

HOLY WEEK A TIME OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Students and staff of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board have been celebrating their faith through various Holy Week activities as part of the Easter season.

"Holy Week is a time of spiritual reflection in Catholic schools, as students and staff prepare for the Easter Triduum, which is the culmination of the liturgical year," shares Director of Education Paul Toffanello. "During this time, we are called to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, which is the basis of our faith. With our students, we focus particularly on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us through his crucifixion, to help them discover the meaning of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ.

In addition to masses at their respective parishes and prayer services, the schools have prepared a variety of reflective exercises and gatherings that will help students and staff build greater intimacy with God.

In Cobalt, students at St. Patrick School will pray the Stations of the Cross this afternoon. Each station will be set up in the gymnasium, and groups of students will visit each station and reflect on the meaning of each one in their own lives.

In Kirkland Lake, a grade four and a grade five class at Sacred Heart School will welcome members of the Jewish community to their Christian Seder Meals today. By remembering the Jewish heritage of Passover, they will reflect on the seder meal celebrated at the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. Father Wayne Mills and Pastoral Associate Don Toomey will lead prayers during this elaborate cultural learning experience. In addition, during Lent, many classes have travelled to Holy Name Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Primary students at St. Jerome School has invited parents to join them for a special celebration in their gymnasium, and will gather as a community for a traditional Easter Luncheon with proceeds supporting their school's Snack Program.



**Father Wayne Mills and Stuart Weir join
the grade 4 class at Sacred Heart School in
Kirkland Lake for a Christian Seder Meal.**



Students at Holy Family School in Englehart have been taking turns sharing a prayer during morning announcements, as they prepare for the Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday.



SK and Grade 1 students from St. Paul School share their musical talent at the Georgian Retirement Residence.

English Catholic Central School students will hold a mass at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, followed by a group lunch. Grade 8 students will also pray the stations of the cross.

In Timmins, senior kindergarten and grade one students from St. Paul School celebrated Holy Week through almsgiving. They shared their musical talent with the residents of the Georgian Retirement Residence. They visited the senior citizens and sang Easter songs to brighten their day. Colourful pictures drawn by the students were distributed as gifts to decorate rooms for the Easter season.

In Cochrane, grade 6 students will bring the passion of Christ to life for their peers by presenting three religious plays, namely The Last Supper, The Agony in the Garden, and the Trial Before Pilate. Grade 8 students will also animate the stations of the cross.

Through these spiritual growth opportunities, the students will develop a more profound understanding of the reason for Jesus' suffering. This religious preparation leads up to Easter Sunday, when they will be invited to rejoice over Jesus' resurrection with their families and members of their parish community.

**For more information, please contact:
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