

## **Faith resources**

### **Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO).**

The ACBO is the association of the Catholic bishops in the Province of Ontario in the service of Catholics of Ontario.

<http://acbo.on.ca/about/>

### **Fully Alive**

**Fully Alive** is a Family Life Education program sponsored by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO). The first edition of **Fully Alive** was published between 1988 and 1992 with updates starting in 2006 and 2012.

Catholic Family Life Education is closely associated with Religious Education. In Ontario Catholic schools, it accounts for 20% of the Religious Education program, and is usually taught once a week. Family Life Education, as it is represented in Fully Alive, is intended to pass on a distinctively Catholic view of human life, sexuality, marriage, and family. Its goal is to complement the efforts of families and to support what parents are doing at home. The entire program, from Grades 1 through Grade 8 is designed to encourage children to become the people God wants them to be — to be fully alive.

Resources are found on the Institute for Catholic Education website (ICE) and are categorized by grade and theme. <https://iceont.ca/resources/parent-resources/fully-alive-family-life-education-program/>

### **Resource books**

Teen Prayers by teens - Pauline Books and Media compiled by Judith H. Cozzens

Pep Talks for Catholic Parents by Connie Clark

**Growing in Faith Growing in Christ**, one of the goals of this program is to strengthen the home-school-parish connection. To help build this connection Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ features a website for students and families. Visit the website at [www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home](http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home).

**\*\*ANALISA - do all boards now purchase? We should add in the password if "open access" or we should add a line that they need to refer to the school teacher /principal for passwords and ids.**

# **Topical Prayers**

1. Back to School Prayer
2. New school year prayer - for Catholic Education
3. Covid Prayer
4. As we begin a new year
5. Prayer for our Regional Council
6. Walking together prayer - good for workshops
7. Opening Prayer for meeting
8. Prayer before an election
9. Prayer for Volunteers in Education (service)
10. As we go forward
11. Lord give us tender hearts
12. I saw Jesus Prayer

## **Back to school Prayer**

Gentle Mary

Be with us, our schools, our families, our communities and our world, as we draw the strength to radiate light during these uneasy times.

Guide as we begin a new school year.

Be with us, we know God sets the plan, but we must work together for the good of all our students.

Lead us, to proclaim the living God; guide us to bear witness to Jesus, Your Son.

Teach us, to be patient with each other, and to accept our new way of life.

Pray for us, to act justly and walk humbly with God.

Help us, to remember You are a guiding force of light and fill our hearts knowing that we are immeasurably loved by You.

Amen.

### **New school year prayer**

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

You are the Vine grower, O Lord -Christ the vine, and we the branches.

Grant us the wisdom to know Your will, and the strength of Your Holy Spirit to do our work, supporting our children, and all children and staff, so that our efforts may bear the fruit of creating truly faith-filled and excellent Catholic schools.

St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Families, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Patron Saint of Catholic Education, Pray for us.

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

Amen.

### **Kerry Weber: A Coronavirus Prayer, American Magazine, March 2, 2020**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick was made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

## **As We Begin a New Year**

A New Year is unfolding.

Like a blossom with petals curled tightly  
concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year  
be filled with the things that are truly good  
with the comfort of warmth in our relationships,  
with the strength to help those  
who need our help  
and the humility and openness  
to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead,  
let us go forward with the great hope  
that all things can be possible  
with Your help and guidance.

Amen

**Prayer for our Regional Council**

God, the source of every good gift, you have called us together as servants to do your will.

Grant us the light of your Spirit, to guide us in our responsibilities as a Regional Council.

May we work together in harmony for the common good.

May we listen to one another in a spirit of genuine respect.

May we encourage and reverence one another's unique talents.

May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership.

May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer.

May we respond effectively to the needs of the children in our care.

God of Love You give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit, for the common good.

May your blessings radiate from us to others, in a new spirit of service.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Amen

### **Walking Together**

Dear God, in this room is different views,  
different ways of expression, different emotional intensities,  
and different roads that lead to conclusions.

May we combine clarity of mind with kindness of heart.

May we be impartial without bending to strong personalities.

May we sacrifice self-interest for the good of our students.

Guide our discussions and decisions.

May we do our work with love and clarity of vision for the  
benefit of those we represent.

May your name be glorified through our efforts.

Amen

### **Opening Prayer for a meeting**

God our Father,  
stamp us with your approval  
for the work you have chosen us to do.  
Be well pleased as we try to live our lives for you.

You have shown us your favour  
by giving us your Spirit through Baptism.  
The Spirit is now present in all that we do.

Help us to hear your voice as Jesus did.  
Speak with us.  
Speak through others to us.

And as we listen,  
please give direction to the work we are doing,  
and the confidence in ourselves to do that work.

Amen

### **Prayer before an election**

O Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace,  
for those entrusted with Christian development of children,  
enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and fill our hearts  
with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools  
may co-operate effectively with you, and with one another  
in the exalted mission of Catholic Education.

We make our prayer through Christ, Our Lord.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph pray for us.

Amen

## **Prayer for Volunteers in Education (for a prayer service)**

(Preparation: Place symbols of education or childhood on prayer table)

**Leader:** Let our prayer arise before you  
**All:** And may your love descend upon the world  
**Leader:** Receive these prayers that we make to you with a listening heart  
**All:** And send your Spirit to renew the face of the earth  
**Leader:** Give us, God, eyes for seeing  
**All:** And ears to hear your Word  
**Leader:** Give us child-like hearts  
**All:** That we may sing, dance play in your kingdom

**Mark 10:13-16.** This story is a story about liberation. In a society concerned with power and status, Jesus shows a different way. In this story Jesus is faced with the weakest member of the society of the day, the child. In the first century, children had no status. They were chattels that belonged to their father. The closest friends of Jesus, the disciples were quick to dismiss children from the gathering of the grown-ups. Jesus' indignation is evident. To his disciples he says - Let the little children come to me...The discipleship of equals, he says, must include children and serve their needs, if we want Jesus in our midst.

To the children he extended a warm welcome by putting his arms around them  
– you belong... I am never too busy for you!

For us to call ourselves “the Church” we must seek the unaccustomed stance of Jesus. It is to stand, to preach, to serve and to play from the bottom up – at eye level with a child.

### **Concluding Prayer**

God of Miracles,  
We give thanks for this day, for the people gathered here, and for Jesus Christ, our brother and our Lord,  
Who gives our life meaning?  
Who directs the work of Catholic education and who reminds us that he is never too busy for children.  
Stay close to us, lest we lose our way, and our heart.  
Grant us the gift of wisdom to work together and to proclaim the Gospel to the children entrusted to us.  
Make us desire your life in us, that our greatest joy is your love, so that we may be empowering witnesses to those we serve.  
Through the power of your Spirit, may we grow in courage, that our words may mirror your truth, and that our actions may reflect the love we profess, right here and now.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

**AS WE GO FORWARD (meeting or workshop closing prayer)**

Loving God and Father

We are privileged to have been given the responsibility as parents to be partners in overseeing the education of our children and all students in our Catholic Schools.

Strengthen us in our work as we seek to build a peaceful community.

- Give us the courage to go to you in time of doubt.
- Give us the courage to be servants to the students and to those who serve in our schools.
- Give us the courage to speak our mind on issues that go against our Catholic values.
- Give us the courage to respect one another with reverence and humility on material issues.
- Give us patience and a sense of humour, because it takes time to teach children the skills necessary to solve problems.
- Give us the courage to seek out and to find the solution to all of our problems.
- Give us the courage to be an example to the people we represent by the way we live our lives.

As we journey to build a peaceful community, let us remember that the very essence of who we are is based on the principle that your Son Jesus lives within each of us.

This we ask in His name, in whom all peace resides.

Amen.

**Lord, Give Us Tender Hearts**

Let us do loving things that surprise even ourselves.

Let us stop daily to talk to people, who need a good word,

Mend what is broken and touch up what needs to be loved.

Make us more aware of the tiny surprises

That is scattered like secrets all around us.

Let us notice such things as we have forgotten and

Those persons of whom we have grown weary.

May we see them in a new way

So that we have a new word for them

As we busily set out to do large tasks,

May we find more time for a small celebration.

Creator-God, give us the grace to live out each day as GIFT!

Amen.

**I Saw Jesus Prayer: (Great Reflection to review with your children to show Jesus is everywhere!)**

I saw Jesus this week.

He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.

He was shovelling the snow on the street,

He was alone and working hard.

For just a minute he looked a little like my neighbour next door,

But it was Jesus, I could tell by his smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday.

He was teaching a Children's Liturgy class.

He didn't talk real loud or use long words.

But you could tell he believed what he said.

For just a minute, he looked like our Sunday school teacher,

But it was Jesus, I could tell by his loving voice.

I saw Jesus the other day.

He was at the grocery store talking to some friends.

He then put his arms around them to comfort them.

For just a minute he looked like the lady from our church,

But it was Jesus; I could see the compassion pouring out for a family who lost a Dad.

I saw Jesus yesterday.

He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.

They prayed together quietly.

For just a minute he looked like our parish priest,

But it was Jesus, I could tell by the tears in his eyes.

I saw Jesus this morning.

He was in my kitchen making my breakfast.

He then fixed me a special lunch to take with me to work

For just a minute, he looked just like my husband.

But it was Jesus; I could feel the love from his heart.

I saw Jesus today.

He was outside watching to be sure I was safe,

Then he said good morning and asked how my day was going.

For just a minute he looked like my fellow neighbour (classmate, council member)

But it was Jesus, I could tell by those caring eyes.

I see Jesus everywhere.....

And for just a minute, I think he's someone I know,

But it is always Jesus.....will you see him today?

# **Seasonal Prayers**

1. Remembrance Day Prayer - Prayer for our soldiers
2. Advent Prayer
3. A Christmas Prayer
4. As We Begin a New Year
5. Lenten Prayer
6. Prayer for All Saints Day and All Souls Day

## **Prayer for Our Soldiers**

Dear Lord,

Please watch over our military today as they work to keep our freedom every day. For the wounded and the families of soldiers lost and also to keep the other soldiers safe.

Please Bless them with abundant love,

For we know not the cost.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear Our Prayer.

Amen.

### **Advent Prayer**

Father in Heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of Your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in Love that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.

Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes.

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world.

May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek Him.

May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find Him.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen

## **A Christmas Prayer**

**By Robert Louis Stevenson**

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

## **As We Begin a New Year**

A New Year is unfolding.

Like a blossom with petals curled tightly  
concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year  
be filled with the things that are truly good  
with the comfort of warmth in our relationships,  
with the strength to help those  
who need our help  
and the humility and openness  
to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead,  
let us go forward with the great hope  
that all things can be possible  
with Your help and guidance.

Amen

## Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,

You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross.

Help us to bear witness to You By following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.

### **Prayer for the Feast of All Saints Day**

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

God our father, source of all holiness, the work of Your hands is manifest in Your saints, the beauty of Your truth is reflected in their faith.

May we who aspire to join in their joy be filled with the spirit that blessed their lives, so that having shared their faith on earth may we also know their peace in your kingdom.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **A Prayer for All Souls Day**

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

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy departed servants full remission of all their sins, that through the help of our pious prayers they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired.

Thou Who lives and reigns in the world without end. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them,

May they rest in peace.

Amen

General Prayers:

## **Prayer**

**Lord, we lift our hearts to you.**

**As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.**

**Lord, we lift our eyes to you.**

**As the sunrises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.**

**Lord, we lift our prayers to you.**

**As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth,  
you sustain us, keep us and  
work within us always.**

**And so, we lift our voices to  
you.**

**We continue this month to**

**celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light.**

**May we ever live to praise you and lift our hearts, eyes, prayers and voices as we remember the immense love you have for each one of us.**

**All Saints, Pray For Us.**

**Amen.**

Dear God,  
In this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don't see how our circumstance can ever change.

But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf.

Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through.

Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence.

Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise.

We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away.

Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than this trial.

We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future.

We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty.

We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Dear God,

It's difficult to fully let go of our anxiety, or the world around us when we can't see evidence of all that you're doing – when we can't understand or see your purpose or plan. Today, we pause and remind ourselves of our dependency on you, for we know in our hearts that our circumstances and futures are touched by your hands. When we are struggling to see clearly and make decisions, we are not alone and that inner peace is something only you can supply.

So today Lord, we purposefully, even urgently, say again that we choose to believe in you. We know that it's often in the most challenging times that you are most at work. Thank you for being the one who gives us the strength to help each other and to see distinctly the choices we face. As we scan our personal horizons, we know that

we also must look to you alone for the power and possibility that is our future. We ask for your guidance so that we might walk fully in your path – a path that you have blessed. We also ask for your face to shine on us – individually, and as a team of colleagues and partners.

Please bring to fulfillment all that you have given us to do in the weeks ahead. Give us a heart of wisdom to hear your voice; and then make our footsteps firm. Please make us strong through your favor and grace.

“Help us to grow each day as his followers, with great love for one another, and great love for our families.”

### **Love**

A reading from the First Letter of John (1Jn 4:7-9,11-12)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

### **Reflection**

Jesus gave his followers a new commandment to love one another, just as he loves us. This is how we show we are followers of Jesus – by our love for one another. We show we are followers of Jesus in our homes, by being patient and kind to one another, by helping instead of fighting and by caring for one another. Patience, kindness, helping and caring are ways we show we are followers of Jesus, and these things make for a happy, peaceful home. We show we are followers of Jesus in our school by our kind words, by our respect

and by our good example. These things make for a happy, peaceful school.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord God, we thank you for the gift of love that you have poured out on us in Jesus, your Son. Help us to grow each day as his followers, with great love for one another, and great love for our families. May our growing love and kindness be a sign of your love at work in our lives. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Mary,  
Our Lady of Lourdes,  
You appeared in the hollow of the rock of Massabielle  
To Bernadette, a small and simple shepherdess from Bigorre.  
You brought her the radiant light of your smile,  
The gentle, resplendent brightness of your presence.  
Day by day, you built a relationship with her  
Where you looked at her like one person talking to another.  
We, too, come here before you in our poverty, and we humbly pray to you.  
May those who doubt discover the joy of trust,  
May those who despair sense your discreet presence.

Mary,  
Our Lady of Lourdes,  
You revealed your name to Bernadette  
By simply saying "I am the Immaculate Conception".  
May we discover the joy of a forgiveness that never falters,  
Instil in us the desire for a rediscovered innocence and a joyful holiness.  
Help the blinded sinner.

You who gave birth to the Saviour of the world,  
Look tenderly on our beautiful but tragic

world.  
Open in us the path of hope,  
Guide us to the One who is the Living Source,  
Jesus, your Son, who teaches us to say:

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. **Amen.**

*"We ask for your guidance so that we might walk fully in your path – a path that you have blessed."*

### **Let Go**

Dear God,

It's difficult to fully let go of our anxiety, or the world around us when we can't see evidence of all that you're doing – when we can't understand or see your purpose or plan. Today, we pause and remind ourselves of our dependency on you, for we know in our hearts that our circumstances and futures are touched by your hands.

Isaiah 55:8 reminds us that our thoughts are not your thoughts – and that our ways are not your ways. When we are struggling to see clearly and make decisions, we are

not alone and that inner peace is something only you can supply.

So today Lord, we purposefully, even urgently, say again that we choose to believe in you. We know that it's often in the most challenging times that you are most at work. Thank you for being the one who gives us the strength to help each

other and to see distinctly the choices we face. As we scan our personal horizons, we know that we also must look to you alone for the power and possibility that is our future.

We ask for your guidance so that we might walk fully in your path – a path that you have blessed. We also ask for your face to shine on us – individually, and as a team of colleagues and partners.

Please bring to fulfillment all that you have given us to do in the weeks ahead. Give us a heart of wisdom to hear your voice; and then make our footsteps firm. Please make us strong through your favor and grace.

**Amen.**