

# 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 *Can delete the "choose an item" and type in your own.*

**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 together while forming our children in the Catholic tradition and the particular uniqueness of our Carmelite heritage.

## **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.

## **Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Catholic Education: We are Called to Love**

**L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer**

*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.*

*"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12*

*Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

- Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**
- Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**
- Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**
- Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**
- Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

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 liturgies and the Crowning of Mary.

### **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:

- Breakfast Club for students (daily)
- Faith in Action students providing acts of service
- 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-virtually
- School wide Opening Mass, Advent Mass, Lenten Mass and End of Year Mass
- 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
- 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
- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2 and 7
- Stations of the Cross
- School-wide Lenten Retreat
- Students complete Lenten Promises and are taught to reflect and carry out the promises

**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
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Monday, November, 20, 2023 7:00pm @ Church Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:00pm @ Church	
<b>First Communion Registration Meetings</b>	Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:00pm @ Church Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:00pm @ Church	
<b>Enrolment Ceremony (All Masses)</b>	Saturday, January 27, 2024 Sunday, January 28, 2024	

	Saturday, February 3, 2024 Sunday, February 4, 2024	
<b>First Communion Masses</b>	Saturday April 13, 2024 10:30am @ Church Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:00pm @ Church Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:30am @ Church Sunday, April 21, 2024 2:00pm @ Church	
<b>Confirmation Parent Meetings Mandatory Registration</b>		Sunday, September 24, 2023 6:00pm @ Church Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:00pm @ Church
<b>Confirmation Rite of Enrollment at all masses Saturday and Sunday</b>		October 21st, October 22nd, October 28th, and October 29th
<b>5 Classes/Sessions 9am-12 Noon (Saturdays only)</b>		November 11th and November 25th 2023 December 9th 2023 January 20th 2024 February 10th 2024
<b>Confirmation Retreat</b>		February 24, 2024 and March 2, 2024 9am-12:00
<b>Confirmation Dates-Celebrant Fr. Joyson George</b>		Tuesday, April 9th 2024 @ 7pm Thursday, April 11th 2024 @ 7pm Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 @7pm

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

<b>Celebration</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Opening School Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday, September 26, 2023 @ 1:00pm</b>

<b>Advent</b>	<b>December 5, 2023 @ 1:00pm</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>February 27, 2024 @ 1:00pm</b>
<b>Year End</b>	<b>June 13, 2024 @ 1:00pm</b>

**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
- Heart and Stroke Foundation Fundraiser
- Jordan Socks Drive

**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.*

At St. Teresa of Avila, the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are woven in all of our actions as a school community. We strive to foster an environment where students can gain an understanding of the curriculum and how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life Long Learners; Discerning Believers; Collaborative Contributors; Effective Communicators; Caring Family Members; Reflective

and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. The OCSGE are visible in all areas in our school – in our classrooms, hallways and offices. We connect student goal setting to Learning Skills and Catholic Graduate expectations.

### **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 also provide opportunity for each class to prepare a virtue presentation on the onset of each month to set the tone of the virtue of the month.

### **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:**

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar**
- **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 "Fratelli Tutti"- Fratelli Tutti**
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024**
- **Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024**

### **Resource List for Schools:**

#### **Board**

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar**
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023**
- **Renewing the Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education**
- **Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"- Fratelli Tutti**
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024**
- **Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024**

#### **School-Based**





Signature Page

Pastor



Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)



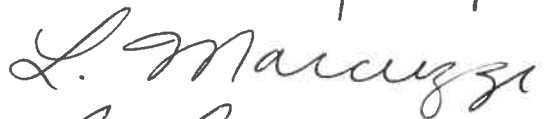
Teacher(s)



Chair of Catholic School Council



Vice Principal(s)



Principal



Superintendent

