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Michelle Nevil, Principal • Mary Tilleman, Associate Principal

May 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Hot Lunch Orders Due	2  •School Council Meeting @ 3:45 PM •Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	3 Hats on for Mental Health SPT Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)	4  •Star Wars/Super Hero Day •Grade 2/3D & 1C Mass at Church •SPT School Council Bake Sale (2:30- 4:00 PM)	5	6
7 SPT Choir sings at Mass	8	9  •Growing Smiles Fundraiser Deadline •Online Safety Presentation Parent Night @ 5PM •Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	10 SPT Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)	11  •Grade 4/5W & 2/3M Mass at Church •Taco Time Hot Lunch •Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	12	13
14	15	16  Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	17 SPT Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)	18  Grade 4/5G & 2/3V Mass at Church Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	19 PD Day – No School	20
21	22 Victoria Day – No School	23  Grade 5 visit St. Mary's for Garde 6 Orientation Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	24 •Tacky Tourist Day •Grade 2/3 Fieldtrip to Frank Slide •SPT Choir (3:20-4:00 PM) •CEC Board Meeting @ 6 PM	25  Grade 1F & T/Th Mass at Church Thunder Athletics Soccer & Golf (3:15-4:15 PM)	26 Growing Smiles Fundraiser Pick Up Date Wellness Friday	27
28	29 Grade 2/3 Learning Fair (1:30-3:00 PM) IGA Subs Hot Lunch	30 Grade 4/5W Learning Fair (1:30-3:00 PM)	31 SPT Choir Practice (3:20-4:00 PM)	June 1 School Council Meeting at 3:45 PM	June 2 Sports Day	June 3

SPT ROCKS

May
2023



our Faith Action this month is Compassion. We will be learning about the concern for the suffering or well-being of others.



Energy Challenge for May Plant a Plant continued



Thank you to the grade 1 and kindergarten families who baked for our final bake sale. The bake sale is on Thursday, May 4th @ 2:30-4:00 PM



This month the Thunder Athletes will learn about golf with the pros from the Taber Golf Course and soccer with our in our in house "pros" Mrs. Tilleman and Ms. Duncan.



ROCK TIME



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

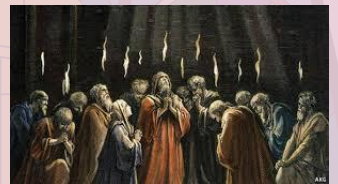
We continue to celebrate Easter Season at Rock Time. Here are the Gospel readings of this month:

John 14: 1-12

John 14:15-21

Matthew 28: 16-20

John 20:19-23



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



Mark your Calendars



= Please come and join us.

- May 1 - May Hot Lunch Orders Due
- May 2- School council Meeting 3:45 in our Gathering Space
- May 3 - Hats on for Mental Health
- May 4 - Super Hero Day and Final Bake Sale
- May 7 - SPT Choir sings at 9:00 Mass
- May 9 - Growing Smiles Fundraiser orders are due
- May 15-19 Catholic Education Week
- May 18 - World Catholic Education Day - Wear Blue
- May 24 - Tacky Tourist Day
- May 26 - Growing Smiles Fundraiser - Plants are delivered
- May 29 - 2/3 Learning Fair
- May 30 - 4/5 Part 1 Learning Fair

Growing Smiles Fundraiser
Order forms are due May 9.
Plants will be delivered May 26. Thanks for participating in our school fundraiser.

*Happy
Mother's Day*



Our classes are returning to Thursday Masses this month.

Here is the schedule, all masses are at 9:00:

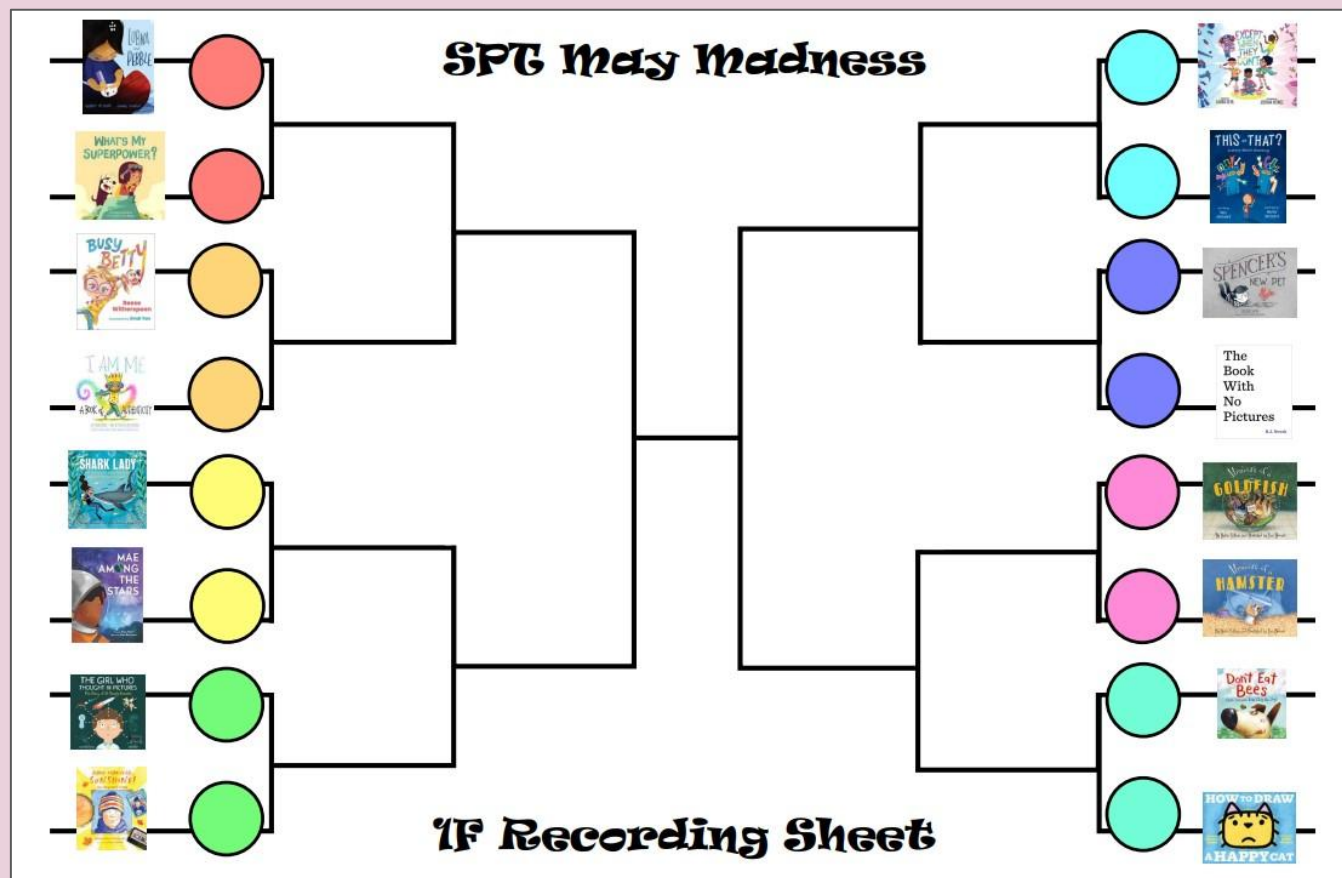
May 4 - 2/3D & 1C

May 18 - 4/5G & 2/3V

May 25-1F & T/TH K



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 1st to June 5th, 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 assembly on the 5th 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. These are an afternoon of celebration of your child’s learning. There will be one day set aside for each classroom (2 days for the 4/5s) where our students get to showcase a culminating project and their growth in this school year. Here are the dates of the Learning Fairs, they will run from 1:30-3:00 PM:

May 29 - Grade 2/3s

May 30 - Grade 4/5s Part 1

June 5 - Grade 1s

June 12 - Grade 4/5s Part 2

School Council News:

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, May 2nd @ 3:45 PM**
- **Thursday, June 1st @ 3:45 PM**

All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings to find out what's happening in our school community. Our school council advocates for all SPT students and staff.

Here are the important upcoming dates:

May 1st – Remaining Hot Lunch Orders Due

May 2nd – School Council Meeting @ 3:45 PM

May 4th – Final Bake Sale – Treats to be provided by Kindergarten & Grade 1 Families

May 9th – Growing Smiles Plant Fundraiser Order Deadline

May 11th – Taco Time Hot Lunch

May 26th – Growing Smiles Plant Pick Up Date

May 29th – IGA Subs Hot Lunch

June 1st – School Council Meeting at 3:45 PM

If you are interested in helping with Hot Lunch or have any questions regarding School Council meetings, please reach out to us at sptschoolcouncil@holyspirit.ab.ca

Milk and Juice Program: We are excited to be offering our 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. 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 supplement our SPT Leadership Initiative & 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)

Superintendent's Blog:

Our Superintendent, Ken Sampson, shares the latest information in educational programming in his blog located at <https://blog.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

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

St. Patrick School Choir

Students in Grade 4/5 are welcome to join our choir practices on Wednesdays after school from 3:15 – 4:00 PM. The choir gets together to practice and learn new songs to sing at 9 AM Children's Mass on the 1st Sunday of every month. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Gross or Miss MacRae.

Here are the upcoming dates:

St. Augustine Church – Sunday, May 7, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

St. Augustine Church – Sunday, June 4, 2023 @ 9:00 AM



Hello SPT Families,

This year is zipping right along and it will be summer before we know it! If your child has library books at home, please return them to the school once you are finished with them. There are a few books that have been out for a very long time. I will be sending home overdue notices before the end of May, so if you're not sure what your child has checked out keep an eye out for those.

A big thank you to everyone that joined us and helped out for our Crenshaw wrap up night, what a fun event and it was so great to see so many families!



Happy reading,
Mrs. Firth
Library Clerk, St. Pat's School Taber



Important Dates 2023-2024

First Day of School (Grade 1-5): September 5, 2023

Christmas Break: December 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024

Easter Break: March 29, 2024 - April 7, 2024

Last Day of school (Grades 1-5): June 27, 2024



SPT



St. Patrick School Council

GROWING SMILES

2023 FUNDRAISER



Dear Parents,

St. Patrick School Council is excited to announce our Growing Smiles Fundraiser!

We will be selling a variety of plants which are shown on the order forms sent home.

Plants are provided by DeVry Greenhouses.

Here is their website if you'd like to learn more: <https://stpatrickschool.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

Fundraising is always a vital part of ensuring the students have the best year possible. The money being raised is to help fund our natural playground, memorial garden, and year-end fieldtrips.

Important Notes:

*Cheques Payable to: **St. Patrick School Council**

*Please contact Riana De Schover at 587-436-9619 if you have any questions!

Important Dates:

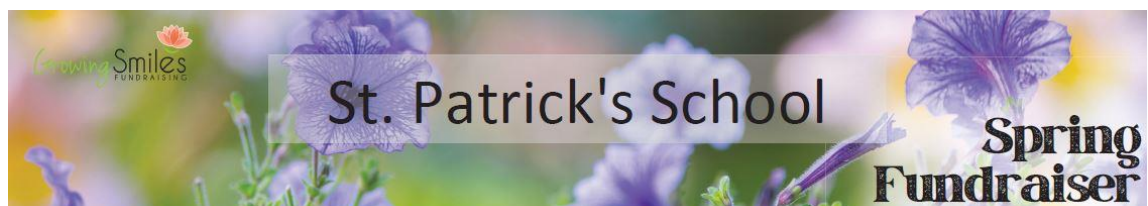
April 6th – The fundraiser officially begins

May 9th – All money and order forms are due.

May 26th – Scheduled pick up date at SPT School.

Thank you for your support,

St. Patrick School Council



\$40

12' Premium Hanging Baskets
Our improved flower mixes are sure to be a big hit! These hanging baskets can be exposed to full sun with the best flowering and trailing plants. Come in a variety of mixes/colours.



\$40

12' Premium Patio Planters
All planters include an assortment of our top performing plant collections. Planters can be exposed to full sun areas. Perfect for creating a Spring patio or backyard paradise.



\$45

2 Gallon Patio Rose Planters
Planted in a 2 gallon pot, this perennial will add colour year after year. Floribunda roses are bred for their hardiness and can withstand colder temperatures.
Please note that colours cannot be selected.
May receive light pink, dark pink, white, or yellow.



\$30

11' Strawberry Basket
A kid favourite! Enjoy fresh strawberries all growing season long. Everbearing strawberries with different coloured blossoms in white or pink. Beautiful and delicious!



\$40

10-pack 4' Succulents
Fast growing in popularity, succulents are versatile & low-maintenance. Ideal as house decor and gifts! This 10-pack offers excellent variety and textures from the Echeveria, Sedum, Sedeveria, and Senecio families.
Duplicates & substitutions may occur.



\$40

10-pack 4' Herbs
An assortment of our finest herbs! Varieties include:
Basil (Sweet) - Mint Mojito
Basil (Thai) - Peppermint
Thyme - Oregano
Chives Onion - Parsley
Chives Garlic - Rosemary
Duplicates & substitutions may occur.



\$40

10-pack 4' Veggies
Grow your own food this year in a garden or planter box!
Varieties include:
-Tomatoes (x4) -Cucumber
-Zucchini -Peppers (x2)
-Kale -Romaine
Duplicates and substitutions may occur.



\$40

10-pack 4' Zonal Geraniums
These easy-to-grow bedding plants add vibrant colour to your garden. Resistant to pests such as deer/rabbits.
Colours: Red, White, Pink
Can receive mix & match colours in a flat.



\$40

10-pack 4' Wave Petunias
The popular cascading Wave petunias bring eye-catching colour to gardens, planter boxes, and hanging baskets.
Colours: Purple, White, Pink
Can receive mix & match colours in a flat.



\$35

10-pack 4' Marigolds
Marigolds add a pop of colour and brightness to enjoy all season. Excellent companion plants for many vegetables!
Only available in orange.



\$15

Premium Soil 30 L
A bag of organic potting soil, perfect for filling containers. This hearty mix helps plants grow to their full potential. Enriched with: compost, kelp, fish meal, peat moss, glacial rock dust, and rice hulls.



\$20

Fertilizer Shaker 18 kg
Enhance your garden with an easy-to-use fertilizer shaker. Made with organic granular kelp, this blend is great for both flowers and veggies.

Duplicates and Substitutions may occur. Availability is based on what is in the greenhouse.

Important Reminders:



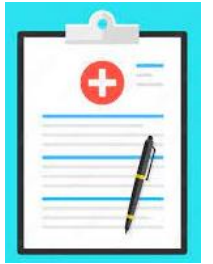
Late or Absent Students – Please call our school office by 9:00 AM if your child will be late or absent from school! Our phone number is 403-223-3352.

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 – Just a friendly reminder that if you are sending your child with a lunch/snack that needs to be heated, please ensure it is pre-cooked. Items like Mac N Cheese bowls, ichiban ramen, or anything that requires cooking time doesn't allow us to help all students and it doesn't allow your child to have adequate time to eat during our nutrition breaks.

Reusable Utensils for Nutrition Times – We have noticed an increase of students requiring a disposable spoon during nutrition break to eat their snacks such as yogurt, apple sauce, soup, etc. We are currently out of disposable utensils for our lunch room. We are asking that if your child's snack/lunch requires a spoon, fork, etc, to please send them with a reusable one from home that they can keep in their lunch kit.





Breakfast Program Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
♥	Crackers Cheese Apple sauce ⁸	Yogurt Berries Granola ⁹	Toast Fruit ¹⁰	Cereal milk Fruit ¹¹	Granola Bar Fruit ¹²	♥
♥	Trail mix Fruit ¹⁵	Yogurt Berries Granola ¹⁶	Toast Vegetable ¹⁷	Crackers Cheese Vegetable ¹⁸	No School ¹⁹	♥
♥	No School ²²	Crackers Cheese Apple sauce ²³	Trail Mix ²⁴ Breakfast Vegetable	Cereal milk Fruit ²⁵	Granola Bar Yogurt Fruit ²⁶	♥
♥	Crackers Cheese Apple sauce ²⁹	Yogurt Berries Granola ³⁰	Toast Vegetable ³¹	Cereal milk Fruit ¹	Trail mix Yogurt ²	♥
♥	Crackers Cheese Fruit ⁵	Yogurt Berries Granola ⁶	Trail Mix ⁷ Vegetable	Cereal milk Fruit ⁸	Granola Bar Vegetable ⁹	♥
♥	¹²	Notes:				

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

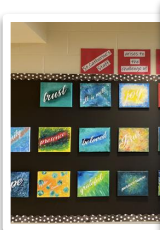
Blessed Isidore Bakanja 1887-1909 (Feast Day: August 15)

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.

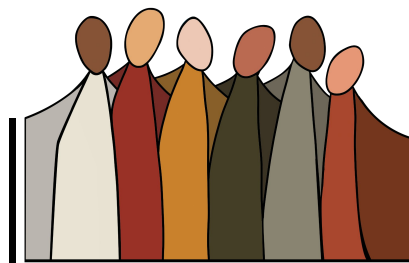
During these recent times, our days can be long, hard and incredibly stressful. When we’re exhausted or worried, finding patience is probably the last thing on our minds, but it should really be the first. We are told in Psalm 37:7, “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”

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...

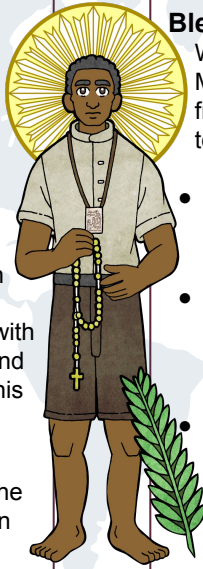
Blessed Isidore Bakanja Showed "Bear Wrongs Patiently"

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

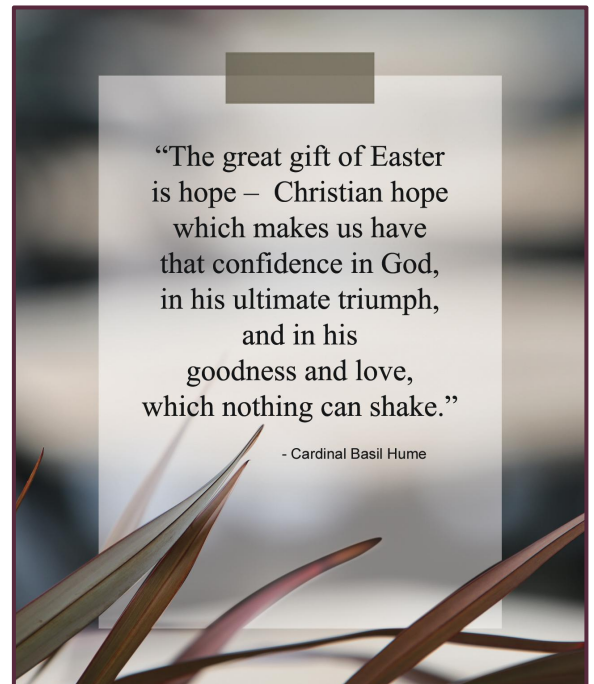
Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

"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?



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.

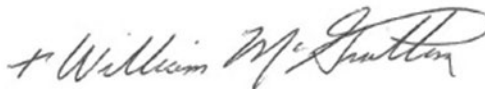
We, the Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories, in unity with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE), invite you all to unite with us in the promotion and 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".

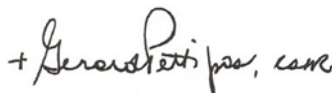
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

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

Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

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

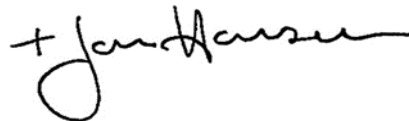
Most Reverend Gary Franken
Bishop of St. Paul

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

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

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

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton

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

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



“Share the Mission” Award Call for Nominations!

Nominations are now welcome for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division’s “*Share the Mission Award*.” This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have:

- Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students;
- Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow;
- Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools;
- Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations;
- Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions:

*We are a Catholic faith community, dedicated to providing
each student entrusted in our care with an education rooted in the
Good News of Jesus Christ*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society,
our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will
live, celebrate, and proclaim their faith.*

Our Catholic faith is the foundations of all that we do.

If you know of an individual or group deserving of the “*Share the Mission Award*,” please forward their name to Rhonda Kawa at kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca by June 9, 2023.

Nomination information is accessible on the division’s website or by clicking on this link:

[Share the Mission Award Nomination Form](#)



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



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



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