



**St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini Catholic School**

290 York Hill Blvd., Thornhill, ON L4J 3B6  
(905) 886-3272 | <https://sgbs.ycdsb.ca/>

**Re: Catholic Education: *Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness***

Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Dear St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini CES families:

During the week of May 3 to May 8, 2026, along with other York Catholic District School Board schools, St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini CES will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education.

This year's Catholic Education theme is, "Catholic Education: *Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness.*"

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2026 was inspired by the following considerations:

- The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee year provides us the ongoing opportunity to serve the common good and recommit ourselves to prayer, service, and evangelization.
- As we remember our late Pope Francis, and eagerly embrace the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, the coming school year will be a time to renew the momentum of our Jubilee celebrations, by inviting everyone in Catholic education to embrace the journey toward holiness and peace.
- In light of the canonization of Blessed Carlos Acutis, the Catholic Education Week theme will focus on the Pastoral Letter to Young People issued by the Bishops of Canada in October 2022. As young people themselves, their example shows us, very vividly, what it means to live as pilgrims on a journey of faith, toward a hope grounded in the unshakeable love of the Risen Jesus.
- Our lives as Christians are truly a path toward holiness – becoming, more and more, the people God created us to be. That will look different in each of our lives, but for all of us, we know that it is God's Spirit at work in us who guides us toward holiness: "The Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives." (Spes Non Confundit, 3)

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

**Day 1:** Peace be with you / La paix soit avec vous

**Day 2:** God loves you / Dieu vous aime (Dieu t'aime)

**Day 3:** Christ saves you / Le Christ vous sauve (Le Christ te sauve)

**Day 4:** The Holy Spirit lives in you / L'Esprit Saint demeure en vous (L'Esprit Saint demeure en toi)

**Day 5:** Together on the journey / Ensemble sur le chemin

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed plans, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini CES are being *Pilgrims of Hope* together.

### **Scheduled Catholic Education Week Activities at St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini CES:**

#### **Day 1: Monday, May 4 (Theme is Peace Be With You)**

Each respective homeroom will visit our designated School Chapel (Room 14) for a class specific reflection and prayer led by our student leaders from the Grade 6/7 class. Mechanism will be Google Doc sign up and/or hardcopy sign up which will be monitored and facilitated by staff.

Each homeroom class will come in for 20-minute reflection led by Gr 6/7 student leaders using resources from the CEW toolkit: music, prayers, reflections, etc...

**Particulars:** For our JK/SK students, there will be an interactive read-aloud of the Catholic Education Week story: ***The Invisible String***. A student leader will read the story in the chapel. (20 min). The Grade 6/7 class will lead this activity in the chapel, as overseen by staff.

#### **Day 2: Tuesday, May 5 (God Loves You)**

- Area Finals for Oral Communication Competition: St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini CES is the host school. We welcome our visiting South West Area school participants from Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Angela Merici, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Clare, St. Clement, St. Gregory the Great, Holy Name, St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Patrick).
- Planting in the SGBS Communal Garden with our primary, junior, intermediate grade students. Focus is on Stewardship of God's creations.

#### **Two garden formats:**

- Kindergarten Play Yard facing garden: Vegetables (Squash and Pumpkins will be planted by Gr.  $\frac{2}{3}$  teacher and students for preparation for the fall)
- Main garden near the front entrance: Flowering plants (Garden will be prepped by Head custodian and flowers planted by students in Junior/Int grades.

**Day 3: Wednesday, May 6 (Christ Saves You)**

Live streamed Provincial Mass at 11:00 a.m. for all students and staff.

Social Justice and Faith in Action half day excursion for all Grade 8 students who will go to the Vaughan Food Bank to learn about and assist in their daily operations (Community Service and Catholic Faith in Action initiative).

**Day 4: Thursday, May 7 (The Holy Spirit Lives In You)**

Organization, Preparation and Practice with students from Grades 4-8 who are a part of the Asian Heritage Month Jr/Int Spring Concert in the library at lunch.

**Day 5: Friday, May 8 (Together On the Journey)**

3-D Printing of Catholic relic using our new Bambu P1S 3-D printer using the Design Thinking process (i.e., Crucifix with a base for students to use for individual prayer and reflection)

Host school for Junior Boys Basketball Tournament at SGBS

We hope to see many of you during our school celebrations!

Yours in Catholic Education,

*W H Kwon*

William H Kwon  
Principal