



**Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Elementary School**  
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April 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the week of May 2 to May 7, 2021, the York Catholic District School Board will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is:

**Catholic Education: *Nurturing Hope***  
**L'éducation catholique: *Cultiver l'espérance***

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021 was inspired by the following considerations:

- ★ Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, "On Caring for Our Common Home."
- ★ In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-school instruction.
- ★ The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the

concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.

- ★ Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of *Laudato Si*.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week and they are aimed at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what *Nurturing Hope* means to them. The five sub-themes are:

Day 1:	Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre
Day 2:	Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude
Day 3:	Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations
Day 4:	Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits
Day 5:	Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller

At Our Lady of the Rosary CES, we take tremendous pride in celebrating Catholic Education Week with a variety of special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities.

I encourage all students and their families to get involved with the various spiritual and learning opportunities to "nurture hope" now and in the days to come, as we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2021. Please find attached an overview of the sub-themes and activities that we will be offering and engaging the students, their families and staff in throughout the week.

Sincerely,

Mr. W H Kwon

Principal

Our Lady of the Rosary CES

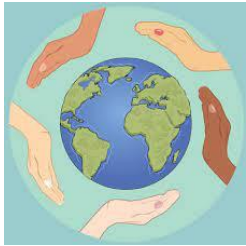



# Catholic Education Week at OLR

*“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)*



Monday, May 3rd	Tuesday, May 4th	Wednesday, May 5th	Thursday, May 6th	Friday, May 3rd
<i>Preparing the Earth</i>	<i>Sowing Seeds of Gratitude</i>	<i>Cultivating Relationships</i>	<i>Harvesting New Fruit</i>	<i>Marvelling in Wonder</i>
<p>When we plant a garden, we have to remove all the stones and stuff in the earth that will stop new growth. We need to do this in our lives as well</p>	<p>Once we have prepared the earth for planting, we select which seeds we will sow. This year we will sow seeds of gratitude.</p>	<p>Once we have planted a garden we need to ensure it receives all the things that will help it to grow. We need to do the same with the relationships in our lives. We need to make sure our relationships are cared for too.</p>	<p>Once the seeds, the sun and the rain have worked together there is fruit and/or vegetables to harvest. In our lives there's new fruit in the skills that we learn and the potentials that are developed. These new fruits bless us abundantly.</p>	<p>When all the planting, growing and harvesting is complete, we can sit back and marvel at all the goodness we have. It may come at the end of the year by progressing to a new grade. It may come with a graduation to a new school. It may come with the recognition of faithful service over years. God's goodness is plentiful.</p>

# School Activities and Events

Monday, May 3rd	Tuesday, May 4th	Wednesday, May 5th	Thursday, May 6th	Friday, May 3rd
<i>Preparing the Earth</i>	<i>Sowing Seeds of Gratitude</i>	<i>Cultivating Relationships</i>	<i>Harvesting New Fruit</i>	<i>Marvelling in Wonder</i>
<p>Virtual Rosary Apostolate celebration which will focus on the story of Our Lady of Lourdes. YouTube Video Links - Story of Our Lady of Lourdes: Grades 1-3: <a href="https://youtu.be/Rfu_FN3_Fvo">https://youtu.be/Rfu_FN3_Fvo</a> Grades 4-12: <a href="https://youtu.be/HrfUzl-EIz8">https://youtu.be/HrfUzl-EIz8</a></p> 	<p>Virtual Recognition Assembly for recipients of the April Virtue of the Month: Reverence (JK/SK-Gr. 8)</p> 	<p>School Wide Activity: Sharing a Message of Hope.</p> <p>Classes are asked to discuss with the students who may need a "hopeful message," someone who has long days, may be lonely, is ill and in need of comfort. Students are invited to write a message of hope and to send it electronically with their parent's/guardian's permission.</p>	<p>Catholic Education Week Virtual Liturgy for JK/SK to Gr. 8, led by our wonderful intermediate students from OLR's Luke 4:18 Committee!</p> 	<p>OLR Mental health/Physical Posture, Meditation, Study and Stretch Virtual sessions for Gr. 1 to Gr. 8 hosted by Stefanie Rico who is a Registered Social Worker, Psychotherapist, and Certified Yoga Instructor.</p> 

# Suggested Family Activities



Each day, family members are encouraged to take part in some of these simple activities, individually or as a family, to act on the hope that dwells within us. These are suggestions for simple activities to reinforce hope for ourselves and others.

- Plant some seeds in peat pots and put them near a window. Document their growth on a chart.
- Have a family garden planning party. Draw out the plot of the garden and order seeds or buy them at the grocery store. Research when seeds need to be planted in preparation for spring.
- Take part in a bird count or animal count. Go to Observation Nation ([inaturalist.ca](http://inaturalist.ca))
- Learn about saints who taught us about the environment. St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Benedict of Nursia and St. Hildegard of Bingen are examples.
- Make a birdfeeder out of a milk carton or a plastic pop bottle, hang it outside on a tree and see which bird species come to the feeder.
- Go for a Nature Walk as a family and pray together to thank God for all the beauty you see.
- Look at the calendar and note the first day of spring. How many days is it until spring comes?
- Do some research as a family on the night sky. Choose a moment when it is clear to see if you can identify some constellations.
- Write letters to family members that you haven't been able to see for a while.

- Create a fancy message of hope in chalk on your driveway or sidewalk for passersby to read or create a poster to put in a window.
- Write a postcard or note of thanks for frontline healthcare workers and drop this in the mailbox for a local hospital.
- Bake cookies and deliver them to your neighbourhood grocery store for workers to share.
- Make cards or draw pictures for seniors in your community.
- Music makes us happy. Create a playlist of happy music, play this in your backyard or if you are able, send it to a family member whom you miss.
- Make a video or a recording, singing a favourite hymn. Send this to your parish priest. He needs support at this time.
- Look in your bible or go online to make a list of psalms that give hope.
- Write an acrostic poem about Hope...H is for happiness, O is for ongoing, P is for...etc.
- Write words of hope on index cards or paper and hang them from a tree in your yard for others to read.
- Go for a walk past your local parish. Stop in front of your church and say a prayer for your faith community.
- Look through a newspaper for stories of hope and talk about the stories.
- Put messages of hope on social media.

**Note:** Please consider sharing these special moments with us via email at [olr@ycdsb.ca](mailto:olr@ycdsb.ca) or by Tweeting to @OLRosary.