 (Feast Day: August 15)

In Christus Vivit (Christ is Alive), Pope Francis upholds Blessed Isidore Bakanja as a saint who devoted his life to Christ, and in his own way and time lived a life of holiness. In Christus Vivit 59, he says:

Blessed Isidore Bakanja was a layman from the Congo who bore witness to his faith. He was tortured at length for having proposed Christianity to other young people. Forgiving his executioner, Isidore died in 1909.

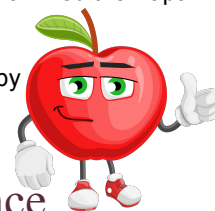
Bakanja was born in 1887 in the Congo Free State, which was under the colonial control of Belgium. During this time, the Congo was renowned for both its natural mineral resources and wealth, as well as the harshness of the Belgian overseers. Bakanja was exposed to Catholicism in his youth, and was baptized in May 1906, with the baptismal name Isidore. He was known for carrying his rosary, wearing his scapular, and sharing his faith widely with those around him.

It was in 1909 that he was martyred. A local rubber plantation overseer, who viewed Catholicism as a challenge to Belgian authority, demanded that Bakanja abandon his faith and remove his scapular. When Bakanja refused, the overseer had him beaten severely and placed in a terrible solitary confinement. After this, Bakanja fled into the forest, and was found eventually by another inspector and missionaries, who were unable to help him heal of his wounds.



Holy Moments In Our Schools

We continue to see so many Holy Moments and experiences in our schools this year. As part of their staff retreat, staff at St. Catherine School examined the Papal Catechesis on Discernment, and completed these art pieces to show how they are Arising to follow the footsteps of Jesus. At St. Teresa of Calcutta, students are completing a large paint by number version of the faith plan image on their gathering space glass.



May – Month of Mary

The Catholic tradition suggests that two months of the year, May and October, are dedicated to Mary. One reason why May is dedicated to Mary is to reflect the splendor of spring and new life, of which Mary as Mother of Christ is a model. There are many Marian devotions that are emphasized in May – one reason why our schools are hosting a Marian pilgrimage through this month and toward the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary on June 17.

Blessed Isidore Bakanja was renowned for his dedication to Mary – seen through sacramentals such as the Rosary and Brown Scapular. The Brown Scapular is a minimalist form of the garment worn by the Carmelites, a religious order founded by hermits in the 12th century in the Holy Land. It is a sign of entrustment to Mary, and a dedication to seeking to live with her virtue.

In whatever dedication you have to Mary, let us offer her our prayers this month for her intercession, confident that she will protect us, bless us with her favour, and lead us closer to her Son.

We pray also in a special way this month for our Mothers, and those who have played a significant motherly role in our lives. May God richly bless them and bring them closer to Him!



The Fruit of the Spirit – Patience

The word ‘patience’ is mentioned in Scripture nearly 70 times. But, really, who has time for patience? All of us have been told at some point in our lives to just be patient. In our age of instant gratification, nobody enjoys patiently waiting.

For most people, patience can be difficult in certain circumstances. Whether it’s waiting in a doctor’s office past your appointment time, sitting in traffic or trying to get the kids to do their chores, patience is sometimes hard to come by.

During these recent times, our days can be long, hard and incredibly stressful. When we’re exhausted or worried, finding patience is probably the last thing on our minds, but it should really be the first. We are told in Psalm 37:7, “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”

How do we develop patience? How can we cultivate patience in relationships with our loved ones? Patience is waiting with grace and it’s what enables us to live in this demanding world and still have love, joy and peace, and all the other fruits of the Spirit. But, patience is much easier said than done, right? Waiting with patience is difficult, and God knows this. The good news is that you don’t have to wait alone.

Ask God for the patience that you need to get you through all the struggles, pain and trials and may you be like Jesus more and more as He fills you with His love.

“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

Romans 8:26



Reflecting on the life of Blessed Isidore Bakanja...

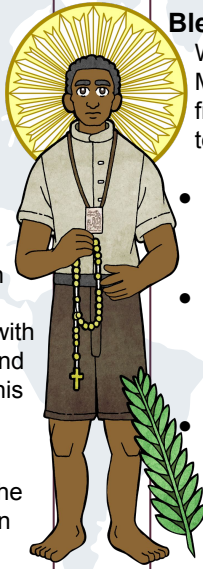
Blessed Isidore Bakanja Showed "Bear Wrongs Patiently"

Patiently bearing the wrongs that others do, especially to our families or ourselves, is very difficult indeed. We saw this last month in the example of St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions, and we see it again this month with Blessed Isidore Bakanja.

As Bakanja shared his faith with those in his community, he began to encounter the hatred and persecution of the Belgian agents who were overseeing his work on a rubber plantation. He was told to stop teaching his fellow workers how to pray, with the agents telling him "You'll have the whole village praying and no one will work!" He continued, and continued also to wear his scapular and rosary, which led to his vicious beating and imprisonment.

As those around him tried to help him heal from his wounds, he received his final sacraments and was known to have forgiven his persecutor, saying "I shall pray for him. When I am in heaven, I shall pray for him very much." Because of this, Blessed Isidore Bakanja is considered a strong witness to the grace of reconciliation.

Blessed Isidore Bakanja, Pray for us!



Blessed Isidore Bakanja Showed "Patience"

We know how dedicated Blessed Isidore Bakanja was to Mary - he would have sought to live with her virtue. Aside from bearing wrongs patiently, where else might he have tried to emulate her patience?

- In her travel - Mary would have traveled frequently and sometimes in challenging conditions. She would have had to exercise patience with her donkey or caravan.
- In her relationship with Joseph - Mary would have had to have been patient with Joseph, waiting for him to process his own experience with the Immaculate Conception and messages in his dreams.
- In her flight - the Holy Family fled to Egypt; what things might they have had to be patient with there? Their expectations for a normal life, their desire to return home, or hopes for the future?
- With her children - as her children, how must Mary be patient with us, our stubbornness, rejection and questioning?

Mary, Model of Patience, Pray for us!

Gospel Readings

May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-12

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am going you also may be."
— John 14:3

Jesus brings words of hope and encouragement in today's Gospel. He assured his disciples that there is more work for them to do. Jesus says, 'I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The work of God the Father was also his work, and because he is ascending into heaven, it is now our work. In fact, Jesus tells us in the last line of the gospel, 'Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.' These are encouraging words for us. We all must keep doing good works to carry on the mission of Jesus.

"I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you also may be." Thank you, Father:

What kind of good works is Jesus calling you to do?

May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

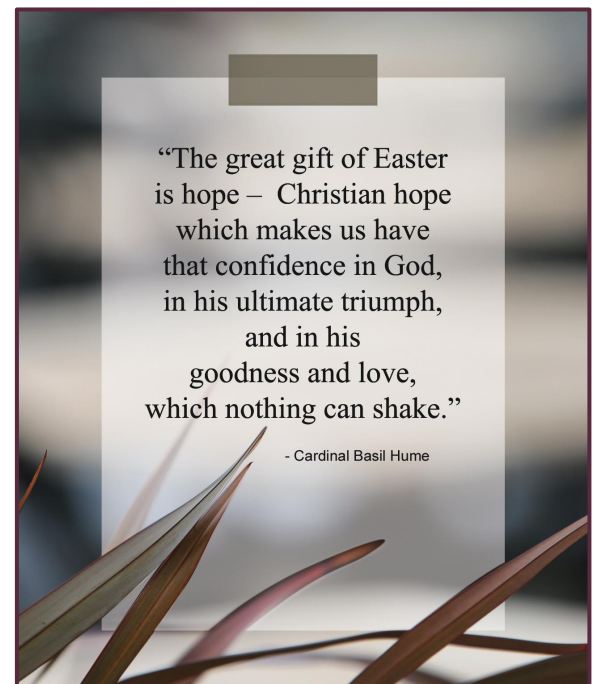
"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you." — John 14:16-17

Jesus has said and done everything possible in the last few weeks in the Gospel readings to show his disciples, and all of us, how much he loves us and wants us to follow him. He loves us so much that he assures us that he will even send us a special helper to keep us on track, the Holy Spirit (sometimes called the 'Advocate'). He needs us to help everyone around us to understand who Jesus is through our words, and actions. It can be hard to do that just on our own. Even the disciples couldn't do it on their own. It's a good thing God sent us the Holy Spirit!

Father in heaven, please make our hearts open to receiving your Holy Spirit so we, too, may proclaim to the world that you are our savior.

What are some ways we can share Jesus with others?

[Home Page](#)



Gospel Readings

May 21, 2023

Ascension of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." — Matthew 28:20

Imagine the roller coaster ride Jesus' disciples were experiencing. First, they witnessed Jesus' death and burial. They must have felt scared and completely alone. Then, almost unbelievably, they saw him after his resurrection and were elated and hopeful. Now, they see Jesus rising up into heaven; he is gone again! What might they have felt this time?

Jesus knew how they would feel, and how we feel when we are living with a difficult situation and it seems he is nowhere to be found. He wants us all to know that even though we can't see him, he is still always with us – just like the sun is still shining even if we can't see it because it's behind the clouds. As a sign of Jesus' everlasting presence, he gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist so at every Mass we can receive him in a special way. He wants to be that close to us!

Jesus, help me to remember that you are with me every minute of every day. Thank you for giving me your own body and blood to unite me to you.

What are some ways Jesus has shown his presence to your family?

May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
— John 20:19-20

Have you ever been in a scary situation? Imagine what you might feel if the biggest bully at school decided you would be a great target and began running after you. Just the thought of it might make your heart begin racing. In today's Gospel, we see that Jesus' followers were very scared. The bullies who killed Jesus were powerful and could easily target them as they did Jesus. Now picture how you would feel if, just before the school bully caught up with you, your parents pulled up to your school, got out of the car, and came by your side. What a relief that would be! That's how Jesus' followers felt when Jesus appeared to them on Pentecost. They saw that the bullies had not won the battle because Jesus was alive, and Jesus promised that his Spirit would be with them to protect them in the job he was giving them to do. What relief they must have felt!

Dear Lord, help me to remember that, with you by my side, there is nothing I cannot face. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort me when I am afraid.

How can you help others when they are fearful? Was there a time when Jesus rescued you from harm? Be sure to share that experience with others.

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - Blessed Isidore Bakanja



Merciful and forgiving Father,
you filled your servant Isidore Bakanja
with the gifts of prayer and witness
and inspired him to heroic patience and pardon
in his atrocious sufferings.

By the grace of Your Holy Spirit,
grant us Your gifts of reconciliation
and perseverance in the faith,
and lead us on the way of justice and peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Blessed Isidore Bakanja - Pray for us!

[Carmelite Quotes](#)



CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WEEK
MAY 15-19, 2023

"...where children are cherished and achieve their potential"

Sources:

[Bl. Isidore Bakanja](#) (ewtn.com)

[Black History Month: Blessed Isidore Bakanja](#) (The Tablet)

[Bl. Isidore Bakanja](#) (General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops)

[The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit: What Is Patience?](#) (Osprey Observer)

May



Arise!
Pilgrims of Hope Journal

WEEK ONE

When did you feel at peace today?

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!



WEEK TWO

How has God provided for you when you were worried?



"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

WEEK THREE

What beauty did you see today?



WEEK FOUR

What was one small victory that you had today?



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
de l'**Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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Catholic Education Week 2023

As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. Micah 4:5

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this month of May, we celebrate Catholic Education Week in the province of Alberta. This occasion affords us the welcome opportunity to reflect on the crucial role Catholic schools play in educating our children and young people, by creating formative communities of love and care that witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Alberta's Catholic schools are beacons of hope for families across the province seeking faith-based education for their children.

The provincial theme this year reminds us of the call to “walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever” (Micah 4:5). Catholic Education Week also provides a special opportunity to thank each one of you for your extraordinary service on behalf of Catholic education.

We offer our deep appreciation to the educators in our Catholic schools who stayed the course throughout these past difficult years with extraordinary commitment. To the teachers, administrators and support staff of our schools, please know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Your tireless dedication on behalf of Alberta's children and families has been holy work. As Scripture states, “Well done good and faithful servants”.

Parents, you have our prayers and our support. Raising a family is both a joy and challenge. Our increasingly secularized society makes your task even more demanding. We honour the role you exercise as your child's first and most important teacher. When you choose Catholic education, you are making a choice to have your child in a community of learning where faith in God is permeated in all of the activities of the school every day.

To the community that surrounds Catholic education, - clergy, grandparents and parishes – we want to affirm your commitment to supporting and enriching Alberta’s Catholic schools as essential. Please continue to pray and advocate for this precious gift of publicly funded Catholic education.

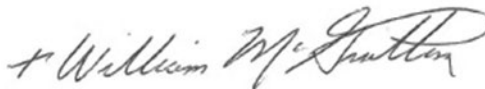
We, the Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories, in unity with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE), invite you all to unite with us in the promotion and strengthening of Catholic Education, as we walk in the name of the Lord along the pathway of faith and hope.

Yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard W. Smith".

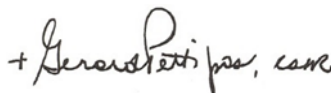
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William McGrattan".

Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Franken".

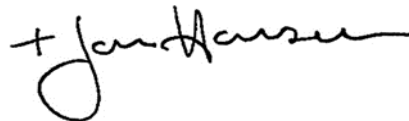
Most Reverend Gary Franken
Bishop of St. Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerard Pettipas, CSsR".

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Motiuk".

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon Hansen".

Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



The Catholic Bishops
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Les évêques catholiques
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Semaine de l'éducation catholique 2023

*Nous marcherons, nous, au nom de l'Éternel, notre Dieu, pour toujours et à perpétuité.
Michée 4:5*

Chères sœurs et chers frères en Christ,

En ce mois de mai, nous célébrons la Semaine de l'éducation catholique partout en Alberta. Cette occasion nous offre une bonne occasion de réfléchir au rôle crucial que jouent les écoles catholiques dans l'éducation de nos enfants et de nos jeunes, en créant des communautés formatrices d'amour et d'attention qui témoignent de l'Évangile de Jésus-Christ. Les écoles catholiques de l'Alberta sont des phares d'espérance pour les familles albertaines qui cherchent à donner à leurs enfants une éducation fondée sur la foi.

En Alberta, le thème de cette année nous rappelle l'appel à « marcher au nom de l'Éternel, notre Dieu, pour toujours et à perpétuité » (Michée 4:5). La Semaine de l'éducation catholique est aussi une occasion spéciale de remercier chacun d'entre vous de votre service extraordinaire au nom de l'éducation catholique.

Nous adressons notre profonde gratitude aux éducateurs de nos écoles catholiques qui, tout au long de ces dernières années difficiles, ont maintenu le cap grâce à un engagement extraordinaire. Enseignants, administrateurs et membres du personnel de soutien de nos écoles, sachez que vos efforts ne sont pas passés inaperçus. Votre dévouement inlassable au nom des enfants et des familles de l'Alberta a été une œuvre sacrée. Comme le dit l'Écriture : « C'est bien, bons et fidèles serviteurs ».

Parents, vous pouvez compter sur nos prières et notre appui. Élever une famille est à la fois une joie et un défi. Notre société de plus en plus sécularisée rend votre tâche encore plus exigeante. Nous honorons votre rôle en tant que premier et principal éducateur de votre enfant. En choisissant l'éducation catholique, vous faites le choix d'intégrer votre enfant dans une communauté d'apprentissage où la foi en Dieu est omniprésente dans toutes les activités quotidiennes de l'école.

À la communauté qui entoure l'éducation catholique – le clergé, les grands-parents et les paroisses – nous voulons affirmer que votre engagement en vue d'appuyer et d'enrichir les écoles catholiques de l'Alberta est essentiel. Nous vous demandons de continuer à prier et à défendre ce don précieux qu'est l'éducation catholique financée par l'État.

Nous, les évêques de l'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, en collaboration avec l'Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), le Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) et Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE), vous invitons à vous joindre à nous pour promouvoir et renforcer l'éducation catholique, alors que nous marchons au nom du Seigneur sur le sentier de la foi et de l'espérance.

Bien à vous dans le Christ,

Les évêques catholiques d'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest



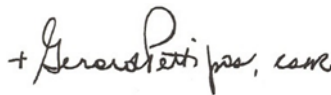
Mgr Richard W. Smith
Archevêque d'Edmonton



Mgr William McGrattan
Évêque de Calgary



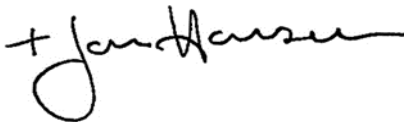
Mgr Gary Franken
Évêque de Saint-Paul




Mgr Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archevêque de Grouard-McLennan



Mgr David Motiuk
Évêque éparchial des Ukrainiens
d'Edmonton



Mgr Hansen, CSsR
Évêque de Mackenzie-Fort Smith



Education is an Important Issue

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2023

As we move out of the COVID Pandemic era, serious work needs to be undertaken to support student mental health and to provide academic support so all children can achieve their potential as active citizens.

The 2023 Provincial Election is a great time to bring issues facing education in general, and Catholic Education in particular, to the forefront.

A few facts about Catholic Education:

- ◆ Catholic education is a constitutional right that many parents and students chose to exercise in Alberta.
- ◆ Catholic schools receive the same public funding as that found in the Public School System.
- ◆ Catholic schools support the development of the whole child; academically, physically, and spiritually.
- ◆ Catholic schools welcome children of all faiths.
- ◆ Catholic School Divisions in Alberta serve over 175,000 children.
- ◆ Holy Spirit Catholic School Division serves over 5000 children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in and around the communities of Bow Island, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek, and Taber.

When meeting with candidates seeking election, ask them...

- ◆ What is your party's position on the continuation of full funding for Catholic Education?
- ◆ How will your party implement the curriculum this coming school year and into the future?
- ◆ In what ways will your party achieve stability in education beyond four-year election cycles?
- ◆ What do you see as the biggest issues facing Public and Catholic Education in Alberta?
- ◆ If your party forms government, what will your party do about these issues?



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION





Worry Dragons



This free two-part group is for youth ages 7-12 who want to:

- use their creative side to express fears and worries
- learn new skills to respond to these feelings

and Parents who want to:

- understand about anxiety
- learn new skills to support their children

Youth portion will be hosted at Family Centre Downtown while the parent portion will be over zoom. Parent and child must register.

Parent portion:
online
Wednesdays
May 10 - June 14
6:00-7:00pm

Youth portion:
in-person
Fridays
May 12 - June 16
2:00-3:00pm

Register online: www.famcentre.ca/program
or call 403-320-4232

Family Centre
Suite 225, 200 - 4 Avenue South
Melcor Centre
Website: www.famcentre.ca

Facebook: @lethbridgefamilycentre
Instagram: @familycentreyql
LinkedIn: @Family Centre Society of Southern Alberta
Helpseeker: Family Centre



**FAMILY
FUN**

**LEARNING
CENTRES**

**CRAFTS
& GAMES**

**SCAVENGER
HUNT**

**ALBERTA
OPEN
FARM DAYS
HOST**

ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURE

AUGUST 19 • 11 AM - 3 PM

BBQ Lunch \$5

**Register for a Crop Tour
11:00 am or 1:30 pm**

Visit Learning Centres



**FARMING
SMARTER**



DETAILS AT FARMINGSMARTER.COM



THE MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING
TEAM INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

FREE FAMILY SWIM

TO CELEBRATE

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 4

7:45PM – 8:45PM

Nicholas Sheran Swimming Pool
401 Laval Blvd. West, Lethbridge

Free Admission
sponsored by
Mental Health
Capacity Building



AT THE
pool

Max 100 People

*Children 8 and under must be accompanied
by an adult*



HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION



READY TO CREATE. READY TO EXPLORE. READY TO DISCOVER.



DO YOU HAVE A YOUNG ATHLETE, DANCER,
SCIENTIST, MOUNTAIN BIKER, CHEF, BUILDER
OR GAMER IN YOUR HOME?

**Now's the time to register them for the hands-on and fun-focused
summer camps for children and teens at Lethbridge College.**

From Claymation Creators to Forensic Explorers to Kodiaks Camps
and more, your kids will make new friends and make it a memorable
summer with a week or more at Lethbridge College's challenging,
creative and confidence-building summer camps.

GET ALL THE DETAILS AND REGISTER TODAY AT:

lethbridgecollege.ca/summercamps





Interested in hockey but don't want the significant time or financial commitment that often comes with this great sport?

We offer an organized non-checking recreational hockey league for all genders aged 5-17. All skill levels are welcome.

One hour, once a week. Season runs from October to March.

Registration closes on September 20, 2023 - spots fill quickly so don't delay!

www.lethbridgerechokey.com

