

PASTORAL PLAN

School: *St. Teresa of Avila Separate School*

School Mission Statement:

Through a celebration of our faith, all who enter our school may grow together as a Christian community. Within the community of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School, the mission of the staff, students, and parents is to respect and accept the uniqueness of each individual as a follower of Jesus.

All members are encouraged to realize their full potential - spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. Staff and Parents shall strive to develop within each student: a sense of belonging; self-confidence; and an ability to interact positively with others; as well as, a sense of pride in themselves and in their school community; an ability to problem solve; a level of respect for self and others; responsibility; and, the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Our ultimate goal is to provide our children with the tools to become content, productive members of the community and the world of work.

The students of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School will be provided the opportunity to learn in a loving Catholic community. As a Catholic School, students are taught Catholic values and are prepared to be Jesus' followers, and to care for others. As a Catholic community we will develop our faith, and our unique special gifts and share them with the world.

School Motto: Together in Faith and Learning

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross

Pastor: *Rev. Joyson George, O. Carm.*

Parish website: <https://stjohnofthecrossmi.archtoronto.org/>

Message from the Pastor: As a pastor of a Carmelite Parish, we are blessed to have a special relationship with the Family of Schools, all named in the Carmelite tradition. We have the opportunity to gather and celebrate our faith

As a pastor of a Carmelite Parish, we are blessed to have a special relationship with the Family of Schools, all named in the Carmelite tradition. We have the opportunity to gather and celebrate our faith together while forming our children in the Catholic tradition and the particular uniqueness of our Carmelite heritage.

Rev. Joyson Pottackal, O’Carm

St. John of the Cross

Youth Ministry Mission:

Inspiring the youth in our parish and schools to know, love and serve God and His Church so that they hunger for the Sacraments and build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in order for them to be confident and convicted in their Catholic faith, so that they may defend Our Lord in the public arena and inspire others like the Early Christians did under persecution.

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Message from the Catholic School Council: St. Teresa of Avila is a faith filled school community that believes in the connection between the home, the parish and the school. Faith is a pillar in our school community. It is evident in all aspects of our school life – our curriculum, our interactions with one another, in all that we do at St. Teresa of Avila. The Catholic School Advisory Council proudly supports any initiatives that support the Gospel values in our school community.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Nurturing Hope / Cultiver l’espérance

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we ask you to reflect on the significance of Catholic education’s presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society.

May 2 – May 7, 2021 is Catholic Education Week.

“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)
«Ceux qui mettent leur espérance dans le Seigneur trouvent des forces nouvelles.» (Isaïe 40,31)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:

- Monday: **Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre**
- Tuesday: **Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude**
- Wednesday: **Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations**
- Thursday: **Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits**
- Friday: **Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller**

For Catholic Education Week, St. Teresa of Avila School activities will be designed in all classrooms to highlight the unique role our faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum. Students and staff will celebrate Miriam Liturgy, Crowning of Mary, with the guidance and support of the Rosary Apostolate. (Subject to change due to COVID)

Faith Formation:

Forming ourselves in our Catholic faith is a foundational element in helping each of us understand and live in the example of Christ.

School activities that support both adult and student faith formation include:

- Staff faith activities led by Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Breakfast Club for students (daily)
- Faith in Action students providing acts of service
- GOTCHA awards to recognize acts of kindness
- Social Justice Activities (food drives/life essential drives) organized by the Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Staff Liturgies/Reflections monthly as well as during Advent and Lent
- School wide Opening Mass, Advent Mass, Lenten Mass and End of Year Mass-**Virtually**
- Book of Life displayed during the month of November with names of passed loved ones entered by both students and staff for prayer intentions.
- School wide Remembrance Day Service- **Virtually**
- Student-led daily prayers during opening exercises. – **Read only by Principal**
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations.
- Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings.
- Staff PD opportunities, “When Faith Meets Pedagogy,” religion in-services.
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Monthly Rosary Apostolate visits
- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2 and 7

- Stations of the Cross
- Monthly staff liturgies as well as Advent and Lenten liturgies
- Students complete Lenten Promises and are taught to reflect and carry out the promises
- Mississauga North Stations of the Cross (Adult Faith Formation) and Diversity Conference for Youth Faith Ambassadors.

Sacramental Preparation:

As Catholics, we understand sacraments to be "outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace." Together in partnership with our parish, we support the preparation of God's children in receiving the sacraments.

Event	Grade 2	Grade 7
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	November 10, 2020 @ 7:00 pm at St John of the Cross Church November 12, 2020 @ 7:00 pm at St John of the Cross Church November 13, 2020 @ 7:00 pm at St John of the Cross Church	

Liturgical Celebrations:

The Liturgical calendar is marked by the gathering in community to celebrate the Eucharist and share in prayer.

Celebration	Date
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 17, 2021 @ 10:30 am April 18, 2021 @ 2:00 pm April 24, 2021 @ 10:30 am April 25, 2021 @ 2:00 pm
Sacrament of Confirmation	Thursday April 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm Tuesday April 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm Thursday April 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Opening Mass	Virtual link sent
Graduation liturgy in Gym	Tuesday June 22 @ 9:30 a.m.
Others	TBA due to COVID

Social Justice / Outreach Activities / Charities:

Catholic Social Teachings of the Church root our actions in supporting human dignity and the preferential option of the poor which calls us to serve the most vulnerable in the world.

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and generosity by giving to those in need. We will continue to look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and His ministry through community service projects and prayer

St. Teresa of Avila School Community Supports:

- Breakfast Club for students
- Parish Activities with St. John of the Cross and the St. Vincent de Paul Society e.g. food and life essential drives
- ShareLife Fundraising
- Terry Fox Walk for Cancer
- Daffodil Campaign for Cancer
- Eden Food for change Bank
- Families in Need- Angel Tree

Recognizing Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

Framed by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE), our graduates will be effective communicators, reflective thinkers, lifelong learners, collaborative contributors, caring family members, responsible citizens and discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community.

Celebrating Virtues:

A virtue is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to a moral standard. When we practice these virtues, we strengthen them and thereby make the presence of God more and more visible in the world around us.

The virtues of faith, respect, empathy, kindness, conscience, love, hope, acceptance, self-control and fairness are always visible within our school. We draw upon the virtues to celebrate successes and as a tool during progressive discipline.

At St. Teresa of Avila, the virtues are present in all of our actions as a school community. They are referenced daily, whether it is through prayer or a curriculum connection.

School Masses and Liturgies are two areas where our virtues come to life within our school community.

We celebrate the virtues monthly through school wide celebrations, with the participation of our students.

2020-21 All celebrations will be held virtually until further notice.

Visible Signs of our Faith:

Through symbol and service, we are instruments of God's love whose work within our communities stands as a witness to our faith.

At St. Teresa of Avila we have many visible signs of our faith in our classrooms, hallways and common areas:

These visible signs include:

- Display cases
- A sacred space, crosses and pictures representing our faith are visible in all classrooms
- We also have a wooden altar and cross in the front foyer, which is clearly visible and reflects the Liturgical Seasons of the Year.
- Virtue of the Month is displayed on the bulletin board. Faith events and activities are highlighted in classroom calendars and school newsletters.
- Saint Feast days are included in our daily prayer. Daily announcements include Gospel and Bible readings.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- **Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)**
- **Family Life Curriculum - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum](#)**

- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’” - [Laudato Si’](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’” - [Laudato Si’](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

School-Based

- Many Gifts Resource
- Fully Alive Program
- Class Visits: Father Joyson and Rev. Biju Antony, O. Carm visit classes for sacramental preparation and to discuss the importance of living the gospel values.
- Rosary Apostolate: Classes are visited monthly by volunteers who pray the rosary with the students.
- Children’s Bible and Daily Readings
- Novalis Advent and Lent resources
- Weekly staff reflections during Lent and Advent
- Teacher Faith Based personal resources

Signature Page

Pastor

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

Principal

Superintendent