

CATHOLIC STUDENTS CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR

In the spirit of the holiday season, students at all English Catholic schools are busy praying, giving, singing and performing as they prepare for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Director of Education, Paul Toffanello, believes that the true spirit of Christmas is alive in each Catholic school through a variety of holy events. "The Advent season is a time for all Christians to reflect on how we can more closely live like Jesus," stated Toffanello. "As faith communities, our Catholic schools encourage our students and staff to embrace this mission, particularly in preparation for Christmas. Through masses and liturgical celebrations, students are learning how they can exemplify the spirit of Christ through acts of kindness and selflessness, and by giving generously of themselves. They are sharing the true reason for the season through concerts and performances centred on Christmas themes. Others are participating in outreach to the community to ensure that those less fortunate may also feel the love the Jesus. What better gift to give the King of Kings upon his arrival than our loving service to him."

In **Iroquois Falls**, students at **St. Anne English Catholic School** will continue their annual tradition with their Christmas Musical, "The Bethlehem Project". The musical will be presented this evening at the school. This is a looked-forward to event in the community, which generally means standing room only. Non-perishable food items will be welcomed as well as a silver collection for the local food bank in Christ's spirit of giving.

In **Timmins**, students at **Sacred Heart School** reached out to families in need this week, by filling seventeen Christmas baskets with food, household items and toys. This initiative was coordinated with Child and Family Services, who will distribute the hampers in the coming week to families within the community. At **O'Gorman High School**, students have also been bringing in canned goods and toys for the St. Vincent de Paul Charity, as well as the South Porcupine Food Bank. On Monday, December 19th, Principal John D'Alessandri and Vice-Principal Lisa Yee will be cooking breakfast for the homeroom which brought in the most toys and canned goods. The O'Gorman Students's Organization has also planned a Christmas assembly on Tuesday, December 20th.



Students at Sacred Heart School in Timmins filled seventeen Christmas baskets for families in need.



The high school has partnered with **O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School** to perform a Christmas Play about youth discovering the true meaning of Christmas, including the birth of Christ. The public performance will take place tonight at 7 pm in the Sylvia Gravel Theatre at O’Gorman High. Tickets are five dollars each, with all proceeds supporting local Catholic charities. St. Paul School students will also be sharing their artistic talent with two performances of “The Nutcracker” on Monday.

At **Aileen Wright English Catholic School** in **Cochrane**, junior and intermediate students will perform a Christmas concert this evening, featuring their choir and several Christmas readings.

English Catholic Central School in **New Liskeard** have held weekly liturgical celebrations throughout Advent, and will have their Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th at 1:30 pm.

At **Holy Family School** in **Englehart**, an Advent service will take place in the gym on Monday, December 19th, with a mass and turkey luncheon the following day at Holy Trinity Parish. A toy drive is also taking place throughout the week for those less fortunate.

In **South Porcupine**, students at **St. Joseph School** performed a beautiful Christmas singing play, “Mister Kittner’s Christmas”, last night at St. Joachim Parish. For their part, the junior and senior kindergarten students have planned a special birthday party to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Monday, December 19th.

The student council at **St. Patrick School** in **Cobalt** is taking the lead in their school community by preparing an Advent celebration for their schoolmates on Monday, December 19th, which will be followed by a Christmas turkey lunch, and a mass the following day.

In the **Kirkland Lake** area, **Sacred Heart School** held their Christmas concert as well as a silent auction last night, and will end the week on Friday with an Advent mass in their gymnasium. Primary students at **St. Jerome School** will gather for their Advent celebration on Monday, December 19th, and again for a Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 20th.

In **Kapuskasing**, students from junior kindergarten to grade eight at **St. Patrick School** will take part in an Advent celebration on Monday, December 19th. Parents are welcomed to join them on Tuesday morning as they share their talent during their Christmas concert.

The media is encouraged to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ throughout Advent.

For more information, please contact:
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Page 2 of 2



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