



Our Lady of the Rosary CES

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# LITURGY OF THE WORD 2025



# OLR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Elementary School**  
is living, learning, working, and playing  
on the traditional territories of  
all Original First People, particularly  
**The Anishinabe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat.**

*We honour those who have walked on this land,  
and continue to walk upon it.*

*We commit to educating younger generations  
to value and respect the land we use in order  
to help sustain this Earth.*

*We aim to continue our learning  
journey to truth and reconciliation,  
so that we all may work towards  
walking together in peace.*







# INTRODUCTION

Each February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and celebrations that honour the legacy and contributions of Black people in Canada and their communities.

The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: “Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.” This theme acknowledges the diversity of Black Canadians, the importance of Black leadership and the legacy being built for future generations. Black communities are diverse at many levels. Those with a long history in this country have established a legacy for the newer communities. The theme underscores that Black Canadians have a rightful place in the nation's narrative, with over 400 years of historical presence on these Indigenous lands, deserving acknowledgment and celebration.

We invite all Canadians to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada. Source:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>





Our Opening song is  
entitled Black Canadian  
History Song.



# OPENING HYMN





# OPENING PRAYER





**O God of unconditional love,  
You show no partiality in respect to people or nations,  
we have heard Your good news of great joy for all the people.  
We hear that good news, and in hearing, believe.  
We know that Your sanctuary is a house of worship for all people,  
with no regard for the colour of our skin.  
As we worship You, knit us into a people,  
a seamless garment of many colours.  
May we celebrate our unity, made whole in our diversity.  
We acknowledge that we participate in structures that are inherently racist,  
and yet we so often do nothing to remedy it.  
Show us we fail when we judge others according to the colour of their skin,  
God, You are rich in mercy and love us even when we sin. You made us alive together  
with Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are  
forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen us with the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our  
hearts through faith.**

**Amen.**



# FIRST READING



## **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.**

Thus says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday .

The Word of the Lord.

**Response (Everyone):** Thanks be to God.

# REFLECTION





# PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1) For Pope Francis, Cardinal Francis Leo, Father Augusto, all the leaders of our Church; that they may be devout in their prayers and courageous in their service to God's people. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

2) For the whole Church: that we may grow strong in our faith and trust in God to lead us through the difficult times, setbacks, and hardships. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

3) For a just resolution to the current conflicts and wars in the world, that courage can overcome despair and peace can overcome violence. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.





**4) For all those affected by disasters due to violence, greed and injustice, and for victims of natural disasters and environmental tragedies; that they may receive the assistance they need to rebuild their lives and restore what they lost. We pray to the Lord.**

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**5) For all Black Canadians in our great nation who have suffered and continue to suffer from the scourge known as racism, that justice may prevail. We pray to the Lord.**

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**6) For the Souls of the departed. May the grief that comes with the death of loved ones be replaced with the eternal joy that awaits them in heaven. We pray to the Lord.**

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**





# LITANY OF SAINTS

**Response:** The response is  
**Pray for us.**

- **St. Benedict of Sicily**
- **St. Martin De Porres**
- **St. Isidore Bakanja**
- **St. Josephine Bakhita**
- **St. Augustine of Hippo**
- **Pope St. Victor**
- **Pope St. Miltiades**
- **St. Moses**
- **St. Monica**





The 31st edition of  
**LEGACY**  
*The Cloth's Memory*  
 CREATED BY  
 AFRICAN-CANADIAN ARTIST  
 ROBERT SMALL

"The Cloth's Memory" is inspired by the storytelling tradition of bogolanfini (mud cloth) from the Bambara people of Mali, celebrates four exceptional Black Canadian women. Their lives weave a powerful narrative of empowerment, advocacy, and progress, uplifting the Black community and inspiring generations.



**ARDELLA JACOBS**  
 Born in 1895, Ardeella Jacobs was a pioneering educator and community leader from Windsor, Ontario. She was a founding member and the inaugural president of the Hour-A-Day Study Club, an organization that continues to inspire Black youth to strive for academic excellence and personal growth. Through this innovative initiative, Ardeella directly empowered generations of women and indirectly strengthened the broader Black community in Windsor. Ardeella's legacy remains a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of education and perseverance. Her contributions to civil rights and racial equality stand as a lasting testament to her vision and dedication.



**FENNELLA BRUCE**  
 As a veteran television news producer, writer, and the driving force behind FKB Media Solutions and FKB Media Productions Inc., Fennella Bruce has elevated the voices and talents of aspiring Black individuals across various professions and organizations. As a journalist for 25 years, and then as an entrepreneur, her work has brought their stories and expertise to national audiences, reshaping narratives and creating space for diversity in Canadian media. Beyond her professional achievements, Fennella's leadership in organizations and her mentorship of journalists, underscores her commitment to empowering marginalized communities.



**EL JONES**  
 Dr. El Jones, a Halifax based poet, author, and social justice advocate, Dr. El Jones has used her voice and pen to challenge systemic injustice and empower Black communities. Through her activism, she has inspired greater outspokenness against police violence and systemic racism, becoming a champion for change. Her initiatives, such as the Black Power Hour, have provided marginalized individuals, including prisoners, with platforms to share their experiences. Dr. Jones' work combines cultural celebration with a relentless pursuit of justice, leaving an enduring impact on her community.



**WENDIE WILSON**  
 An educator, cultural advocate, and artist, Wendie Wilson has devoted her life to celebrating and amplifying the African Nova Scotian (ANS) community's heritage. She co-founded the African Nova Scotian Freedom School, a platform to instill pride and education in young minds, and created the African Nova Scotian flag, a powerful symbol representing the voice and identity of her community. Wendie's work in food sovereignty also addresses systemic inequalities, ensuring Black and Indigenous voices are at the forefront of transforming Canada's food systems.





# NOTABLE BLACK CANADIANS

## PAST AND PRESENT



**BRYAN & SHANNON  
PRINCE**



**DAN PHILIP**




**ALPHONSO DAVIES**



**VIOLET KING  
HENRY**



# LET US PRAY TOGETHER AS JESUS TAUGHT US

A silhouette of a cross stands on a dark hill against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The cross is positioned on the right side of the image, with the sun setting directly behind its base, creating a bright glow. The background shows rolling hills in the distance, also in silhouette.

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



# CLOSING PRAYER

**O God, in Your divine mystery, You embrace difference in unity, and You call Your people to live in peace with all.**

**We pray for an end to discrimination and racism in all of its forms. Free us from the dread of difference. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other.**



**Break down the walls that separate Your people by colour, culture, or religion. Call us to repentance for our sins of racism and prejudice, known and unknown.**

**Transform discrimination into a passion for justice. Guide us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all, for the sake of the one who embodies Your love,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: ALICIA KEYS-LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of  
Liberty Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the  
rolling sea

