

FAIRNESS



# NOVEMBER

JUSTICE



I will treat others in a just,  
equitable, and unbiased manner.  
I will play by the rules, take  
turns, and share.  
I will be open-minded and listen  
to others.



November marks the transition from autumn into winter. The prayers and reflections offered this month weave together these elements:

- **The Liturgical Calendar**

November is dedicated to remembering our dearly departed. Two important observances are found on the first two days of the month: All Saints Day and All Souls day. November finds us in the last part of Ordinary Time of Year A in the three year liturgical cycle. Other Feast Days include St. Martin de Porres, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Martin of Tours, St. Agnes of Assisi, St. Cecilia, St. Clement, St. Andrew and Christ the King.

- **The Virtue of Justice.**

This month we celebrate justice. This is one of the virtues that Jesus modeled through his words and deeds. We take opportunities this month to reflect on the justice that is needed to heal our beautiful, yet wounded planet. We think of the justice needed in the classroom and school yard to heal fractured relationships. We think of the justice needed to stand for the world. When we join justice with Compassion (October's virtue) we strongly echo the Gospel message and example of Jesus.

- **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCGE) state that the student is expected to become a responsible citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.<sup>OCGE4</sup> This echoes the virtue of justice being celebrated this month. Through opportunities to reflect on All Souls and All Saints Day as well as Remembrance Day, students will have a chance to deepen their responsible citizenship.

- **Equity Events**

Treaty Recognition Week is November 5-11, 2023. Remembrance Day is on November 11. World Kindness Day is November 13. The United Nations International Day of Tolerance, which highlights the importance of fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples, is observed on November 16. November 16th is also Louis Riel Day. November 20th marks the United Nations Universal Children's Day, which promotes international togetherness and awareness among children. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is November 25th.

Wednesday  
November 1

We begin in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Welcome to the month of November!

Throughout November we will be reflecting on the virtue of justice: justice in our lives, in our communities, and all around the world. Also in November we reflect upon the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation that asks us to be responsible citizens who give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.<sup>OCGE 7</sup>

Today is the Feast of All Saints, or All Saints Day. This is the feast day of All Saints Catholic Elementary School in Markham. On this day we celebrate all the saints of the people of God. We give thanks for the good example of the lives of the saints and all good people who are models for us of compassion, love and justice. We pray for the courage and the willingness to follow in the footsteps of the saints, today and every day.

Throughout this month, we will be praying different parts of the Litany of Saints. In this part of the prayer, please repeat each phrase:

Lord, have mercy ...[ **Lord, have mercy.**]

Christ, have mercy ... [ **Christ, have mercy.**]

Lord, have mercy ...[ **Lord, have mercy.**]

The response for this part is... [ **Have mercy on us.**]

God our loving Creator [ **Have mercy on us.**]

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world [ **Have mercy on us.**]

God, the Holy Spirit [ **Have mercy on us.**]

Holy Trinity, one God [ **Have mercy on us.**]

God of love, may we walk with saints in the ways of justice, peace, and freedom this month and always. With the company of saints may we seek justice where there is none. We strive to be responsible citizens. Amen.

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Thursday  
November 2

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the feast of All Souls, or All Souls Day. The practice of praying for those who have died is an important Christian tradition. On the feast of All Souls and throughout the month of November, we remember in a special way our relatives, friends and all the faithful departed who are in God's great love.

Let us take a moment to recall in our hearts anyone who has died, family or friends. *(Pause)*

Now let us pray together:

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

Throughout this month we pray with the saints and those who have died to help us work for a world where forgiveness and mercy reign. Ocge 7c

We continue our Litany of the Saints.

Holy Mary...[Pray for us.]

Holy Mother of God...[Pray for us]

St. Michael...[Pray for us]

St. Gabriel...[Pray for us]

St. Raphael...[Pray for us.]

All holy angels and archangels...[Pray for us]

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...[Pray for us]

Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah...[Pray for us], All holy prophets...[Pray for us]

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Friday  
November 3

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the Memorial of St. Martin de Porres, who spent his life in service to the sick and the poor. He is a patron of public education, public health, racial harmony, and social justice.

God of justice,

Help us to be aware when people need our help, and remind us to ask Jesus to give us the courage to always speak up for those who need someone to advocate for them. Help us to always be people who live our lives as models of justice. Amen.<sup>OCGE 7d</sup>

As we continue to reflect on justice, this month's virtue, let us strive:  
To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,  
To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair.  
To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely, the disadvantaged, the outcast.  
and to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.<sup>1</sup>

We continue our Litany of the Saints by praying to the Saints of the early Church.

St. Paul ...[Pray for Us] St. Barnabas ...[Pray for Us]

St. Iranaeus (ih- ra- nay- us)...[Pray for Us]

St. Cyprian ...(sip-ree-an) [Pray for Us], St. Phoebe ...(fee-bee) [Pray for Us]

We now pray to the Saints who wrote the New Testament:

St. Matthew ...[Pray for Us] St. Mark ...[Pray for Us]

St. Luke ...[Pray for Us] St. John ...[Pray for Us]

St. Paul ...[Pray for Us] St. James ...[Pray for Us]

St. Timothy ...[Pray for Us] St. Peter ...[Pray for Us]



God of love, May we continue to walk with saints in the ways of justice, peace and freedom this month and always. With the company of saints may we seek and act to bring justice where there is injustice. We strive to be responsible citizens. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Pax Christi

Monday  
November 6

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Throughout this month we reflect on what it means to be a just person and what it means to be a responsible citizen of our country. We give thanks to the Saints who have helped us to know what is the right and good way to live our lives. Thanks to the saints who followed Jesus along paths of goodness, we know the way to live as good Canadian citizens. <sup>OCGE7a</sup>

This week (November 5-11) is Treaties Recognition Week. During this week we reflect on the importance of treaties (binding agreements, or promises) and increase awareness of the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Ontario.

We recognize Treaty Week as part of an ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation walked together by Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. As we continue this journey together, we gratefully acknowledge that our York Catholic schools rest on traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, (ah-nish-in-ah-bay) Haudenosaunee (hoh-Dee-no-Shoh-nee) and Huron-Wendat (hoo-ron-when-dat.)

We celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the development of Canada. Indigenous peoples were the first stewards of the land, waters and resources. Indigenous Peoples offered assistance to the first European travelers to this region, and shared knowledge for survival in what was, at times, a harsh climate.

Each day we will say the Treaty Week Prayer:

**Let us remember that Indigenous peoples gently walked this land,**

**Let us remember that Treaties are promises.**

**Let us respect those promises.**

**Let us remember all of the promises in our lives.**

**Let us remember that bullying causes pain and hurt.**

**Let us remember to be kind to everyone.**

**Let us remember to stick up for someone who is being bullied.**

**Let us remember to treat others the way we want to be treated.**

**Let us remember to love our neighbours. Amen.**

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday  
November 7

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is International Inuit (ee-noo-eet) Day, a day to acknowledge and celebrate Inuit culture and contributions, but most importantly to affirm the voices of Inuit across the world, especially in polar regions.

Throughout this Treaties Recognition Week, we continue to reflect on the importance of treaties and increase awareness of the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Ontario. These Treaties compel all people in Canada, all of us, to be Treaty people. Each of us has an obligation to ensure that the Treaties be honoured.

On Day 2 of this important week, we reflect on the ways that stories define who we are. The tradition of storytelling is very powerful in Indigenous culture. Consider these words from Larry Hill:

*Our stories were us. What we knew, where we came from, and where we were going. They were to remind us of our responsibilities, to instruct, and to entertain. There were stories of Creation, our travels, our laws. There were many legends of hard fought battles, funny stories - some from the smokehouse, some from the trickster - and there were scary stories to remind us of danger, spiritual and otherwise. Stories were our way of life and they still are.*

Stories help to shape the identity of communities. This is also illustrated in Gospel stories, which teach messages about the life and ministry of Jesus. Let us reflect upon the many stories that remind us of the love that God has for us as we pray the **Treaty Week Prayer** today.

**Let us remember that Indigenous peoples gently walked this land,**

**Let us remember that Treaties are promises.**

**Let us respect those promises.**

**Let us remember all of the promises in our lives.**

**Let us remember that bullying causes pain and hurt.**

**Let us remember to be kind to everyone.**

**Let us remember to stick up for someone who is being bullied.**

**Let us remember to treat others the way we want to be treated.**

**Let us remember to love our neighbours. Amen.**

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Wednesday  
November 8

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is Indigenous Veterans Day. The federal government established National Aboriginal Veterans Day on Nov. 8, 1994, to honour the thousands of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who served in the world wars, the Korean War and later conflicts. This day is marked by remembering Indigenous soldiers killed or wounded in war. This day also acknowledges that veterans' benefits and rights were unevenly distributed to the survivors, and highlights the importance of working to undo this injustice. Today we pray for Indigenous people who served to protect Canada.

God of love and justice,

Today we remember Indigenous people who died or were wounded in defence of this country and its freedom.

Help us to honour these sacrifices through prayers and actions for peace in the world.

Send your Spirit to eliminate misunderstandings, hatred, and prejudice so that we may grow together as one family.

Guide our steps in the way of peace, truth and reconciliation

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today on Day 3 of **Treaties Recognition Week**, we reflect on **Celebrating Life and Creation**. We listen to the words of Metis artist Christi Belcourt, whose work is a celebration of life and creation. She says:

“The land is only ours inasmuch as it also belongs to all the creatures and plants that share it with us – but in reality the land owns itself. Even when there is no human settlement on a section of land – that land is not ‘empty’ – it is teeming with life... and with purpose”

Let us all thank God for the gift of life and consider in our hearts, what aspects of our lives and our world we would include in a message of thanksgiving as we pray the Treaty Week Prayer:

**Let us remember that Indigenous peoples gently walked this land,**

**Let us remember that Treaties are promises.**

**Let us respect those promises. Let us remember all of the promises in our lives.**

**Let us remember that bullying causes pain and hurt.**

**Let us remember to be kind to everyone.**

**Let us remember to stick up for someone who is being bullied.**

**Let us remember to treat others the way we want to be treated.**

**Let us remember to love our neighbours. Amen.**

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Thursday  
November 9

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of St John Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Lateran Basilica is the cathedral where the pope carries out his religious responsibilities. The Lateran Basilica has been called the mother of all churches of Rome and the world. Every bishop has a cathedral, and the Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of Pope Francis.

Today on **Day Four of Treaties Recognition Week**, we reflect on **The Invisible People**. Today's reflection describes Marilyn Dumont's school experiences as an Indigenous student, walking into a school for the first time.

*This is my first day of school and I stand alone; I look on. Most of the kids know what to do, like they've been here before, like the teacher is a friend of the family. I am a foreigner, I stay in my seat, frozen, afraid to move, afraid to make a mistake, afraid to speak, they talk differently than I do, I don't sound the way they do, but I don't know how to sound any different, so I don't talk, don't volunteer answers to questions the teacher asks. I become invisible.*

Consider all of those times you may have felt different and afraid to let your voice be heard. Just like Marilyn Dumont, you may have felt "invisible." And then think about justice, and how important it is for everyone to be seen and heard so that all may be treated with kindness and respect as members of God's family. Think about how you can be a source of hope and justice to others as we pray the **Treaty Week Prayer**.

**Let us remember that Indigenous peoples gently walked this land,**

**Let us remember that Treaties are promises.**

**Let us respect those promises. Let us remember all of the promises in our lives.**

**Let us remember that bullying causes pain and hurt.**

**Let us remember to be kind to everyone.**

**Let us remember to stick up for someone who is being bullied.**

**Let us remember to treat others the way we want to be treated.**

**Let us remember to love our neighbours. Amen.**

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Friday  
November 10

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Today is the Memorial of Saint Leo the Great. He was a pope of the ancient Church who promoted peace.

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St. Martin of Tours. At age 15, Martin joined the army. As an officer, he was entitled to have a servant to serve him but he chose instead to be a servant to others. St. Martin fought for peace and justice as a soldier of Christ.

Tomorrow is also **Remembrance Day**. It is a day to say “thank you” and to remember all those who have served and are currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. During the first half of the 20th century, 1.5 million Canadians were called upon to defend peace and freedom. We are truly grateful to those who worked hard and even sacrificed their lives to make Canada a safe, peaceful and free country. Let us listen to this Reflection of Remembrance.

We Shall Keep the Faith by Moina Michael, November 1918  
O you who sleep in Flanders Fields, Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw and holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.  
We cherish, too, the poppy red that grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.  
And now the Torch and Poppy Red we wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught; we'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

Today is also Day 5 of **Treaties Recognition Week**. Today we reflect on **Honouring the Land**. Lazarus Wesley, a Nakoda Elder, when talking about the treaties his people made with the Europeans, says that they did not know they were being asked to give up their land. What they thought was that the government was only saying that they would plow the land to grow something, nothing more. For Indigenous peoples, agreeing to treaties was meant to be a part of keeping a strong spiritual connection to the land. We end the week by praying the Treaty Week Prayer. **Let us remember that Indigenous peoples gently walked this land, Let us remember that Treaties are promises. Let us respect those promises. Let us remember all of the promises in our lives. Let us remember that bullying causes pain and hurt. Let us remember to be kind to everyone. Let us remember to stick up for someone who is being bullied. Let us remember to treat others the way we want to be treated. Let us remember to love our neighbours. Amen.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Monday  
November 13

We begin our prayer today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is World Kindness Day, an international holiday that was formed in 1998 to promote kindness throughout the world. It is a great time to reflect on the ways that acts of kindness whether large or small can make a difference in friendships, families, communities and the world. Today we are invited to consider how God calls each one of us to be kind and compassionate to each other as members of God's loving family.

Let us listen to this reading from St Paul:

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:32)

Be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

God of Justice, help us to always see those around us with loving and compassionate eyes. May we always work toward breaking down the barriers to love that make people feel isolated and alone.

Help us develop the wisdom to know that every little bit of kindness and care that we show to each other will make a difference and will always demonstrate our love for you.

We make this prayer in your name, Jesus. Amen

We continue our Litany of the Saints today by remembering those who have helped to tear down walls of hatred:

St. Paul, beloved communicator ... [Pray for us]

St. Elizabeth Seton, symbol of Christian charity...[Pray for us]

St. Francis of Assisi, missionary of peace... [Pray for us]

St. Maximilian Kolbe, martyr for peace... [Pray for us]

Dorothy Day, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson

Mandela, witnesses to peace ... [Pray for us]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday  
November 14

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of justice,

Give us a vision of your world as your love would have it:

- a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
- a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.



We give thanks today for our gift of freedom.

We are free to think, to act, and to worship with Jesus as our inspiration. This gift of freedom came with a price and we thank you for the brave men and women who fought for this gift. We pray for our Canadian Peacekeepers around the world who continue to help people build peaceful ways in their countries.

Thank you for your son Jesus who modeled the way to live in peace and justice. We ask that you grant us the gift of Peace throughout the world.

The fifth chapter of the Gospel According to Matthew tells us:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons and daughters of God.

Let us reflect on our own abilities to be peacemakers by reflecting on these questions.

When am I a peacemaker? [pause]

Do I try to stand up for what is right, even though it may make someone angry or upset? [pause]

Do I try to follow Jesus' teachings of forgiveness? [pause]

*Dear Jesus, how wonderful You are to fill us with Your peace. Sometimes it seems like we could never make a difference, but You showed us it's possible. By Your good works, we see that one person can make a difference. Help us be all we can be. Help us be the instruments of peace You call us to be. We ask this through You, the never-ending source of peace and love. Amen*

We close our prayer today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wednesday  
November 15

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explains that we are all called to be compassionate and to care for everyone we meet. We are expected to make sure that everyone is well looked after. <sup>OCGE7j</sup> Jesus tells his followers that they have been good and caring people. He explains it in this way.

"For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink, when I was a stranger, you welcomed me, when I was naked, you gave me clothing, when I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in prison, you visited me." Jesus' friends and followers were confused and told the Lord that they had never seen him hungry and thirsty, and cold or sick. Jesus then told them his important message, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of my brothers and sisters of mine..., you did it to me."

Jesus challenges us all to be kind to everyone we meet and to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated.

God of Justice

May we always be ready for your presence in our lives.

May we have the wisdom to see you in everyone.

May we open our eyes to see when we can act in a just way to change injustice happening to someone.

May we always be ready to open our hearts to you, even when you come at unexpected times. Amen.

We pray today with patrons of some of our schools in Maple.

Blessed Trinity ...[Pray for Us] Divine Mercy ...[Pray for Us]

Holy Jubilee ...[Pray for Us] St. James ...[Pray for Us]

St. David ...[Pray for Us] Fr. John Kelly...[Pray for Us]

St. Joan of Arc ...[Pray for Us] St. Cecilia ...[Pray for Us]

St. Raphael the Archangel...[Pray for Us] Pope Francis...[Pray for Us]

St. Luke...[Pray for Us]

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Thursday  
November 16

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Today we celebrate the Memorial of St. Agnes of Assisi. St. Agnes CES is located in Woodbridge.

Today is also the United Nations International Day for Tolerance. On this day we are invited to reflect on “respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s culture, our forms of expression and ways of being human.”<sup>2</sup>

Today is also Louis Riel Day (Loo-E Ree-L) Day, a day to celebrate Metis (May-tee) culture. Louis Riel is credited with founding the province of Manitoba and working to protect the diverse history, culture and identity of the Metis people. Today we are invited to reflect on Louis Riel’s numerous important contributions. He is regarded by many as a Canadian folk hero today.

Welcoming God, may we accept and include all in our midst; appreciate the ways we are unique; welcome all, no matter the ways we may differ. We ask this through your Son Jesus, our model, who receives all, loves all, embraces all. Amen.

Tomorrow is the Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She was a saint who showed care for the poor and those who were in need. She was known for her works of charity as well as her gentleness and compassion.

Throughout November we continue to reflect on the virtue of Justice. Christian justice is rooted in love. It is based on fairness, mercy and compassion. We are called to be kind and to give generously. These are qualities that lead us to live lives where justice will prevail. <sup>OCGE 7e</sup>

We close in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday  
November 17

P.A. Day

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/tolerance>

Monday  
November 20

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Today is “Universal Children’s Day.” This day provides a special opportunity to spend time with children, create positive memories, and take part in fun activities that start new traditions as well as continue old ones.

Jesus had a special relationship with children. He taught that both 'being kind to' a little child and “being like” a little child requires us to have open, giving hearts. Let us listen to this passage from St. Mark’s Gospel, which teaches us to enter into a relationship with Jesus with child-like hearts.

Jesus Blesses Little Children: (Mark 10: 13-16)

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord... Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



Loving God, you have made us your children, as varied as the flowers of a garden. You have blessed each one of us uniquely. And each fragile, growing child is infinitely precious in your sight. Through the eyes of a child, may we always see the promise in the dawn of each new day and may we close our eyes at the end of each day with the trust of a child. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

We pray today with patrons of schools in the northern part of our school board: Canadian Martyrs...[Pray for Us]    Good Shepherd...[Pray for Us]  
Notre Dame...[Pray for Us]                      St. Bernadette...[Pray for Us]  
Our Lady of the Lake...[Pray for Us]        Prince of Peace...[Pray for Us]  
St. Elizabeth Seton...[Pray for Us]        St. Thomas Aquinas...[Pray for Us]  
St. John Chrysostom...[Pray for Us]       St. Nicholas...[Pray for Us]  
St. Paul...[Pray for Us]                        Sacred Heart...[Pray for Us]  
Our Lady of Good Counsel...[Pray for Us]

We close in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from: Chalkdust, by E.C. Murphy

Tuesday  
November 21

We begin in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the Feast of the Presentation of Mary. A story recounts that Mary's parents brought their daughter to the temple to offer her to God. This feast celebrates Mary as a temple where God lives.

As we continue throughout this month to reflect on the virtue of justice, We ask for guidance and the wisdom to be charitable to everyone we meet.

God of Charity and Justice,  
We often ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" Help us today to have the wisdom to answer this question and to act on doing the right and loving thing. It is not always easy to act as You would, but with your guidance we know we can follow in your footsteps. We make this prayer in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

We pray today with patrons of some of our schools in Woodbridge.  
St. Clare...[Pray for Us], St. Agnes of Assisi...[Pray for Us]  
St. Veronica...[Pray for Us], St. Gregory the Great...[Pray for Us]  
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception...[Pray for Us]  
St. John Bosco ...[Pray for Us], St. Emily ...[Pray for Us]  
St. Mary of the Angels...[Pray for Us] Father Bressani..[Pray for Us].

We close in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Wednesday  
November 22

We begin in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the feast of St. Cecilia. She is the patron saint of musicians. It was said that as the musicians played at her wedding, she “sang in her heart to the Lord.” She is the patron of St. Cecilia School in Maple

During the month of November we continue to explore the virtue of justice and what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Lord help us to lead our world in the ways of justice and peace.

Help us to be at peace with ourselves, our families, friends and neighbours.

May peace - - not conflict - - arise from our hearts wherever we go.

Help us to be active peacemakers to bring peace into the world by whatever means we are able.

Help us never to stand back and watch people suffer, but to look for solutions in the smallest and the largest situations.

May our peace be a sign of strength and not of weakness,

That others may follow peace with peace. <sup>4</sup>

We pray today with patrons of some of our schools in Markham and Thornhill:

St. Julia Billiart.... [Pray for Us]	San Lorenzo Ruiz...[Pray for Us]
St. Joseph...[Pray for Us]	St. Kateri Tekakwitha...[Pray for Us]
St. Michael ...[Pray for Us]	St. Luke and St. René Goupil...[Pray for Us]
St. Benedict ...[Pray for Us]	St. Anthony ...[Pray for Us]
St. Francis Xavier...[Pray for Us]	St. Robert ...[Pray for Us]
Fr. Michael McGivney...[Pray for Us]	Sir Richard Scott ...[Pray for Us]
St. Justin Martyr...[Pray for Us]	St. Edward...[Pray for Us]
St. Monica...[Pray for Us]	St. Augustine...[Pray for Us]
St. Elizabeth...[Pray for Us]	St. Brother Andre...[Pray for Us]

We close in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> Fleur Dorrell, Mothers' Union

Thursday  
November 23

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the Feast of St. Clement. St. Clement CES is in Woodbridge.

During this month of November, we pray for racial justice. Racial justice means equal and fair treatment for people of all races.

God of justice, In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. We thank you for the dignity, beauty and worth you give to each one of us.

We thank you for making us all your children, brothers and sisters in the same human family.

Open the hearts of all people.

Free us of attitudes, behaviours and words that do not show love and respect for others.

Give us the courage to speak out and speak up against racial injustice.

Strengthen us to find ways to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.<sup>5</sup>



Today is Thanksgiving Day in the United States. Our American neighbours celebrate this holiday each year on the fourth Thursday in November.

Every day is a good day to give thanks for our blessings. We are so grateful to God for the many gifts that have been given to each one of us.

We pray today with patrons of some of our schools in Richmond Hill and parts of Vaughan.

Christ The King ...[Have Mercy on Us]    Corpus Christi...[Have Mercy on Us]

Guardian Angels...[Pray for Us]    St. Anne ...[Pray for Us]

St. Joseph ...[Pray for Us]    St. Therese of Lisieux...[Pray for Us]

St. John Paul II...[Pray for Us]    St. Joseph the Worker...[Pray for Us]

Our Lady of the Rosary ...[Pray for Us]    Father Henri Nouwen...[Pray for Us]

St. Mary Immaculate...[Pray for Us]    Father Frederick McGinn...[Pray for Us]

Our Lady of Hope...[Pray for Us]

Our Lady Queen of the World...[Pray for Us]

Our Lady of the Annunciation...[Pray for Us]    St. Luke...[Pray for Us]

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

<sup>5</sup> adapted from

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Prayer-for-Racial-Healing.pdf>

Friday  
November 24

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tomorrow is the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women.

On this day we pray for peace and safety for all women and girls.

God of love, compassion and healing,  
hear our prayer as we pray for an end to violence against women.  
We pray for healing and justice. Amen.

St. Francis has been called a missionary of peace. Let us call to mind some of the Saints from the Order that he founded...

St. Francis ...[Pray for Us]

St. Clare ...[Pray for Us]

St. Agnes ...[Pray for Us]

St. Anthony of Padua ...[Pray for Us]

Listen to this prayer for justice:

God, you created us all in your own likeness.

We thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in your world.

Enrich our lives through ever-widening circles of people's feelings and understanding;

Show us your presence in those most different from us, so that in all our relationships, both by what we have in common and by things in which we differ,

we may come to know you more fully in your creation, for you are Father, Son and Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Monday  
November 27

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Yesterday was the Feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the church year, and the feast day of Christ the King CES is in Richmond Hill.

The message of this Feast is simple. "Our King is Christ!"

And this message is different from any other king's message.

He didn't come with weapons or with power but simply as one of us.

He was a king who became as ordinary as you and me.

Advent will begin next Sunday, December 3rd. .

In the gospel of Luke it is written:

"Jesus said, 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you.'"

By simply being the best person you can be,

you are loving others, loving God and loving yourself.

We pray today with patrons of schools in the central and Eastern parts of our School Board.

Our Lady of Grace...[Pray for Us]

St. Jerome...[Pray for Us]

St. Brendan...[Pray for Us]

St. Joseph...[Pray for Us]

St. Brigid ...[Pray for Us]

Cardinal Carter ...[Pray for Us]

St. John XXIII...[Pray for us.]

St. Joseph the Worker...[Pray for us.]

St. James...[Pray for us.]

Holy Name...[Pray for us.]

Light of Christ...[Pray for us.]

St. Maximilian Kolbe...[Pray for Us]

St. Mark...[Pray for Us]

St. Mary...[Pray for Us]

St. Patrick...[Pray for Us]

Blessed Chiara Badano...[Pray for Us]

St. Matthew...[Pray for us.]

Blessed Scalabrini...[Pray for us.]

St. Charles Garnier...[Pray for us.]

St. Marguerite d'Youville...[Pray for us.]

Holy Spirit...[Pray for us.]

St. Katharine Drexel...[Pray for us.]

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Tuesday  
November 28

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In 1989 the Berlin Wall, separating East and West Berlin, was demolished. This wall was a symbol of conflict and division. When the wall came down, people danced and cheered. Sometimes walls of hatred and fear separate us from other people. Jesus asks us to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt. We are also asked to forgive those who have hurt us. OCGE7c

Dear God, in our lives, help us to:  
Tear down the walls of fear  
Tear down the walls of hatred  
Tear down the walls of anger  
Tear down the walls of envy  
Tear down the walls of lies  
Tear down the walls of bullying  
Lead us in the dance of love  
Lead us to forgiveness  
Lead us to healing, Lead us to peace,  
Lead us to justice, Lead us to Your love. Amen.

With courage, compassion, strength and hope we will walk together on the journey of healing.

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Wednesday  
November 29

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You often said,  
“Peace to you,” grant us peace.  
Make all people witnesses of truth, justice and love.  
Take away from our hearts whatever might threaten peace.  
Enlighten our leaders that they defend the great gift of peace.  
May all people of the earth become as brothers and sisters.  
May the peace we long for blossom forth and reign over us all.

And help us to find peace in our hearts.  
Give us the wisdom and strength to know that peace begins with us.  
God, give us the courage to speak up  
when we see others being treated unfairly.  
Grant us the strength to choose the just decision  
even when there are easier ways.  
We ask this in the name of the  
Father who has created us,  
the Son who teaches us and the  
Holy Spirit who strengthens us.  
Amen.

We close our litany of saints today by praying with several saints who  
teach us the importance of being humble.

Saint Augustine...[pray for us.]  
Saint Anthony....[pray for us.]  
Saint Francis de Sales...[pray for us.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

Thursday  
November 30

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is the Feast of St. Andrew, who was a disciple of St. John the Baptist. Andrew told his brother Simon Peter that he had found the Messiah. Andrew was among the Twelve Apostles Jesus chose. St. Andrew CES is in Vaughan.

On this last day of the month, let us reflect on what it means to be a responsible citizen.

As we pray each line of this litany of service, please respond,  
[Let us walk in your ways.]

Dear God,

You taught us to care for each other ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to be responsible citizens ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to seek forgiveness ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to grant forgiveness ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to protect the value of life ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to be peaceful ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to be just ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to be compassionate ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to care for the gift of our environment and all  
creation ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]**

You taught us to respect one another ... **[Let us walk in your ways.]** <sup>OCGE7</sup>

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.