



being **CREATIVE**



being **WELL**



being **COMMUNITY**

Celebrating Sacred Teachings

DECEMBER RESOURCES

Vision

Creating a culture of faith, hope and love
to ensure equity and well-being.

Mission

To accompany our students as we strive for excellence in Catholic Education.
We educate students in faith-filled, loving, safe, inclusive schools
to develop the God-given abilities of each person.



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Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board*



December Resources

Prayers and Reflections

Inspiring Images

Liturgical Possibilities

Quotes

Book List



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Prayers / Reflections

Patience

“Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!”

PSALM 27:14

PATIENCE

Joy

“Clap your hands, all you
peoples; shout to God with loud
songs of joy.”

PSALM 47:1

JOY

Season of Advent/Christmas

Preparing our hearts for Christ
to be born into the world



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This month we celebrate the fruits of the Holy Spirit called Patience and Joy as we journey through the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas.

God of Love,
As we enter Advent, help each of us to take time during our days to talk to you. Help us reflect each day on the wonders of the birth of Jesus and your invitation to love and follow you. May your love for each of us continue to bring us ever closer to you so that we can each be instruments of your peace here on earth. We ask this in your name,
Amen.

God of Joy,
This Advent, help us to slow down, to listen to your voice and to focus on what is really important in our lives. May our celebration of the birth of Jesus be a time of great joy. May each of us be instruments who bring this joy to others so they may find comfort and light in you. We ask this in your name,
Amen.

O God,
During the Advent season, we wait in hopeful expectation. May we be blessed with patience as we wait for the coming of your son, Jesus, and may the light of faith shine joyfully in our words and actions. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Lord,
Teach me to be patient with life, with people, and with myself. There are times I try to hurry things along too quickly and I search for answers before the time is right. During this Advent season, teach me to trust your sense of timing and to surrender to your greater and wiser plan.
Amen.

Dear Jesus,
In this season as we anxiously await your arrival, may our wish be peace for all people. May our gift to ourselves be one of patience as we wait in hope for your joyful arrival.
Amen.

Jesus,
You were born into a loving family home. Today we pray for our families, that you help us to grow in love each day. Be with us as we remember to share with one another and to show our love for one another. Help us to be patient, especially when it is difficult.
Amen.



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Dear Lord,
Help me to wait for your coming with patience
and to listen to what you ask of me. I feel my
heart stir in anticipation and sense that you are
inviting me to get to know you more. Provide
me with a generous heart so that I may spread
this love throughout the world by sharing your
love with all people.
Amen.

Dear God,
As we draw closer to the joyful celebration of
Jesus' birth, help each of us grow in faith and
in love. During our journey this Advent season,
provide us with the patience we need to take
the moments to think about the impact Jesus'
birth has on our lives. Let your joy shine within
us and in the lives of all those we meet.
Amen.

Jesus,
There was no room in the inn for your family.
We pray for those who are homeless, those
who feel unwelcome, and those who are cast
aside. Help us to see your presence in all
people and to help those who need shelter and
rest this Advent season. Teach us to welcome
others as we welcome you in this season of
joy.
Amen.

Dear God,
As we prepare for Christmas, may we never
lose sight of what this season is all about; the
birth of our Saviour who calls each one of us to
the joy of eternal life. We ask for your guidance
as we patiently prepare our hearts to celebrate
your coming. Help us to show the effect you
have had on each of our lives by following your
example and the life that you lived.
Amen.

O Wisdom,
You came from God in the beginning and you
reach from the beginning to end. You order all
things in goodness and beauty. Come, and
teach us to be patient!
Amen.

O Root of Jesse,
You care for and connect with all people;
before You kings shall keep silence, and to You
nations will show reverence. Come, save us,
and do not delay!
Amen.

O Rising Dawn,
You radiate eternal light and are glorious like
the Sun; come, and enlighten those who sit in
darkness and in the shadow of death. Come
and bring us joy!
Amen.





O King of all the world,
You are the desired of all, and You are the
cornerstone that binds all people together into
one: Come and save the world that you
created!
Amen.

O Emmanuel, God with us,
You are our King and Lawgiver, the expected
one of all the nations and their Saviour:
Come, and save us, O Lord our God!
Amen.

References:

Tassi, Filomena & Peter Tassi. **365 Prayers for Catholic Schools and Parish Youth Groups:
Interactive, Seasonal, Traditional** 2016

Tassi, Filomena & Peter Tassi. **500 Prayers for Catholic Schools & Parish Youth Groups** 2004



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Inspiring Images



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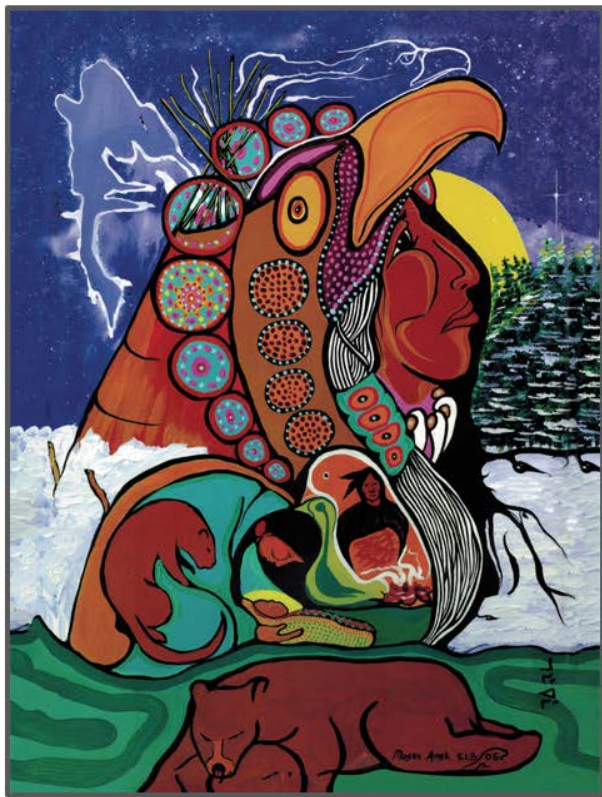
*"Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near,*

*Wait for the Lord,
be strong take heart."*

TAIZE HYMN



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WISDOM
☪
TRUTH
☪
HONESTY
☪
COURAGE
☪
HUMILITY
☪
LOVE
☪
RESPECT



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"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord."

Luke 1:14



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Prayer Service / Non Eucharistic Liturgy



Non Eucharistic Symbols

Advent Wreath: To symbolize the four weeks of waiting for the birth of Jesus.

Unopened Gift: To remind us that good things come to those who wait.

Empty Crèche: To symbolize the anticipation of Jesus' birth.



Opening Prayer Gathering

Dear Lord,

This month, we are celebrating the Fruit of the Holy Spirit called patience. Advent is a time of waiting; waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is often hard to wait patiently. This is a special time during which we remember that although Jesus was born over 2000 years ago, he is with us today in our hearts. As we journey towards Christmas, we are filled with excitement and we ask You to fill us with patience as we await Your coming so that we may know and love You more and more.

Amen.



Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7.1-2; 6-7

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Once upon a time, everyone lived in the dark, but now they can see. They used to live in a world that was full of shadows, but now we have a light to light up our way. We have God with us, and he has made us happy. He has sent us a child who is to be our King, and he will keep everyone safe.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



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Responsorial Psalm Psalm 37

The response to the psalm is *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”*

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
Do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices. *℟*

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret, it leads only to evil
for the wicked should be cut off
But those who wait for the Lord, should inherit the Land. *℟*

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
Though you look diligently for their place,
they will not be there.
But the meek should inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. *℟*



Second Reading (Optional)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham,[having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



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Gospel Reading **Luke 1.26-38**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth and said to Mary, the fiancée of Joseph:

“Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you,”

She was puzzled by his words and wondered what this greeting meant.

The angel said to her: “Do not be afraid. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High. He will rule the house of Jacob forever.”

Mary wondered how this could be, and the angel told her;

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the child will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.” Then, the angel left her and returned to heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.*



Optional Activities

Jesse Tree Ornament: Have students bring forth a Jesse Tree ornament they made to represent the stories in the bible that lead to the birth of Jesus.

Gifts: Have students wrap a gift box. Inside the box have students place a reflection of how they will be a gift for God.



Closing Prayer

God, our Father, we have come close to Jesus during this time together. Help us to love one another and to make our world a happy, loving, patient place. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.





Possible Song Recommendations

Liturgical

Patience People

Let The Children Come to Me

O Come Emmanuel

O Come Divine Messiah

Prepare Ye

Non-Liturgical

Away in a Manger

Violet in the Snow

The Rose – Bette Midler

Take a Walk to Christmas

Turn, Turn, Turn – The Byrds

Mary Did You Know – Kenny Rogers and Wynonna Judd



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Quotes



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."
~ Ecclesiastes 3.1



"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry." ~ Psalm 40.1



"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46.10



"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."
~ Isaiah 40.31



"A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel."
~ Proverbs 15.18



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." ~ Romans 12.12



"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus." ~ Romans 15.4-5



"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." ~ 1 Corinthians 13.4-8



"And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5.14



"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." ~ James 1.19-20





"Patience is the companion of wisdom." ~ St. Augustine



"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet." ~ Jean Jacques Rousseau



"Have patience with all things, but, first of all, with yourself." ~ Saint Francis de Sales



"Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting." ~ Joyce Meyer



"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be not hope at all." ~ Dale Carnegie



"The greatest prayer is patience." ~ Buddha



"Patient waiting is often the highest way of doing God's will." ~ Jeremy Collier



"In the struggle between the stone and the water, in time, the water wins."
~ Chinese Proverb



"Patience will achieve more than force." ~ Edmund Burke



"Patience and diligence, like faith, remove mountains." ~ William Penn



"Seek patience and passion in equal amounts. Patience alone will not build the temple. Passion alone will destroy its walls." ~ Maya Angelou



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
~ Harriet Tubman



"Patience is the art of hoping." ~ Luc de Clapiers



"Patience with others is Love, Patience with Self is Hope, Patience with God is Faith."
~ Adel Bestavros



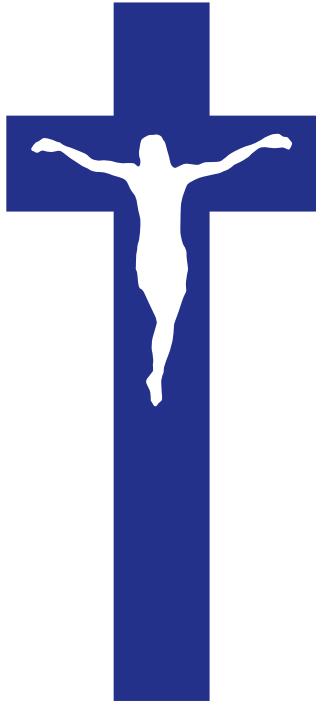
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Short Resource List

- ❖ The Carrot Seed – Ruth Krauss (P)
- ❖ Tale of the Three Trees – Angela Elwell Hunt (P/J/I)
- ❖ The Quilt Makers Gift – Jeff Brumbeau and Gail deMarker (P/J)
- ❖ The Dot- Peter Reynolds (P/J)
- ❖ The Nativity Story
- ❖ Crippled Lamb – Max Lucado (P/J/I)
- ❖ Who is Coming to our House – Joseph Slate (P)





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**PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA NORTHUMBERLAND AND CLARINGTON
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

1355 Lansdowne Street West
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 7M3

Phone: (705) 748-4861 • Fax: (705) 748-9734

1-800-461-8009

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