

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS

BLESSINGS

DECEMBER 2022



The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it was a season that focused on waiting. So, "Advent means something new is coming. The dawn of a new and better era. This is really what the Christmas season is all about, isn't it? It's the celebration of the ADVENT of a new era. God broke into time and space and entered our world" Through prayer, we can enter into God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. Ask the Father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness.

Let Us Pray, for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

Let Us Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

Let Us Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.

Let Us Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.

Let Us Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

Pray for joy and a sense of humor.

Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.

Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.

Through all these prayers we ask Mary our Mother to guide us and Jesus our brother to walk with us.

AMEN



Journey through Advent 2022

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents
Journey through Advent with the Most Rev. Joseph
Dabrowski, CSMA, Auxiliary Bishop of London, Ontario.
Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of
Advent 2022.

A joint initiative of the National Liturgy Office, the Office
national de liturgie and the Office for Evangelization and
Catechesis.

To access the videos [Click Here](#)



Christmas message from the Liaison Bishop ✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM

Dear members of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE),

As we start our pilgrimage towards the celebration of Christmas, I'm honored to share with you a short reflection on the meaning of Christ's birth in our life. In his dialogue with Nicodemus, Jesus declared that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Yet when Jesus the only Son of God was born, very few people noticed this extraordinary event. Luke the evangelist tells us that "there was no place for them" (Luke 2:7) when "the time came for Mary to deliver her child" (Luke 2:6).

Just like the people of Bethlehem on the first Christmas, we will be very busy with our worldly business between now and Christmas eve. So busy that there is a possibility there will be no place in our hearts and in our lives to welcome Jesus. Yet Jesus wants to be welcomed in each of our hearts. As Catholic Parents, we are called to be, together with our loved ones, the place where Jesus will be received as the greatest gift God the Father gave to our humanity.

Let us learn from the shepherds and God's light will shine around us. Let us welcome the message of the angel, the "good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Let us welcome God's sign of his love: "a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). Like Mary, let us treasure these events and ponder them in our heart (see Luke 2:19).

Then we will be able, just like the shepherds, to glorify and praise God for all we will have heard and seen (see Luke 2:20). As Catholic parents and missionary disciples, we will be able to go to the peripheries of our world and become heralds of the Good News: "a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Merry Christmas to you all!



FROM THE REGIONS

We are proud to welcome new Directors to the OAPCE Family from Algonquin Lakeshore, Hamilton and Niagara! We look forward to hosting the regional meetings and connecting with parents in these regions to build a strong network!

OAPCE Regional meetings took place across the province in recent months both virtually and in person! We were pleased to welcome Miguel Martinez, President and Founder of MTC life to our meetings in Halton, Toronto, Waterloo and York where participants took part in a presentation “Increasing Parent Engagement – A Proven Formula”.

OAPCE will continue to support regional meetings and learning events for parents to facilitate information sharing between OAPCE provincial and the local school council OAPCE representatives.

The upcoming OAPCE Regional meetings are at 7:00pm :

January 18, 2023 - OAPCE Dufferin Peel

January 23, 2023 - OAPCE York

January 25, 2023 - OAPCE Niagara (first meeting)

January 30, 2023 - OAPCE Toronto

February 1, 2023 - OAPCE Waterloo

February 6, 2023 - OAPCE Halton

February 8, 2023 - OAPCE Algonquin and Lakeshore (first meeting)

Please check the [regional websites](#) for meeting registration information. We thank all parents from across the province for participating in our meetings and look forward to connecting with you all in 2023!



CATHOLIC VIRTUAL ONTARIO WEBINAR

The Ontario Ministry of Education has introduced a new graduation requirement for secondary students to complete two e-Learning credits as part of the 30 credits required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). It applies only to students who entered Grade 9 on or after September 1, 2020 which means that they are now in Grade 9, 10 or 11. Students may withdraw/opt out of this new requirement and graduate with an OSSD.

CVO (Catholic Virtual Ontario) is the online learning platform that provides Catholic online courses. In November OAPCE hosted this webinar in conjunction with staff from OCSTA and various teachers across Ontario to show this wonderful resource for students.

[Click here to view the recording.](#)



FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FUNDING TO SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT 2022-2023

The Ministry of Education provides most of the operating funds to Ontario's 72 district school boards through the annual Grants for Student Needs (GSN). Funding is allocated to boards through a series of grants based on student enrolment and the needs of students in each board.

For 2022-23, the total allocation to support parent engagement specifically is \$5.47M, allocated as follows: o School Councils and Parent Engagement Committees – Base Funding Through the GSN, the ministry provides each school board with base funding to support the parent engagement activities of its school councils and Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).

For the 2022-23 school year, the total Parent Engagement allocation is \$5.47M, and has three components, calculated as follows, per board:

- PIC component (\$5000 + \$0.17 per average daily enrolment of pupils)
- School Council Component (\$500 per school)
- PRO component (\$1500 + \$500 per school)

for more information [CLICK HERE](#)



Coming Soon...

Save
the
date

OAPCE 2023
PARENT
CONFERENCE

SATURDAY
APRIL 22/23

KINGSTON,
ONTARIO

REGIOPOLIS
NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Father, I pray that you will turn
our hearts toward you as
Christmas approaches.

Let us not get caught up in the
hustle and bustle of the season
this year and miss the chance to
celebrate the gifts of hope, peace,
joy, love that you sent to us on
that first Christmas.

That first Christmas, you gave us
the gift of hope wrapped in
swaddling clothes and laid in a
manger.

Thank you, Father, for your
immeasurable gift.

In Jesus' precious name, we
pray. Amen.



ON BEHALF OF
OAPCE

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS A VERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

