

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL RESOURCE PACKAGE



**"If we love one another, God lives in us."
(1 John 4:12)**

SEPTEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

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The new school year offers us an opportunity to reflect upon our personal, professional and spiritual growth and to set some new goals.

The theme chosen for the upcoming 2024 Catholic Education Week is:

Catholic Education: *We are called to love*
L'éducation catholique: *Appelés à aimer*

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. It will run from May 5 – May 10, 2024.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024, *We are called to love*, was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of “*Pilgrims of Hope.*” With open hearts of love, we can continue to “*fan the flame of hope*” for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, “*He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.*”
- The theme of the synod, “*Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,*” invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other’s wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God’s children are loved unconditionally.

A big thank you to the consultants of our English and French Catholic boards who worked together to craft the 2024 Catholic Education Week theme and sub-themes. These writers will also be producing resources for our Catholic school boards for Advent and for Catholic Education Week in May 2024.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are as follows:

Monday:	As people of hope / Dans l’espérance
Tuesday:	As people of faith / Dans la foi
Wednesday:	As people of mercy / Avec compassion
Thursday:	As people of justice / Dans la justice
Friday:	As people of joy / Dans la joie

Overall Theme Prayer for Catholic Education Week 2024

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God who is love,
Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.
As we celebrate Catholic Education Week,
may our love in action reveal to our world
that we are people of justice and mercy.
May our daily words and example show clearly
that we are people of faith and hope.
In the ways we reflect you daily,
may everyone recognize us as people of joy.
Help us to never forget how much you love us,
and to cherish your life within us,
which gives energy and direction to our loving.
May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively,
and may we call our world to be more loving also.
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.
Amen.

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

Dieu d'amour,
l'amour est notre vocation, ce pour quoi tu nous as créés.
En célébrant la Semaine de l'éducation catholique,
que notre amour en action révèle au monde
que nous sommes des personnes de justice et de miséricorde.
Que nos paroles et notre exemple montrent clairement
que nous sommes des personnes de foi et d'espérance.
En étant ton reflet chaque jour,
que le monde nous reconnaisse comme des personnes habitées de joie.
Aide-nous à ne jamais oublier combien tu nous aimes,
et à chérir ta vie en nous
qui donne souffle et direction à notre amour.
Pussions-nous entendre ton appel à aimer sans compter,
et à interpeller le monde à être plus aimant aussi.
Nous te demandons tout cela par Jésus, notre ami et notre Seigneur.
Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY – SEPTEMBER 2023

As people of hope – Dans l'espérance

Good and gracious God,
As we begin this new school year, let us journey as people of hope.
Guide us to reflect your love in all we say and do.
May our hearts fill our hallways with kindness.
May our hands reach out to friends in need,
And may our voices echo your love and respect for one another.
We pray this in Jesus' name, the One who brings us hope.
Amen.

As people of faith – Dans la foi

Loving God,
Thank you for the gift of a new school year and for bringing us together as people of faith.
As we learn and grow each day, fill our hearts with a spirit of gratitude, recognizing the blessings around us and sharing them with others.
As people of faith, we are called to love with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbours as ourselves.
Fill our hearts with empathy and kindness, that we may embrace differences and celebrate each person's unique gifts.
We ask for your guidance and protection throughout this school year.
As we share the Good News of the Gospel with others, may our words and actions reflect the love that you have poured into our hearts.
We ask this in the name of Jesus who is love itself.
Amen.

As people of mercy – Avec compassion

God of mercy and love,
You have blessed us with goodness and compassion.
Open our hearts to the possibilities of this school year.
Inspire us to live out your call to speak and act as people of mercy.
Help us to treat each other with kindness.
Teach us to be patient and forgiving.
Guide us to love as you love; to be merciful as you are merciful.
Make our school a place of warmth, safety, and welcome, where forgiveness and acceptance are modeled daily.
May our words and actions throughout the year reflect your mercy and serve as loving reminders that we are all your precious children.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As people of justice – Dans la justice

Loving God,
You give us love in abundance.
With your love in our hearts, help us to work for a more just world.
Send us your Spirit so that we can treat people fairly and be a voice for those who are not heard.
In our work and our play, strengthen us to act with justice and mercy.
Lord, You show us kindness and love.
May we work for justice so that all may know You.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.
Amen.

As people of joy – Dans la joie

God of all goodness,

You fill us with the gift of your love.

We come to you with an open heart to receive your love.

With our open hearts full of joy, may we love generously.

May our joyful love be a beacon to our world of new life, strength and hope you offer us every day.

Glory and praise for calling us into your family of love, through Jesus our brother and friend.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, SECONDARY – SEPTEMBER 2023

As people of hope – Dans l'espérance

Good and gracious God,

As we begin this new school year, we gather in prayer as a hope filled Catholic school community.

Our hope is firmly anchored in the promise of your enduring and unconditional love.

We will no doubt encounter challenges, disappointments, and frustrations this year, but our faith reminds us that you journey with us.

Help us to grow in the virtue of hope this school year, knowing that you will give us what we need.

Fill us with joy and peace and help us to inspire hope in others through our words and deeds.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As people of faith – Dans la foi

Almighty and Eternal God,

In love, you give us the gift of faith and you continue to reveal yourself to us through your Holy Spirit.

Your Son, Jesus, modeled for us what it means to have faith in you and to trust you completely.

Jesus showed us that an authentic faith calls us to love and action in the pursuit of social justice.

Help us to grow in the virtue of faith this school year, by seeking opportunities to learn more about our Catholic faith through prayer, reading, studying, and asking good questions.

Help us to witness to our faith and demonstrate our love for you by loving our neighbours and sharing your Good News.

We make this prayer in your name.

Amen.

As people of mercy – Avec compassion

God of justice and compassion,

You call us to be merciful.

Instill in us the virtue of empathy for the poor and vulnerable and give ourselves unconditionally to the cause of justice and equity.

Empower us to listen to those voices calling us to be the change.

May we especially demonstrate care and compassion by serving those often not heard.

Inspire us as one body in Christ to persevere in our call to Love.

We ask this through Christ, our companion and friend.

Amen.

As people of justice – Dans la justice

God of justice and love,

You ask that we share your love with others.

Help us to remember that love, kindness and mercy are paths to justice.

Empower us to be a voice for the voiceless and to advocate for fairness and equality.

May we work for justice in our school community and in all aspects of our lives to bring about a more just world.

May we seek justice daily and walk with kindness and mercy, always humbly with You.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

As people of joy – Dans la joie

God who calls us unceasingly,

Love is the purpose for which you have made us---

Love for you, love for Creation, and love for all your children.

May we love lavishly and boundlessly, not grudgingly but with hearts full of joy.

May our joyful love be a sign to our world of the new life, strength and hope you offer us every day.

Praise you, for calling us into your family and into your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE FOR WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

	Monday September 4	Tuesday September 5	Wednesday September 6	Thursday September 7	Friday September 8	Thematic Setting for Mass
CEW Sub-Theme	<i>As people of hope Dans l'espérance</i>	<i>As people of faith Dans la foi</i>	<i>As people of mercy Avec compassion</i>	<i>As people of justice Dans la justice</i>	<i>As people of joy Dans la joie</i>	
Feast Day	Blessed Dina Bélanger				The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	We Are Called to Love
Reading	1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 <i>God will bring him, through Jesus, those who have died.</i>	1 Thessalonians 5.1- 6, 9-11 <i>Christ died for us so that we may live with him.</i>	Colossians 1.1-8 <i>The word of truth has come to you just as it is growing in the world.</i>	Colossians 1.9-14 <i>God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.</i>	Romans 8.28-30 <i>God predestined those whom he knew beforehand. -OR- Micah 5.2-5a Now has the time come for the one in labour to give birth.</i>	
Psalm	Ps 96.1-3, 4-5, 11- 12, 13 (R. 13b) <i>The Lord comes to judge the earth.</i>	Ps 27.1, 4, 13-14 (R. 13) <i>I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.</i>	Ps 52.8, 9 (R. 8b) <i>I trust in the kindness of God forever.</i>	Ps 98.2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 (R. 2a) <i>The Lord has made known his salvation.</i>	Ps 13.5, 6 (R. Is 61.10) <i>With delight I rejoice in the Lord.</i>	
Gospel	Luke 4.16-30 <i>God sent me to bring good news to the poor... No prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.</i>	Luke 4.31-37 <i>I know who you are, the Holy One of God.</i>	Luke 4.38-44 <i>I must proclaim the good news to other cities, for I was sent for this purpose.</i>	Luke 5.1-11 <i>Simon and his partners left everything and followed Jesus.</i>	Matthew 1.1-16, 18-23 (longer) -OR- Matthew 1.18-23 (shorter) <i>Joseph, it is the Holy Spirit who has given Mary a child.</i>	

PLANNING SHEET FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Date: _____ Occasion/Feast: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Presider: _____

Altar Server(s): _____, _____, _____

Minister(s) of Hospitality: _____, _____, _____

Greeting by: _____

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- a) Gathering Song _____ Sung ___
- b) Greeting and Opening Prayer (Celebrant)
- c) Penitential Rite (Celebrant)
- d) Gloria _____ Omitted ___ Spoken ___ Sung ___

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- a) First Reading _____ by: _____
- b) Responsorial Psalm _____ Sung ___
- c) Second Reading (*Optional*) _____ by: _____
- d) Gospel Acclamation _____ Sung ___
- e) Gospel _____
- f) Homily _____
- g) Creed (*may be omitted*) _____
- h) Prayer of the Faithful by: _____
Response: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- a) Presentation of the Gifts
Song _____ Sung ___
Gifts Presented by: _____
- b) Preface (Celebrant)
- c) Holy Holy _____ Sung ___
- d) Memorial Acclamation _____ Sung ___
- e) Doxology _____ Sung ___
- f) Great Amen _____ Sung ___
- g) Lord's Prayer _____ Sung ___
- h) Sign of Peace/Lamb of God _____ Sung ___
- i) Communion (Eucharistic Minister) _____
Extraordinary Minister(s) of the Eucharist _____

CONCLUSION

- a) Blessing and Dismissal _____
- b) Concluding Song _____ Sung ___