

Black Heritage Month 2025



Black Heritage Month Prayer Service – February 2025



Todd Jamieson
YCDSB Knowledge Keeper

Notre Dame's Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral lands of Wendat (**When-dat**), the Haudenosaunee (**Ho-denna-show-nee**), and the Anishinaabe (**Anish-nay-beh**) peoples, who continue to care for these lands

We are grateful for the opportunity and honor to learn and live on the treaty lands of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples. We recognize the contributions that Indigenous Peoples have made and continue to make here.

May we pray to the Creator to help us learn about and be respectful stewards of these lands that we all share so that future generations may gather on them and share them as well.



Introduction



February is Black Heritage Month. Black Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of people of African Ancestry to the development and culture of the Church and of Canada. Black Heritage Month is about celebrating Black Excellence. It is about celebrating resilience, innovation, and determination to work towards a more inclusive and diverse Canada.

Celebrating Black Heritage Month



Opening Prayer

Lord God,

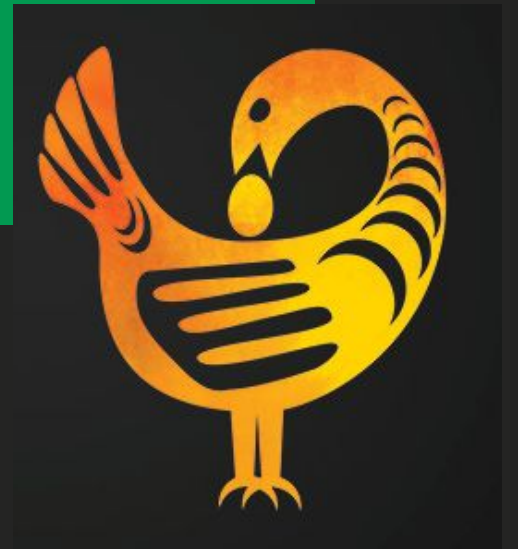
We thank you for the significance of this month. We thank you for the opportunity to learn and reflect particularly at this time, here and now.

We pray that the learning happening in schools, homes and workplaces will be meaningful.

We pray for open hearts and minds and spirits willing to learn and be transformed by you.

May this month be a time of curiosity and sharing,
Conversations, celebrations, and encouragement.

We ask this In Jesus' name,
Amen.

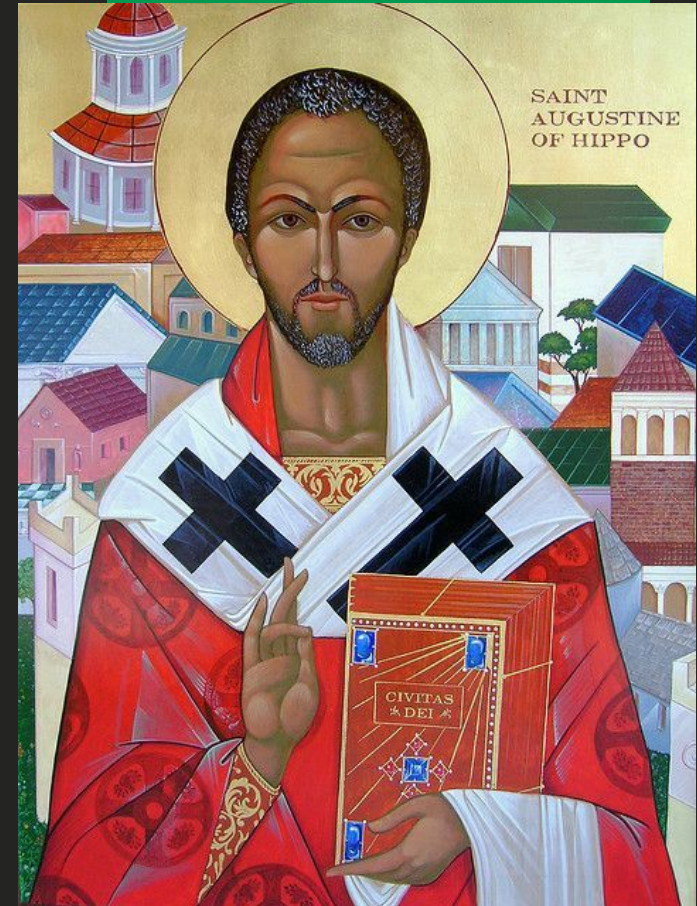


First Reading

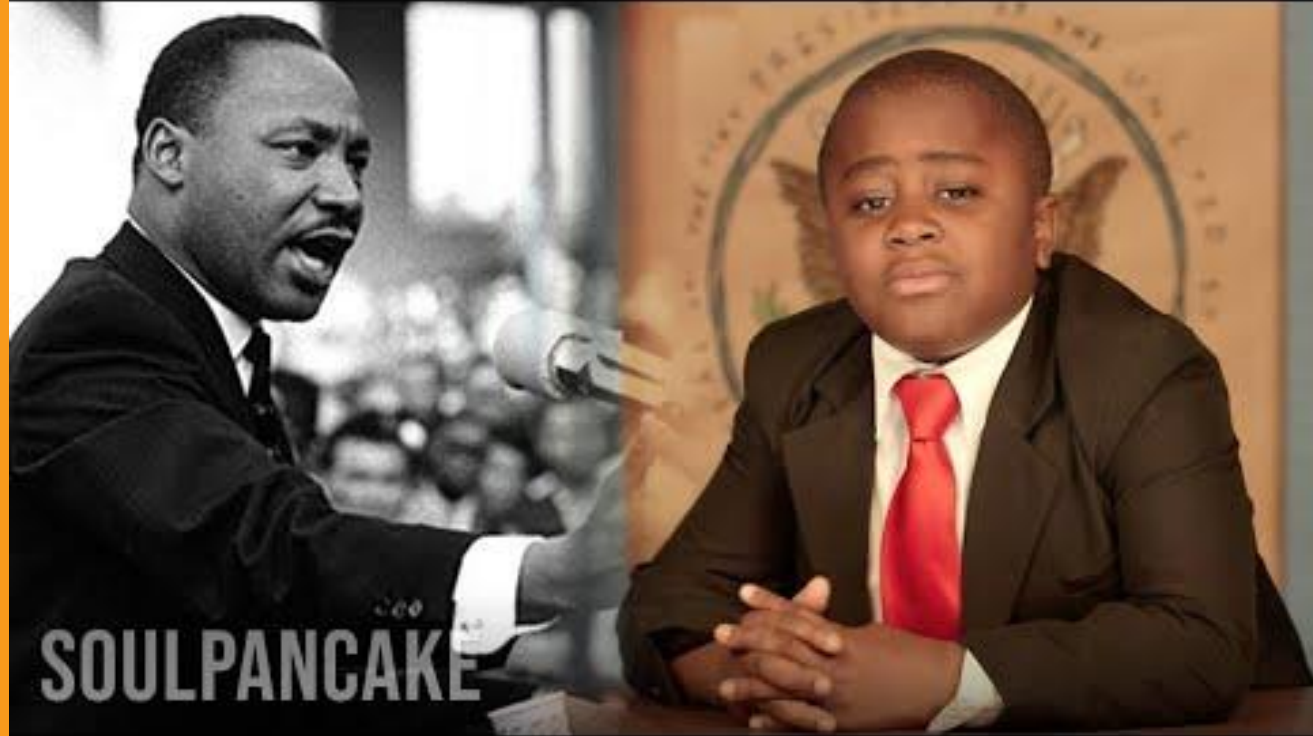
A Reading from the Book of Galatians

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



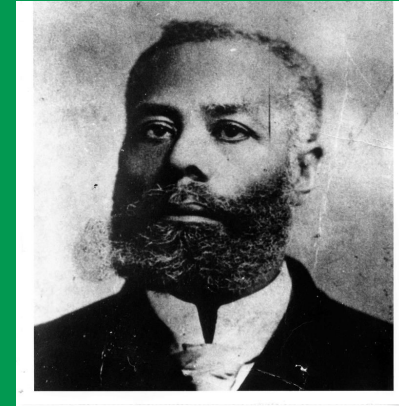
Reflection



We celebrate....

Elijah McCoy – Canadian Inventor

- Elijah McCoy is responsible for many of the first technologies that led to trains being able to run more smoothly and efficiently



Viola Desmond – Business Woman & Activist

- Viola Desmond was a Canadian civil rights activist and businesswoman. In 1946, she challenged racial segregation at a theatre in Nova Scotia by refusing to leave a whites-only area of the Roseland Theatre. For this, she was convicted of a tax violation for the one-cent tax difference between the seat that she had paid for and the seat that she used.



Willie O'Ree – NHL Hockey Player with Boston Bruins

- William Eldon O'Ree CM ONB is a Canadian former professional ice hockey player from Fredericton, New Brunswick. He is widely recognized for being the first black player in the National Hockey League, playing as a winger for the Boston Bruins.



Donovan Bailey– Olympic Gold Medalist in 100m.

Lori Seale-Irving– Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Jully Black– Juno–award winning singer, songwriter



The Honourable Lincoln Alexander- Ontario's 24th Lieutenant Governor

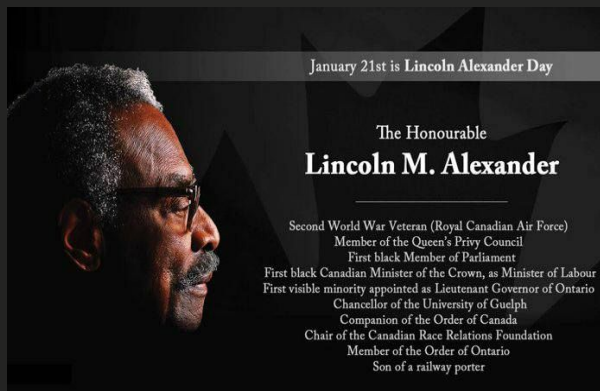
- Lincoln Alexander was a black lawyer and in his youth served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. In 1979 Alexander was the first black member of Parliament to be appointed to the Federal Cabinet. He became Lieutenant Governor of Ontario-and official representative of her majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Ferguson Jenkins- Professional MLB Baseball Player

- Ferguson Jenkins is widely thought of to be the best baseball player to come from Canada. During his career, Fergie accomplished the incredible achievement of six straight 20-win seasons. He was also the only pitcher in baseball history to strikeout more than 3,000 batters.

The Honourable Jean Augustine- Politician and founder of BHM

- The Honourable Jean Augustine worked hard and became the first Black woman to be elected as a Member of Parliament. Jean Augustine is the person who led the motion that made February recognized as Black History Month in Canada, and helped to place the first statue on Parliament Hill that honoured women in history.



Litany of Saints

R: *'Pray for us'*

St. Moses...
St. Monica of Hippo...
St. Augustine of Hippo...
St. Peter Claver...
St. Martin De Porres...
St. Benedict of Sicily...
St. Isidore Bankanja...
St Josephine Bakhita...
Pope Saint Victor I...
Pope Saint Miltiades...
Pope Saint Gelasius I...



The Lord's Prayer

Let us join together to pray in
the words that unite us all
as brothers and sisters in Christ.



Closing Prayer

Ever-Loving God,
With sincere hearts and open
minds, may we always embrace
differences in each other,
Celebrate the infinite variety of
humanity, and share in the
diverse experiences that you
send us.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Closing Song:

