



PARENTS 4PARENTS PRESS

FEBRUARY, 2026

www.OAPCE.org

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

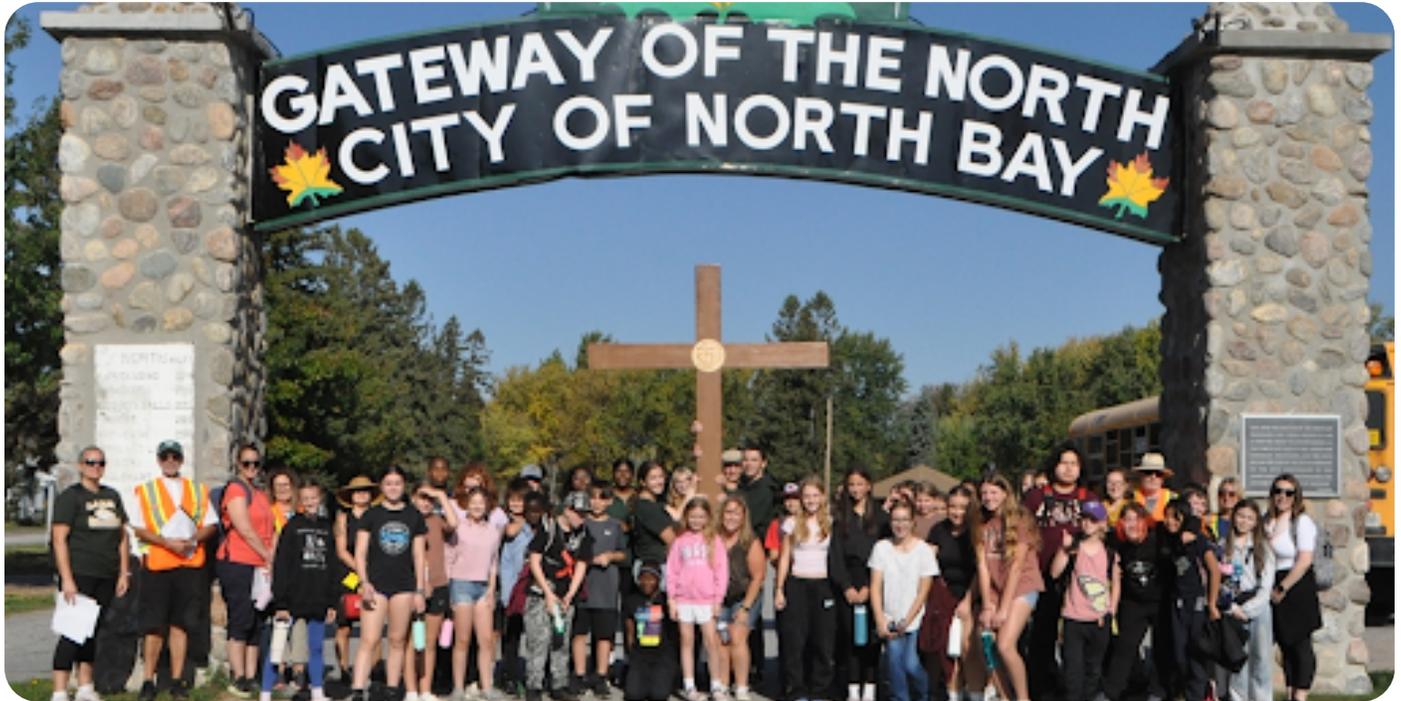
- Opening Message
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- Parent Partner Spotlight
- Family & Faith Zone
- Prayer
- Support OAPCE

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Loving God,
As we enter this sacred season of Lent,
open our hearts to Your presence
in our homes, our schools, and our parish communities.
Walk with our families as we seek
to grow in faith, hope, and charity.
Help us to choose moments of quiet
in a world filled with noise,
and to find Your voice
in prayer, in Scripture, and in one another.
Strengthen parents as the first teachers of the faith.
Guide our children to act with kindness,
to stand for what is right,
and to see Christ in every person they meet.
Bless the partnership of school, family, and Church
so that together we may accompany
our young people with love, wisdom, and compassion.
As we journey through these forty days,
may our sacrifices draw us closer to You
and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter morning.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Living the Stations of the Cross: Students Bringing Faith to Life

Across Ontario, Catholic schools continue to find meaningful ways to help students live their faith – not just learn about it. This fall, students in the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board (NPSC) did just that through a powerful experience known as the Pilgrimage of the Cross.

During the months of October and November, students and staff from both elementary and secondary schools stepped outside their classrooms and into their communities, journeying together in prayer. Along city streets in North Bay and Sturgeon Falls, students processed with a large cross at the front of their pilgrimage, praying the Stations of the Cross and reflecting on Jesus' journey to Calvary.

At the heart of this experience was an eight-foot wooden cross – the Board's Year of Faith symbol – built by senior students at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School. As students took turns carrying the cross in small groups, they encountered faith in a physical, reflective way. Many shared afterward that even carrying the cross together was challenging, leading them to a deeper appreciation for the suffering Jesus endured and the strength He showed in carrying His cross alone.

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



OAPCE 87TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 18 APRIL 2026

SPEAKER LINEUP



Giancarlo Brotto

Founder & CEO
Pave Education

Presentation:
Raising AI-ready
Catholic Kids



Lucy Colangelo

Founder & CEO
ShineOn

Presentation:
Helping Our Kids Reclaim
Real Life in this Digital Age

MASS & RESOURCE FAIR

Being a
Genuine Shepherd
in an AI World

Saturday April 18, 2026

9:00AM - 4:00PM

St. Francis Xavier SS
Dufferin Peel Catholic
District School Board.

OAPCE.ORG

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM



✠ **Bishop
Yvan Mathieu**

OAPCE Liason Bishop



REGISTER NOW



50 Bristol Road West
Mississauga, Ontario, L5R 3K3

In Partnership with:



THE 87TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

Join Catholic parents, educators, clergy, and community partners on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at St. Francis Xavier Secondary School (50 Bristol Road West, Mississauga) for a full day of inspiration, learning, and faith-filled community.

Conference Theme:

Being a Genuine Shepherd in an AI World

Featured Speakers

- **Giancarlo Brotto, Founder & CEO, Pave Education**
- ***Raising AI-ready Catholic Kids***

Lucy Colangelo, Founder & CEO, ShineOn

Helping Our Kids Reclaim Real Life in this Digital Age

Special Message

We are honoured to welcome a special message from Bishop Yvan Mathieu, OAPCE Liaison Bishop.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER

As parents committed to strengthening Catholic education in Ontario, we have sent a formal letter to the Honourable Minister Calandra regarding the continued role and recognition of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE). For 87 years, OAPCE has served as a unified provincial parent voice, supporting families and ensuring meaningful parent engagement within the framework of the Education Act and Regulation 612/00. We invite you to read the full letter to better understand the concerns raised and the importance of preserving structured parent representation across Ontario.

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REFLECTION ON HOPE

This month, OAPCE welcomed Dr. Anne Jamieson from the Institute for Catholic Education for a virtual Faith Webinar titled “Leading in Hope: A Parent’s Gift in Challenging Times.” As we begin the Lenten journey, parents across the province reflected on the closing of the Jubilee Year and the question, “Now what?” Dr. Jamieson reminded us that while the Holy Door has closed, our call as parents has not. In challenging times, we are called to lead with hope, modeling faith, trust, and resilience for our children. When we fix our eyes on Christ, we teach our children where to fix theirs.

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OAPCE Anchoring Faith: Beyond the Jubilee Door

The Parent as a Witness in the Storm

- Parents are the First Teachers**
We lead through witness and example, modeling trust when life feels heavy
- Anchoring Faith Through Action**
Children watch how we navigate grief, stress, and disappointment through prayer
- “Oh my Jesus, I put all my faith in you”**
Using the Sacred Heart Prayer to anchor faith in the hearts of children

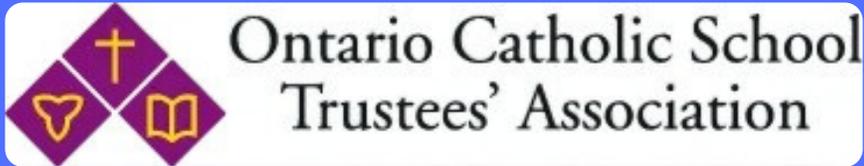
The Horizon of Hope

- Hope Stretches the “Faith Muscle”**
Looking toward the horizon relieves the soul’s strain during uncertain times
- Fixing Our Eyes on Christ**
When parents fix their eyes on Christ, children learn where to fix theirs
- A Legacy of Faith**
Guiding children so that they keep Jesus on their horizon for a lifetime

#Notesbook



PREMIUM Conference Sponsors



The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) continues to serve as the provincial voice for publicly funded Catholic education across Ontario. Representing Catholic district school boards and trustees province-wide, OCSTA works to protect and promote Catholic education, support good governance, and offer leadership grounded in Gospel values. The Association provides professional development, governance training, and faith formation opportunities for trustees, while also leading key advocacy efforts with government and education partners. With more than 570,000 students in Ontario's Catholic schools, OCSTA plays a vital role in supporting a strong, vibrant, and faith-filled education system.



Astronomy in Action



Astronomy in Action brings the wonders of the universe directly to students through its portable planetariums and immersive astronomy programs, all aligned with the Ontario Science Curriculum. Their travelling domes offer an engaging, student-centered learning experience that transforms any gym or classroom into a window to the cosmos—without the need for transportation or traditional field-trip logistics. Programs span all grade levels, from early learners exploring constellations to high-school students diving into galaxies, black holes, and STEM-focused inquiry. With breathtaking visuals and interactive teaching, Astronomy in Action continues to inspire curiosity and ignite a love of science across Ontario communities.

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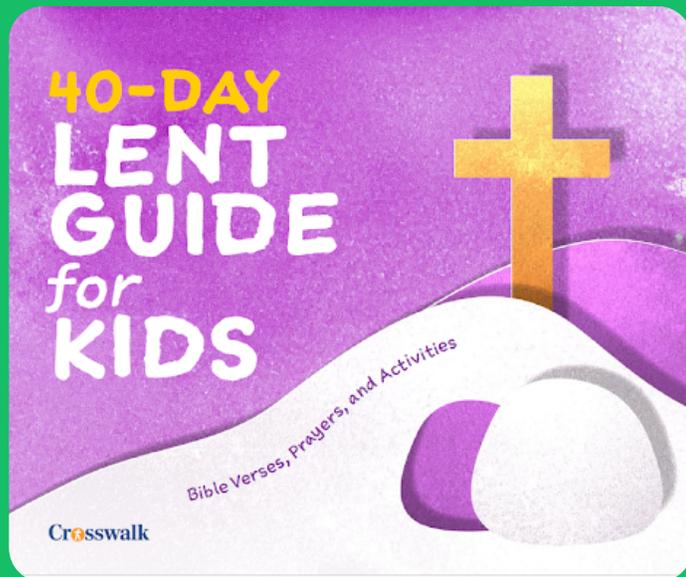
Faith Activities

A Kids Guide for Lent – Free Family Resource

If you're looking for a simple way to journey through Lent as a family, the 40-Day Lent Guide for Kids from [Crosswalk](#) is a wonderful (and free!) resource.

Each day includes:

- A short Bible verse
- A simple child-friendly prayer
- A practical hands-on activity



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Saint of the Month: St. Josephine Bahkita



Throughout February, students across Ontario explore Black History Month, learning about individuals who modelled courage, resilience, and the pursuit of equality. Many of these leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr., were deeply rooted in their faith and drew strength from their relationship with God as they worked for justice.

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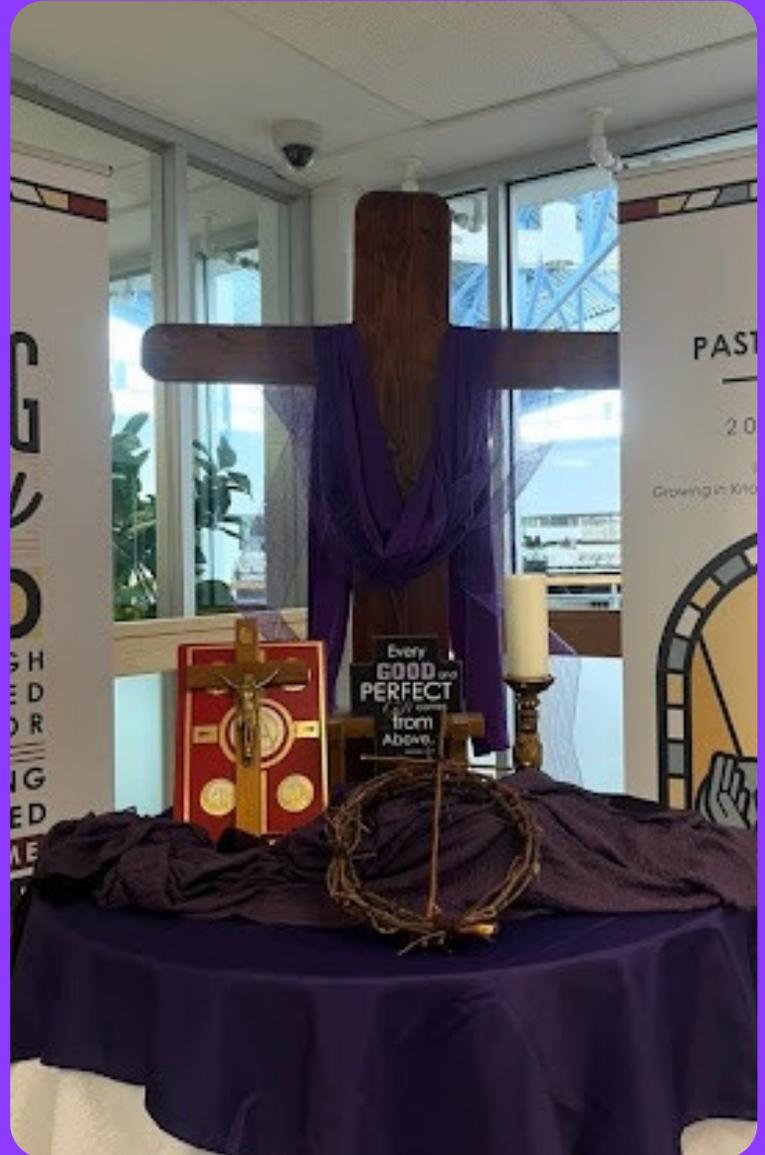
PRAYER

God of Peace and Promise,
As we conclude this time of reflection,
we thank You for the blessings
You continue to pour upon our
families,
our schools, and our parish
communities.

Stay with us in the days ahead.
Strengthen our hearts when the
journey feels long,
and renew our spirits when we grow
weary.

Help us to walk with patience,
to listen with compassion,
and to serve with joyful hearts.
May Your light guide every parent,
every educator, and every child
as together we seek to live out
Your love in all we do.

Keep our OAPCE community united in
hope,
faithful in prayer,
and ready to embrace the grace
You offer each new day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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SUPPORT OAPCE

Your generous donations help us continue our mission to advocate for Catholic education and support parents in Ontario. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference in enriching the educational experience for our children. Join us in making a positive impact!

SUPPORT US



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter), and subscribe to our new YouTube channel for inspiring content, community updates, and spiritual resources. Like, follow, and subscribe to stay engaged with our faith community—we can't wait to connect with you online!



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