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Michelle Nevil, Principal • Mary Tilleman, Associate Principal

May 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
			- May Hot Lunch Orders DUE!! - M/W ECS Gymnastics	- Grade 2/3De & 1V – 9 AM Mass - T/Th ECS Gymnastics - School Council Mtg @ 3:45 PM		
5 SPT Choir is singing at 9 AM Mass at Church	6 - May Madness Begins - M/W ECS visit Police Station	7 T/Th ECS visit Police Station	8 - Hats on for Mental Health - Hot Dog Hot Lunch - Resiliency Celebration (5:30-8:00 PM)	9 - Wear Blue for Catholic Education - Grade 4/5W & 2/3G & 1F – 9 AM Mass	10	11
12	13	14	15 - M/W ECS Gymnastics - Glow Day (Bright Neon Colors)	16 - T/Th ECS Gymnastics - Grade 4/5G, 4/5P, & 2/3Du – 9 AM Mass	17 School PD Day – No School	18
19	20 Victoria Day – No School	21	22 - Twin Day - Grade 5's Tour SMS (1:00-2:30) - ECS & 1F Swimming from 1-2 PM - CEC Board Meeting at 6 PM	23 1V & ECS Swimming (1:00-2:00 PM) - Be Together Family Night (4-6 PM)	24	25
26	27 Spiritual Development Day – No School	28 DQ Hot Lunch	29 Grade 2/3 Field Trip	30 T/Th ECS & 1F Swimming 1-2 PM	31 All Grade 2/3's Swimming (10-11 AM)	June 1



= Grade 4/5 Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)

= Grade 4/5 Thunder Athletics Program (3:15-4:15 PM)



ROCKS



May
2024

Our Motto is **Learning to Love and Loving to Learn**

We honour St. Mary this month. Instead of reciting the Lord's Prayer, we will recite the Hail Mary on a daily basis



ROCK TIME



Rock Time is our weekly assembly that happens the first day back from the weekend at 8:45 AM in our gathering space. You are welcome to join us.

We continue to celebrate Easter Season at Rock Time. Here are the Sunday Gospel readings of this month:

John 15:9-17

Mark 16:15-20 (Ascension)

John 15: 26-16:15 (Pentecost)

Matthew 28:16-20



Thank you to all who attended our Movie Night. And a special thank you to our school council for putting it on.



Energy Challenge for May

Learn how to read our Solaredge Monitoring system in the school. It measures how much energy our panels make in a day. Ask your child about it?



Mini Basketball Program

We are so fortunate to have the St. Mary's Students and staff run this program for our students. It will run on Wednesdays and Fridays of this month at St. Mary's School. Thank you to Mr. Josh Van Uden for making this happen.

Growing Smiles Fundraiser
Pick up will happen at the end of the month, thank you to all you participated in this fundraiser.

This is the last month for Thunder Athletics. The Thunder Athletes will learn Golf and Soccer. Thank you to Mrs. Tilleman for organizing this.



Catholic Education Week

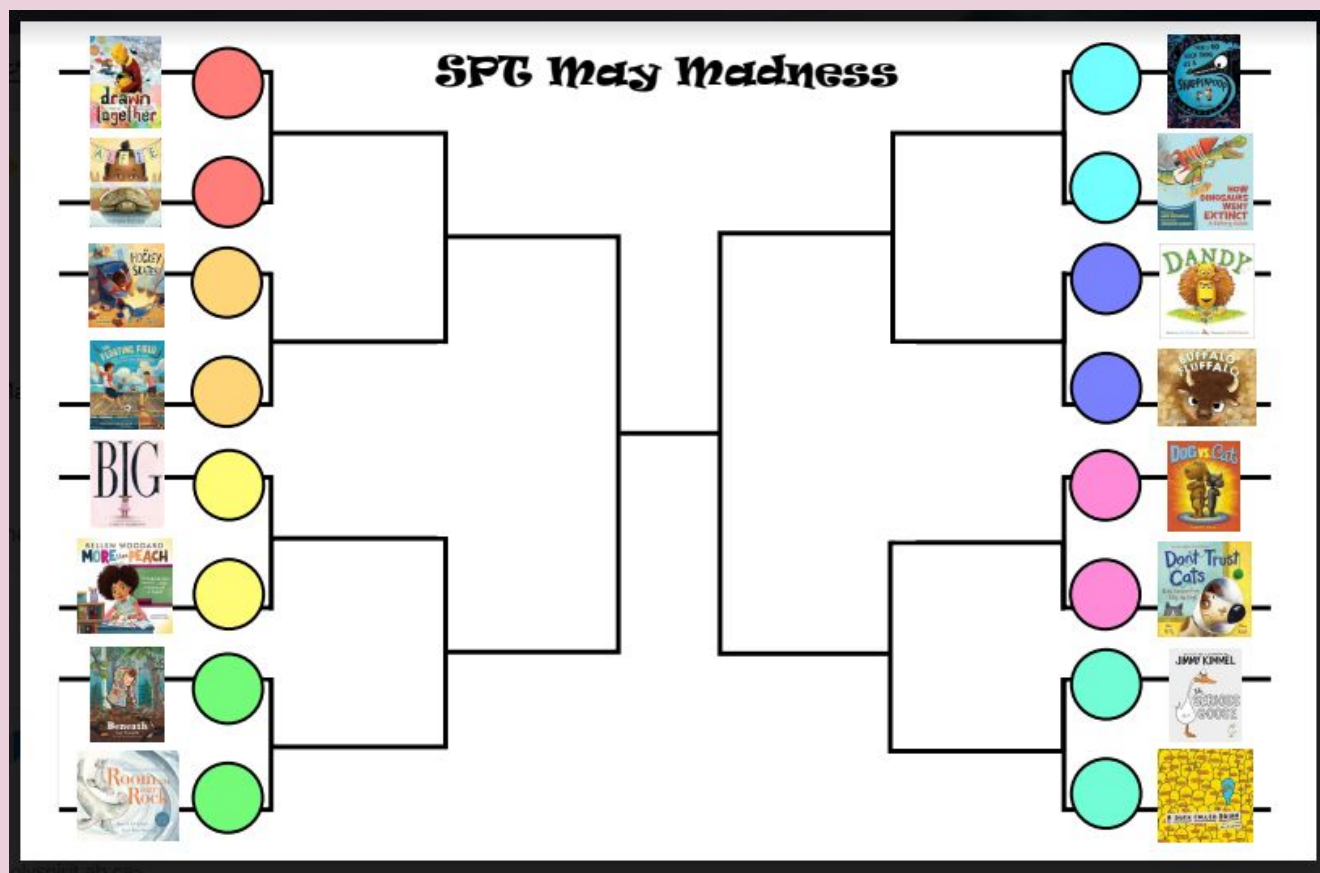
May 6-10

Please Wear Blue on Thursday, May 9 to show your support for Catholic Education.



Mental Health Awareness Week is May 6-10. Wear a Hat for Mental Health on Wednesday, May 8 to show your support for Mental Health Awareness.

LEARNING TO LOVE & LOVING TO LEARN



Who? --- The kindergarten to grade 4/5 classes of SPT

What? --- May Madness is a bracket-style tournament that matches picture books in one-on-one "games". The games will be decided by a simple classroom vote.

Where? --- Throughout the entire St. Patrick's School.

How? --- From May 6th to June 3rd, each class will receive a bracket book bag that contains the two books that will be competing against each other. There will be a final celebration on June 3rd at Rock Time to announce the winner. All are welcome!

Learning Fairs at SPT

It is that time of year where we celebrate our students learning and growth. At SPT we will be doing this through Learning Fairs. There will be one day set aside for each classroom where our students get to showcase a culminating project and share their growth in this school year. Here are the dates of the Learning Fairs, the times they will run will be shared at a later date.

June 4 - Multi Age 2/3

June 11 - Grade 1s

June 18 - Multi Age 4/5

School Council News:

The next school council meetings will be held on:

Thursday, May 2nd @3:45 PM

Thursday, June 6th @3:45 PM

Follow our SPT School Council on Social Media to stay up-to-date with how they are supporting our SPT School Community. (Click on the links below)

[Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

Upcoming Important School Council Dates:

- May 1st, 2024 – May Hot Lunch Orders are DUE!
- May 8th, 2024 – Hot Dog Hot Lunch
- May 28th, 2024 – DQ Hot Lunch
- May 29th – May 31st – Spring Fundraiser Plant/Flower Pick up @ Sunnyside Nursery.

Please email sptschoolcouncil@holyspirit.ab.ca for any questions you may have. Contact your child's room rep if you would like to volunteer to help with hot lunch.

News from our Library:



We are pleased to announce the completion of our LITTLE LIBRARY

Thank you to the Lethbridge Corridor Victim Services Unit for donating the little library to our school and Thank you to Mrs. Gillespie for installing it.

This little library is for staff, students and the Taber Community as a whole. Feel Free to TAKE A BOOK, LEAVE A BOOK, or BOTH.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ulrick, Librarian at SPT

SPT Teacher Office Hours:

The teacher office hours are set aside for you to get to know your child's teacher, address any concerns you may have about your child's learning, or if you need help with SPACES, etc. Let your child's teacher know you would like to meet with them during their scheduled office hours.

Grade 1	 Mrs. French (1F) Thursday, May 16 th 3:30-4:30 PM	 Mrs. Visscher (1V) Thursday, May 16 th 3:30-4:30 PM
	 Mr. De Coste (2/3De) Thursday, May 30 th 3:30-4:30 PM	 Mrs. Gutfriend (2/3G) Wednesday, May 29 th – 3:30-4:30 PM
Grade 2/3	 Miss Duncan (2/3Du) Monday, May 13 th 3:30-4:30 PM	
Grade 4/5	 Ms. Gross (4/5G) Tuesday, May 21 st 3:30-4:30 PM	 Miss Paul (4/5P) Tuesday, May 28 th – 3:30-4:30 PM
	 Mrs. Wickson (4/5W) Tuesday, May 21 st 3:30-4:30 PM	

Important Dates 2024-2025

First Day of School (Grade 1-5): September 3, 2024

Christmas Break: December 21, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Easter Break: April 18, 2025 - April 27, 2025

Last Day of school (Grades 1-5): June 26, 2025

SPT

Important Reminders:

Late or Absent Students – Please call our school office by 9:00 AM if your child will be late or absent from school! Our phone number is 403-223-3352.

Agenda Notes – The agenda is an important communication tool between home and the school. If there are any changes in your child's schedule, a change in bus/kidzone schedule, or a change in who is picking up your child, please make note in your child's agenda. If the change occurs during the day, give our school office a call and we will pass on the message to the classroom.

Picking up Students During School Hours – Parents, if you are picking up your child during school hours, please check-in at our office to sign out your child. While signing out, the office will contact your child's homeroom teacher to have your child sent down to the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation by helping us to continue to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Medical Notes/ Medication – If your child needs to take medication at school, please see Mrs. Mankow in the office to fill out the required paperwork. Additionally, please keep us updated on any allergies or medical changes the school should be aware of.

Microwave Use at Nutrition Times – We have two 15-minute Nutrition Breaks for our students to eat and the entire school eats at the same time. Due to the limited time please send your child with lunches that do not require a microwave. This will ensure that all students will have ample time to eat their lunch. More time will be provided in class for those students who need to eat more.

Milk and Juice Program - We are excited to be offering our chocolate milk and juice program again this year. The program will be run by our Grade 5 students with the help of Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Wickson. Chocolate milk and juice will be available for purchase during the 1st Nutrition Break. Milk cards can be purchased at the office or on SchoolCashOnline. **If you pay for a card online, please have your child come to the school office to request the card. Thank you.**



We have two types of cards available:

- 1) \$10 punch card valid for 10 individual milk/juice purchases
- 2) \$20 punch card valid for 20 individual milk/juice purchases.

If you don't want to purchase a punch card, students are also able to purchase milk or juice individually. Each drink is \$1.00

*****Proceeds from the milk program support school activities, STEM, our SPT Leadership Program and our Grade 5 Farewell. *****



Stay Connected:

Check out our school website: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca

School Calendar: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/calendars

Follow us on Social Media:



[St. Patrick School - Taber](https://www.facebook.com/St.PatrickSchool-Taber)



[@spttaber](https://www.instagram.com/spttaber)



[@SPTtaber](https://twitter.com/SPTtaber)

Board Briefs:

Each month, the School Division Trustees publish a summary of their meetings:

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/board_meetings



"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers."

- Psalm 24:1-2

St. John Bosco 1815-1888 (Feast Day: January 31)

May Build! Pilgrims of Hope



John Bosco, more commonly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian priest, educator and writer in the 1800s. He was born into a poor farming family, and his father died when he was two, leaving his mother to raise him and his brothers. During his youth, he was drawn to the church, and often found himself policing fights between his classmates. He left school at the age of 12, working as a shepherd and farm worker before entering the seminary at the age of 20. Once ordained a priest, he moved to Turin, a large city with slums, prisons, and many orphaned and abandoned youth. Instead of expecting these children, particularly boys, to come to him at the church, he went to them in the shops, marketplaces, and squares of the town. He found homes and shelters for them, helped them to find jobs or to become apprentices, and instructed them with love and compassion. This was in contrast to the typical methods of school discipline used at the time. He and his companions founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales in 1859 to support this work.

His work and life were hard in this time, and he faced much opposition—even assassination attempts! However, year after year, his efforts continued to bear fruit and to grow. At the time of his death in 1888, the original group of Salesians that was founded with 22 members had grown to over 1,000, and quickly expanded to include many types of schools, seminaries, recreational centres, and youth clubs. At the time of his death, over 130,000 children were being supported. It is no wonder then that Pope John Paul II gave him the title "Father, Teacher, and Friend of the Youth."

"Building" In Our Schools

Catholic Education Week is celebrated in May. This year, we will be highlighting the creativity and arts being "built" in our schools. Leading up to Catholic Education Week, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division provided a two evening experience of live performances and student work installations in a come-and-go-festival type setting at the new Lethbridge and District Exhibition.



Catholic Education Week — May 6-10, 2024 —

We take a short pause from our look at the Corporal Works of Mercy this month to celebrate Catholic Education in the province of Alberta.

Each year, Catholic Education week is held in May - this year, **May 6-10**. This year, we will be distributing short videos each day that highlight the various aspects of our schools, as well as information to our partners in Catholic Education. You will be invited to wear blue for Catholic Education on Thursday, **May 9**, as well as joining in common prayer throughout the week.



**Courage
to Lead**



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
JOSHUA 1:9



WEAR BLUE TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Formation of Men and Women Religious, and Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Catholic Social Teaching — Stewardship of Creation —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of *Catholic Social Teaching* is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

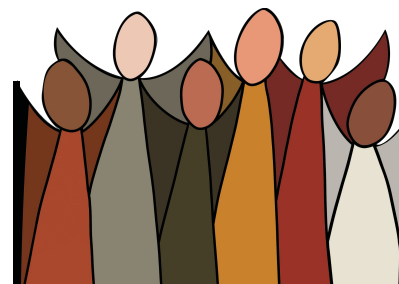
Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical *Laudato Si'*/On Care for Our Common Home, stated:

"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others."

Pope Benedict, in *Caritas in Veritate*, wrote:

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. . . . Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other."

Learn more [here](#) (Care for God's Creation YouTube)



"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved... you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

Gospel Readings

May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

“I no longer call you slaves....I have called you friends...” — John 15:15

Can you imagine God calling us a friend? Think about your best friend at school or work. What are some things you would do for him or her, even if you were tired, had a lot of other work to do, or had the opportunity of doing something with someone else? You would do whatever you could to make your friend happy, wouldn't you? Even very difficult things.

The more we come to know and love Jesus, the sooner we will consider HIM our best friend. He told us and showed us how much he loves us—he even died for us. Now it's our turn to show him how much we love him. Jesus told us how to do that. He said “Love one another.”

What can you do to show Jesus that he is your best friend?



Prayer:

Jesus, help me to put you first in my life. Help me to remember that you are my best friend. Help me to love all people as you taught us.

May 9 or May 12, 2024

Ascension of Our Lord

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:15-20

“Go into all the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” — Mark 16:15

Jesus' ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. It was the end of the time when the disciples could see Jesus, touch him, and eat with him. It was also the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. As he ascended to heaven, Jesus promised to send his disciples the Holy Spirit who would bring them power to continue his mission on earth.

Their task was to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the nations. That's what “Gospel” means—good news. It's the good news that God loves us and forgives us. Like the disciples, it is our task to spread this Good News of God's love.

How can you spread the Good News to your friends and family?



Prayer:

Lord, thank you for loving and forgiving us! We want to know you and love you and serve you in this world and help to spread the good news of your love.

“By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...”

1 Peter 1:3b

Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. John Bosco
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



[Home Page](#)

Gospel Reading: John 17:11b-19

“As you did send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” — John 17:18

Do you know what your mission is in life? God sent Jesus to earth to show us how God loves us and to show us what it means to follow God, no matter what. Then Jesus passed on this mission to us!

How can we do this? Sometimes we need to take up our cross. When others are doing unkind and selfish things, we have to follow the loving, kind, and unselfish example of Jesus. It can be hard because people might make fun of us. But God will give us the strength we need to live as his disciples. We are called, just like Jesus was called.

What crosses do you have to carry? Remember, you can ask Jesus for his help.



Prayer:
Lord, help me to show people your love, and always point people to you. Give me the strength I need when it is difficult.

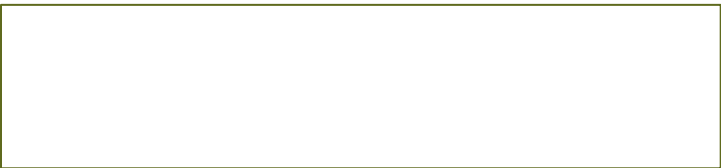
Courage
to
Lead

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

“Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” — John 20:19

Have you ever been absolutely terrified by something? Maybe you experienced a tornado or earthquake. Or maybe you had to give a talk in front of a huge group of people. In our Gospel today, the disciples were terrified beyond words. They were hiding for fear of being killed like Jesus was. They bolted the door shut and huddled together, worried they would be discovered at any moment. Imagine their great relief when, all of a sudden, Jesus was standing there in the room! They knew Jesus died on the cross, but here he was, alive and well! Jesus’ words to them—“Peace be with you”—are the same words he says to us. We have nothing to fear because Jesus is with us.

Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church because the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the courage to go out and spread the Good News of God’s great love and forgiveness. How will you celebrate this special birthday?



Prayer:
Lord, help me to remember that even in the worst of situations, you are with me.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.”*
— John 14:27



Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” — Matthew 28:19

If you were baptized when you were a little baby, you won’t remember what happened, but your family remembers. Ask them and they’ll tell you that the priest or deacon poured water over your head three times saying “In the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.”

When we enter a church, we bless ourselves with holy water, using the same words. In the Gospel today, Jesus commands that this blessing be used to change us from ordinary human beings into his disciples who live like children of God. On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we remember how much God loves us, as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit.

Why do you think water is used in baptism? What does your family remember about the day you were baptized?



Prayer:
Thank you dear Father, loving Son, and divine Spirit! Please keep me close to you always, my God.

Sources:
[The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends](#)
[Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love](#)
[Story of Saint Don Bosco](#)





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 2024

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this month of May, we celebrate Catholic Education Week in Alberta, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. As the Catholic Education liaison on behalf of my brother Bishops, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to the educators and all who serve in our Catholic schools.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024, “Courage to Lead”, reminds us of the call and the responsibility to live and uphold the teachings of our Catholic faith, even amidst the challenges of the world around us.

The call to be courageous is deeply rooted in Scriptures. In the Book of Joshua, the Lord counsels us: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (*Joshua 1:9*)

In a time and place where conflicting ideologies are challenging the enduring truths of our faith, it takes tremendous courage to remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ's teachings.

This courage begins in the home, with parents entrusted by God with the vital responsibility of imparting the values and principles of our faith within the hearts and minds of their children. When parents make the courageous decision to entrust their children to the care of our Catholic schools, those schools become a supporting partner to parents in the education and spiritual formation of their children.

Catholic schools have the distinctive mission to integrate faith and reason, providing students with an education that not only challenges them academically but also nurtures faith formation. Within this educational environment, the teachings of the Catholic faith are permeated into the fabric of daily life.

Although we are blessed with a constitutionally protected, publicly funded Catholic school system, nevertheless we cannot take this for granted. It is our collective responsibility as Christian faithful to be courageous in ensuring that we are forming confident disciples of Jesus Christ and his teachings. It is incumbent upon the entire school community – administrators, teachers, staff, clergy, parents and parishioners – to honour this commitment.

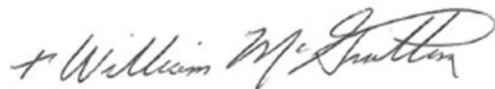
May God grant us the wisdom, courage, and strength to fulfill our sacred duty with courage and love, knowing that He walks alongside us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,

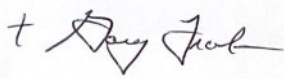
Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



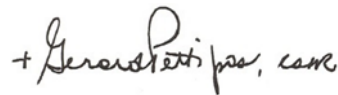
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Alberta Liaison Bishop for Catholic Education
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



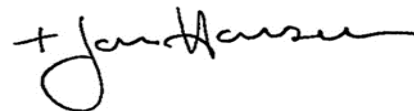
Most Reverend Gary Franken
Bishop of St. Paul



Archbishop Gerard Pettipas
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



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

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