



The Easter Season began on Sunday, March 27th and will last until Pentecost Sunday, May 15th. Prayer Table cloths should be changed to white throughout this season. Plants and bright colours will help celebrate this Season of Hope in your classroom.

Easter Prayer

God of Wonder
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life
and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know
what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to
do it, and the strength to complete it.
Amen.



*Click the image for
Staff resources*

from the New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book,
Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York 1999

Earth Day 2016

April 22 is Earth Day! Follow the links below for lesson plans, prayers, quotes from Pope Francis about the environment, and free resources for your students! Take the St. Francis Pledge on the Catholic Climate Covenant Website!

What merciful act can you and your class offer to the environment on Earth Day?



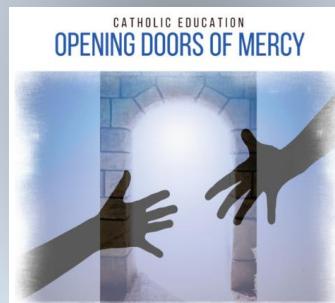
[A Reflection on Earth Day Video 2016](#)

Catholic Education Week May 1-6, 2016

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God of Love and compassion,
help us to open the door of mercy
in our school communities,
in our families and in the world.
Let mercy guide our living and
bring us closer to the heart of the
gospel.
May we live as Jesus with mercy
that welcomes, loves, forgives
and calls us to live the gospel
joyfully. Amen.

Catholic Education Week 2016
combines both the theme of mercy and
the act of opening doors of
reconciliation, mercy and forgiveness to
all around us.



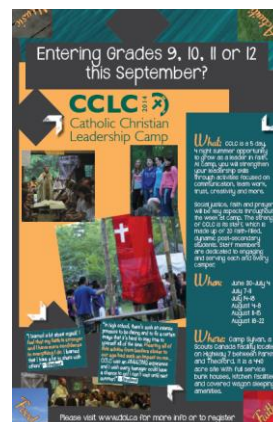
The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2014 are:

- Monday: **Mercy that Welcomes** (*Jesus and the Woman at the Well: John 4: 1-42*)
- Tuesday: **Mercy that Loves** (*The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37*)
- Wednesday: **Mercy that Forgives** (*The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32*)
- Thursday: **Mercy that Lives the Gospel** (*Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10*)
- Friday: **Mercy that Rejoices** (*Healing of the Paralytic: Luke 5: 17-26*)

Click on the logo for book lists, lesson plans, songs, prayer services, mass outlines and more!

Easter is a Season:

Remember Easter is a Season, not just a day!
Easter lasts seven weeks. Starting Easter Sunday and continuing to Pentecost Sunday, the Church celebrates the Easter Season. After that, we return to Ordinary Time. Throughout the year, every Sunday we celebrate a mini-Easter: we celebrate the Resurrection!
- How will you celebrate the Good News of the Resurrection in your classroom? In your school?



Catholic Christian Leadership Camp 2016

For Students entering
Grades 9-12

For information visit
the [Diocese of London](#)
Website

A Message from our St. Clair Catholic Mental Health Lead: Christine Preece

Connecting with our souls

Praying, meditating, and focusing on the spirit are positive elements that help us to find balance and build positive mental well-being. Here are the reasons why:

- Prayer and meditation can be a powerful tool to inspire hope, create motivation, and promote healing.
- Practicing our faith is an essential part of how people understand themselves and their world; it is not something separate, it relates to the whole person.
- Praying and meditating can help us focus and feel better about ourselves.
- Praying together as a class, school or family allows us to think about each other and bring calm to ourselves and the world around for that time.
- Praying can be a coping strategy for the most vulnerable people.

Catholic communities can be a source of social support and hope for those experiencing challenges in their life. Some quick tips to intertwine well-being with prayer:

- In collaboration with your students provide 5 minutes a day for quiet prayer and practice a variety of forms of Catholic prayer to connect with the spirit in different ways.
- During prayer time ask them to focus on three things they are thankful for today and convey their messages to Jesus.
- Develop their own prayer and relate the prayer to the world around them.
- Ask them to think about the things that distract them from praying or meditating.
- Encourage them to pray and focus on the things in life that are positive and help them.

CELEBRATE MENTAL HEALTH WEEK MAY 1-7, 2016

*Watch for an upcoming Mental Health Newsletter
from our Mental Health and Well-Being Lead
Christine Preece that will be coming soon!*



Offering the Day

Lord, we come to you before we begin our day's work:
we ask you to bless this day.

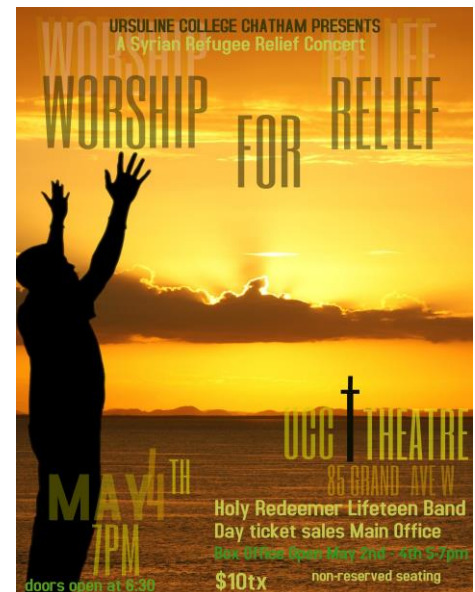
May we find whatever is good in the tasks we are set
and the time that we share.

Help us when we find some things too hard to
understand; Teach us to be fair and generous with
one another; So we may thank you for a day well
spent. Amen.

From: <http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Prayers.htm>

Coming soon! Winners of the CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY POSTER CONTEST will be uploaded to the [Living Our Faith Website](#).

Congratulations to all participants! The entries are a beautiful testament to the many ways that the families of SCCDSB are living out the Works of Mercy.



THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the "Spiritual Works of Mercy" and how can we live them out?

by Deanna Bartalini

1 INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Ignorant means someone who doesn't know something. All of us are ignorant about something! For example, I can't fix my car when it breaks down because I am ignorant about car repair. Some people don't know about Jesus or his mother Mary or the Catholic Church or what Communion is or why we go to Mass on Sunday so it's our job to teach them because we know. Remember though, to always teach with love, like Jesus.



2 COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Counsel is to give advice or help and doubtful means you are not quite sure about something. So when a friend asks you if God really knows everything or if Jesus loves us it's okay. Then you can tell them Yes! God does know everything and Jesus loves everyone. Doubting is not a bad, it means you are thinking and wondering. If you have a doubt, talk about it with someone you know will help you. And if someone talks to you, remember to be kind, like Jesus.



3 ADMONISH SINNERS

Admonish is a fancy word that means to warn a person and sinners, well, those are people who commit sins. And that is pretty much all of us! Sometimes though, we notice a person doing something wrong, like being mean or lying or taking something that isn't theirs. We should speak up and tell the person to not do the wrong thing but to do the right thing.



4 COMFORT THE SORROWFUL

When someone is sad, it is a good thing to try to make them feel better. Most of the all it takes is to listen to the person or a smile or some flowers or saying "I love you." It's not hard, but many times we are so busy or a bit selfish that we don't pay attention or make times for other people. Make time to share your love, like Jesus did.



5 BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

Bear means to deal with, wrongs are when people hurt or annoy us and patiently means we don't get angry or yell or get back at the person. This is not easy but when we learn to control ourselves we learn that most times, people are not being mean on purpose. They might be having a bad day or didn't sleep or are sad. So if we are nice when people are not so nice, then maybe it will help them have a better day.



6 FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY

This is a bit like Bear Wrongs Patiently except that now not only should we not get back at the person, we should also forgive them. Which means we have to not hold on to what happened to us but let it go so we can be friends again.



7 PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Prayer is one of the most important and powerful tools we have in life. Prayer helps us know more about God and teaches us to go to God first because he will always help us and wants what is best for us. Pray every day for the people you love and those you don't.



THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the Corporal Works of Mercy and how can we live them out?

by Deanna Bartalini

1 FEED THE HUNGRY

So many people in our world do not have enough food. Ways we can help include: not wasting food, donating food to food banks, cook/serve for a soup kitchen, donate money.



2 GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Being thirsty is not just about wanting a drink. It is also about having clean water that you can drink and use for cooking and cleaning. We can help by not wasting water in our homes, donate money to a clean water project, carry water bottles in cooler in our car to give to homeless people.



3 SHELTER THE HOMELESS

Many people live on the streets or in their cars instead of a home. We can donate supplies to homeless shelters like pillows, sheets and blankets; cleaning supplies and food.



4 VISIT THE SICK

It is never fun to be sick, even with a cold, is it? We can take time to be kind to those who are sick by visiting them, calling them, sending a card or gift. This lets them know we are thinking of them so they will be less lonely.



5 VISIT THE PRISONERS

Even though they are in prison; they are still a person to treat with respect. Not everyone can actually go to prison to visit but we can pray for them and donate things to the prison.



6 BURY THE DEAD

No one really likes to think about death, especially of the people we love. If we know someone who has had a death in their family, it is nice to tell them that we are sorry the person has died. You can send a card to let them know you are praying for the person who died and for them too.



7 GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR

Giving alms is another way of saying help the poor. It can be money, food, clothes, toys, books, time or anything else that people need. It is important for those who have all they need to share with those who do not.



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From: Two infographics about mercy by Deanna Bartalini of "Amazing Catechists" Click on the images to follow the link.

Students at St. Clair Catholic focused on the Doors of Mercy during Advent, the Corporal Works of Mercy during Lent, and are currently investigating the Spiritual Works of Mercy during this Easter Season.