













May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5  Hats On! FOR MENTAL HEALTH May 5	6	7	8
Grades 1 – 6 online learning						
9  HAPPY <i>Mother's</i> DAY	10 Catholic Education Week Students return to classes	11	12	13 Wear blue for  WORLD CATHOLIC EDUCATION DAY	14 OLA garb or blue & white	15
16	17 Stem Day  STEM	18	19 Spring Flower Delivery Day (time to be determined) School council meeting 7:00pm	20 Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff Assembly 	21 No School  PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	22
23	24  <i>Victoria Day</i> No School	25	26  JERSEY DAY Assembly pd 3 Board Meeting @ CEC	27	28	29
30	31 Marian Mass 9:00am 					



MAY NEWSLETTER

CALDER'S COMMENTARY

Did you know that Easter isn't just one day, but an entire season? There are many great ways to celebrate the Easter season which officially ends on Pentecost Sunday. Check out this blog for some great ways to celebrate the Easter season in your home.

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/easter-season-resources.html>

May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We honour Mary's role in the life of Jesus, particularly her role in the Paschal mystery as we are typically celebrating the 50 days of Easter throughout the month of May.

There are a number of ways to honour Mary this month. The following practices are offered as suggestions for honoring Our Lady during Her month.

The Regina Coeli

The Rosary

Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Consecration and Entrustment to Mary

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm

We are truly blessed to be able to share Jesus' Good News on all that we do here at the school each day. Jesus' example is an excellent compass for us all. Alberta Catholic Schools will be celebrating Catholic Education provincially from May 10-14. We will be highlighting the various ways we are unique throughout the week. In an effort of solidarity, we ask students to **wear blue on Thursday, May 13**. All Holy Spirit schools will pray together that day in gratitude for our Catholic system.

Many Blessings,
Mrs. Calder

ACT LIKE MARY – MAY CHALLENGE

In May, we are continuing to focus on our theme Transformed by the Journey while we build on our students' understanding that being grateful and gracious in our lives can add so much to the lives of others in our school and community. We will continue last month's challenge, in which we want students to share examples of living their faith throughout the school day from LA to Math and Gym classes. Here at OLA we are proud of how our faith is permeated throughout the school day. So we are excited for our students to share examples of our faith with each other. May is also the month we are celebrating Catholic Education week. As a school division we will celebrate Catholic Education by sharing what makes our schools an example of Catholic values. These examples will center around the five marks of a Catholic School. We look forward to having everyone back here at the school to celebrate our faith together.

God Bless,
Mr. New

*Hail Holy Queen
Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve;
To you we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping
In this land of exile.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us;
Lead us home at last
And show us the blessed fruit
Of your womb, Jesus:
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen*



CURRICULUM DRAFT

As many of you are aware, a K-6 Draft Curriculum for Alberta was recently released. Holy Spirit Schools has stated that they will not be piloting this draft curriculum in the new year. Please take some time to read the media release, check out the curriculum, and fill in the survey. Here is the link for the [press release](#) which includes the link for the survey.

BUSING NEXT YEAR

Holy Spirit Schools, along with their new carrier Southland Transportation, will be renewing the option for families living 1.2 km - 2.39 km from their designated school to ride the bus for a fee for the 2021-2022 school year. The fee schedule and registration process will be shared in the coming weeks. Holy Spirit Schools will also be providing the opportunity for families to pay the entire 2021-2022 bus fee for a reduced price this spring. Watch for this opportunity coming soon.



LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to the following students who won awards at the Southern Alberta Technology Council - 2021 Lethbridge Regional Science Fair:

Amelia Tyslau & Katharine Dormer
Grade 5/Bronze Award and Best Junior Logbook
(Chapters Award) - Project: Don't Burst My Bubble

Ali Norris & Austin Wiebe
Grade 6/Silver Award – Project: The Digestive System

Winifred Walter-Enudi & Jezzy Miller
Cooperation Award – Project: What Are Past Lives?

The winners from our school Science Fair were:

Grade 6 –
1st place: Jaelyn & Esther - 'Absorbance Performance'
2nd place: Ali & Austin – 'The Digestive System'
3rd place: Aluet & Edriane – 'Yeast vs Iodine'

Grade 5 –
1st place: Amelia & Katharine - 'Don't Burst My Bubble'
2nd place: Hailey & Alexis - 'Growing Mold on Fruit & Vegetables'
3rd place: Nataya & Rachel – 'How to Train a Calf'

Grade 4 –
1st place: Taj - 'Breath Taking Experiment'
2nd place: Olivia & Madelin – 'Rethink Your Drink'
3rd place: Juliana – 'Baking Soda Volcano'

MASKS AND WATER BOTTLES

Please remind your child(ren) that masks are mandatory in grades 3-6 and encouraged in grades 1 & 2. We ask that you send one or two clean masks every day. There are currently no water fountains available but we do have water bottle filling stations around the school. Please remember to send a water bottle each day.

PLANT FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who supported our spring fundraiser and ordered plants from Devry Greenhouses. The plants will hopefully be ready for pick up on Wednesday, May 19 after school. Once we have a confirmed time we will let you know.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

OLA is once again participating in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's JRFH Program, which helps to teach students the importance of caring for their hearts through fitness and heart health education. This year our event day is June 10 with the kickoff assembly on May 20. Students may collect pledges online from family, friends and neighbors. To get started go to jumpropeforheart.ca and join our school. Watch for more information to come home. Happy Skipping!



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Even though the weather is warmer we can still experience some unpredicted cool, wet or windy days. Please ensure that you still send your child with a jacket every day. It may be sandal wearing weather, but proper running shoes are still required for physical education classes as we do not want anybody twisting an ankle trying to run in sandals. Students are expected to dress appropriately for school and parents are asked to monitor their child's choices. Clothing that is revealing and/or inappropriate for a child's age, disrespectful, or displays text or an image that is clearly obscene or disrespectful is not allowed.

Students riding their bicycles to school are reminded to always wear their helmet, and lock their bicycle in the stands provided on the north side of school. Please ensure that all these items are labeled. No bike riding, rollerblading or skateboarding is permitted on school grounds.

NUT ALLERGIES

In our school community there are students who have potentially life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and nuts. We ask that you be mindful when packing lunches and avoid sending peanut butter, Nutella or other products that may contain peanuts or nuts.



“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 11, 2021.

Nomination information is accessible on the division’s website at:

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



Transformed by the Journey

MAY

Monthly Theme: *Patience and Gentleness*

Special Days to Remember Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 1 Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker
- 9 Mother's Day
- 10-14 Catholic Education Week
- 13 World Catholic Education Day
- 16 Ascension of the Lord
- 23 Pentecost Sunday
- 30 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
- 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

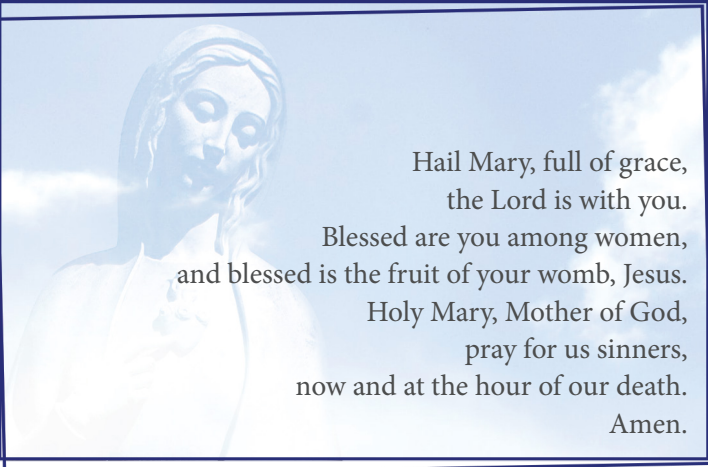


Be Grateful

Our students love learning about the Blessed Virgin Mary all year long but in our Catholic Church, the month of May is dedicated to her, the first disciple of Jesus. Mary is such an important role model for us — she shows us how to live out the Gospel and how to pray. The Blessed Virgin is an incredible example of patience which is an important fruit of the Spirit. When the angel came to tell Mary that she had been chosen to bear a son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, she must have been scared. And yet, she freely chose to say yes to God. Mary abandoned herself to God's will and then patiently waited to give birth. She did not understand all the reasons she was chosen but she knew to trust God and to be patient as all would be revealed to her.

It is such a good lesson for all of us to be patient with our prayer. We like to think we are in control and we sometimes have difficulty putting ourselves completely in God's hands. Perhaps it makes us feel too vulnerable. And yet, Mary did exactly that and then patiently waited, knowing that she was part of God's plan. When we come to prayer, let us look then at Mary as our model. We can ask God for what we need or want, but we must be patient and tell the Lord that we will accept whatever he wills for us, as Mary no doubt did as she patiently awaited the birth of her son.

Let us be grateful that the Blessed Virgin Mary will be a patient intercessor for our prayers. Mother Mary, pray for us!



Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

Be Gracious

A famous Catholic hymn is *Hail Mary Gentle Woman* and we often hear it during the month of May as we honour our Blessed Mother. One of Mary's many beautiful qualities was her gentleness. We strive to imitate her example of graciousness by being gentle with others. While some people think that gentleness is a sign of weakness, it is exactly the opposite. No one could ever accuse Mary of being weak — what strength she showed to say "Yes" to God as she became the Mother of Jesus!

Both Mary and Jesus showed us how to be gentle. They showed how to love with quiet strength. Gentleness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and it is important to teach our children to be gentle with people's hearts. A good way to do just that is to remember to be gentle with our words. May would be a great month to issue a family gentleness challenge. Gather and make a list of gentle words that you will all commit to using regularly throughout the month - words and phrases like "please", "thank you", "you're welcome", "excuse me", "I am sorry", and "I accept your apology" are a good way to start. A month of being attentive to consistently using gentle words such as these in our family will help our children learn good habits that will help them learn how to be gracious with others as they navigate their world.

FAMILY GENTLENESS CHALLENGE

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

(Proverbs 16:24)



Please



I'm Sorry



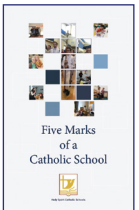
Thank You

Excuse Me

Catholic Education

This month we celebrate Catholic Education Week May 10-14. Thank you for choosing to send your children to Holy Spirit Catholic Schools. We often hear that our Catholic schools "feel different" and that is because all that we do is shaped by our belief in Jesus Christ and in our desire to educate our children in the Gospel values. The identity of our schools is guided by exemplifying the five marks of a Catholic school. Click [here](#) to learn more.

During the week of May 10, watch for a daily digital newsletter that will feature all of our Holy Spirit Catholic schools. They will be sharing how the five marks of Catholic schools come to life in our communities. We hope you enjoy it! Please continue to pray for Catholic Education in our province and again, thank you for your support!

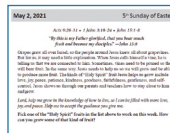


Faith & Family

Catholics are very clear that when we pray to Mary, we pray to her as our intercessor to Jesus. She does not answer our prayers. She joins her prayers to ours and brings our prayers to Jesus. While we have many devotions to Mary, we never lose sight of this fact.

The Rosary is probably the most universally recognized Catholic devotion and we often try to devote more time to praying it in the month of May. The repetitive prayers, while we meditate on the life of Jesus Christ through the mysteries, bring great comfort. While the Rosary is the most popular of all Marian devotions, the end goal, as with all prayers to Mary, is always a deeper relationship with Jesus.

To learn more about praying the Rosary as a family, please watch this [video](#) by Joe Paprocki and for more Marian prayers, click [here](#).



We hope you are enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the May cards, click [here](#).

Sources: *The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass* by Mary DeTurris Poust



"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love..."

(Ephesians 4:2)