

## PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Secondary School

**School Motto or Mission Statement:**

‘One through Prayer and Learning’

With Jesus as our Model, the staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Secondary School fosters life-long learning and, together with the family, the parish and the community, strives for excellence in the tradition of Catholic education.

**Theme for the Year:** Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together  
*“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)*

**Retreats:** *Typically, Retreats are rooted in ‘hands on’ service that connect the Gospel to working with the vulnerable population of the GTA. This year, retreats took place in the School Chapel and online for Cohort C students. For many students in Grades 9 and 10, this was their first in person high school retreat. To make connections to the theme of the year, students will reflect on one question, “Who am I?” in the context of their grade and what that looks like as we rebuild, restore and renew together.*

**Grade 9: “Who am I as I enter my high school journey?”** – Through Religion classes during the quadesters, Grade 9 students will meet the Chaplaincy Leader with their Religion Class in the Chapel and Drama Room and explore the theme of **Who am I?** as it pertains to their new journey in secondary school. Students will engage in activities, reflection, discussion and prayer to provide steppingstones for the journey. Online students will be provided with online opportunities for reflection, prayer and discussion based on this theme as the retreat happens.

**Grade 10: “Who am I in community?”** – As part of our Catholic call to create and be sustained in community, students will re-enter a post lockdown community and reflect on the challenges of isolation. Through activities, discussion and prayer, they will look at the call to be connected the need to build community. Online students will be provided with online opportunities for reflection, prayer and discussion based on this theme.

**Grade 11: “Who am I as Sacred?”** – Students typically visit various places of religious worship including a Jewish synagogue, a Sikh gurdwara and an Islamic mosque. Instead, students, through discussion and activities and prayer, will reflect on who they are as someone created Sacred? What does sacred mean in a challenging world? Online students will be provided with online opportunities for reflection, prayer and discussion of a similar format.

**Grade 12: “Who have I become?”** – As they plan for their post-secondary future, students will be guided through a retreat focusing their transition to post-secondary, adult life. The retreat will provide them with an opportunity to come together in prayer and share their high school story and faith. Online students will be provided with online opportunities for reflection, prayer and discussion based on this same theme.

**Planning for Independence Retreat:** “Faith and Friendship” – Students in the Planning for Independence Program will attend a retreat that celebrates each other as gifts from God. Through song, prayer and fun activities, this retreat promotes the dignity of each person and encourages love for one another. Online students will be provided with online opportunities for reflection, prayer and discussion.

**Grade 8 Retreat – “One Through Prayer and Learning”** – Grade 8 classes from all feeder schools are invited to a half-day retreat where students are introduced to faith community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel through prayer, activities and fellowship led by the Chaplaincy Leader and members of the Chaplaincy group. This opportunity assists in the transition of Grade 8’s into high school, placing faith as central to all we do. A virtual retreat experience will take the place of in-person visit if COVID restrictions are still in place.

**Catholic Student Leadership Retreat** – Students are invited to train to become servant leaders and serve the school, local and global communities. This group serves Chaplaincy and runs outreach and charitable initiatives. Students meet in the Drama Room to spend time in prayer and preparation. Online students have access to the retreat.

<b>Activities of a Religious Nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer</b>
Opening Mass – Virtual – first week of October – live broadcast from Chapel
Chapel Masses – As scheduled with the pastors at St. John of the Cross
Advent Liturgy – First Monday of Advent – broadcast from studio – November 29
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Advent Mass – Wednesday, December 14, 2020 – Feast of St. John of the Cross – Live broadcast
Class Advent Liturgies – Fridays of Advent – on the themes of Advent
Stations of the Cross – Holy Thursday, 2022
Sacrament of Reconciliation – March, 2022
Marian Liturgy – Wednesday, May, 2022
Catholic Education Week Mass – Wednesday of Week
Year End Mass – June, 2022
Graduation Mass – Thursday, June, 2022
Chapel Rosary Visits
Staff Morning Prayer – 5 days a week in Chapel – Gospel of the Day reflection
Daily Morning Reflection

### Other Pastoral/Outreach Activities

Terry Fox Walk/Run – September
Orange Shirt Day – September
Thanksgiving Food Drive – Donations to Eden Food For Change & St. Vincent de Paul Society- October
Hoodies for Homeless – Donations to 5 GTA Shelters - November
Weekly food deliveries to families in school community – year round
Dr. Simone’s Warehouse – Monthly: September thru May – 25 students per visit with 2 teachers (*May resume if restrictions lift)
Christmas Baskets – Supporting families in need during Christmas
Poverty Awareness Week – Chaplaincy Initiative in February 2022
Who’s Hungry? – A virtual and in school hunger awareness event – February 2022
Days of Hope – virtual tour of agencies that support the vulnerable
Sessions – class visits on tough issues with a lens of faith – year round
Bullying Awareness Week – Activities within the school
Remembrance Day – Led by Social Science on November 11, 2021
Shirt of My Back – Lent 2022
Wellness Committee – Various campaigns and activities to promote well-being
Eco-Team Stewardship Initiatives
Bereavement Prayer Group – Virtually through Google Classrooms
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday mornings from 8am to 11am in the Chapel
Catholic Education Week Soap Drive – Donations to Canadian Food for Children

**Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022**

**Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together**

*“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are as follows:

Sunday, May 1: **Launching of Catholic Education Week Theme**

Monday, May 2: **Rediscover**

Tuesday, May 3: **Rebuild**

Wednesday, May 4: **Restore**

Thursday, May 5: **Renew**

Friday, May 6: **Rejoice**

Date	Activity
Monday, May 2	<b>Catholic Trivia</b> on theme of ‘rediscovery of faith’ Virtual Speaker Testimony <b>Virtual Meet with another OLMCS</b>
Tuesday, May 3	<b>Soap Drive</b> for Canadian food for Children
Wednesday, May 4	<b>Virtual Mass</b>
Thursday, May 5	<b>Video Messaging</b> to Sageeng First Nation, Manitoba
Friday, May 6	<b>Online Talent Exhibit</b> – to rejoice in many gifts

## Activities that Support the Catholic Nature of Our School

### Catholicity across the school

*In collaboration with each department head, departmental activities and/or events that infuse Catholic teaching, faith formation, and Catholic culture into the curriculum and the classrooms are highlighted. The content within the CGE Faith Planner may be used to support this portion of the Pastoral Plan.*

Department	Departmental Activities and/or Events
English & Library	The English Department is in a unique position, in that we have the ability to infuse Catholicity into every element of our teaching. We approach all literature with that lens in mind; each work provides us with the opportunity to have guided discussions with regards to Catholic teaching - morality, ethics, social justice - to name but a few.
Mathematics	In math Catholicity is paramount to everything that we do. In math we teach students how to make decisions based on analysis. We emphasize that good decisions are not always based on numbers but should also be based on our Catholic values. We infuse Catholic values, such as the Beatitudes, into to our instruction, our examples and our assessment. We see Mathematics as an important tool to help our students go into the world and try to live just lives.
Science	The Science Subject Council has begun exploring ways of being more transparent in connecting the Catholic Graduate Expectations to lesson plans and activities in Science. This will be an ongoing initiative to ensure that schools are consistent in their endeavors. Our science department has taken steps to increase the profile of famous scientists who have a led a faith-based life and demonstrated the connection of science and faith.
Religion/Theology & Family Studies	The Religion department continue to foster Catholicity within our classes. In grade 9 our focus is on examining the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes in light of all we do on a daily basis. The grade 10 program focuses on the Old Testament and how we as Catholics can take care of our world and all that is around us. In grade 11 our focus is looking at other faiths and how we are all neighbours and that our faith makes us strong in character and able to respect others in our multi-cultural world. The grade 12 program focuses on taking our faith and venturing out into the larger community where we can continue to develop as Catholics and good citizens.
Moderns	The new French/International language curriculum's main focus is more interactive and culturally based. We will include the study of Churches and Pilgrimage sites in France and Quebec, French saints and religious celebrations.
Social Sciences – Geography, History and Humanities	For courses in CWSSSH, whether they be law, sociology, politics, civics, geography or history, to encompass Catholic social teachings, with emphasis on the development among our students of a strong sense of social justice. The goal is to plant and nurture the seeds of vocation that centers on social justice: teaching, clergy, social work, law, the environment.
Special Education / Academic Resource	In the Academic Resource Department, we continue to build the self-confidence and resiliency of our students by helping them to understand that God has called each one of us by name into this world. In order for our students to be collaborative contributors and responsible citizens, there is a strong focus in our Learning Strategies courses on students developing an understanding of their God-given strengths and abilities.

Guidance & Co-Op	Our department infuses Catholicity throughout our day. In Alternative Education/GPP and the department we move the school to look at social issues with our recognition of the social responsibility to recognize others and events that are significant: Montreal Massacre, AIDS awareness campaign, well-being campaigns and many other events , and take into consideration the emotional, spiritual, and well-being of the students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The department through curriculum and experiential learning create a faith filled department that works toward self-directed life-long learning, responsible citizenship, and to become a discerning believer. These attributes and others works to assist our community filled with staff and students to reflect their values inward and to look to how to become better Catholic leaders in the greater community.
Business, Technology & Computer Studies	The technology, computers and business departments see our work as tangible ways of revealing to students their own, "call in life." Each student's innate gifts and talents are further developed and the contribution of these talents and skills are only realized when shared with others. Their talents are a sure sign that God is working through each student to reach them and those around them to a profound and meaningful way.
Physical Education	In the Physical Education department we tie in the Church's' teachings into all of our health units and incorporate the teachings into student assessments. One example is our grade nine Substance Use unit where one part of their assessment asks students to research and explain the Church's' teachings on the topic. We also take advantage of the numerous teachable moments that present them self in the gymnasium and use them to address the some of the Catholic Graduate Expectations.
Art	It is intrinsic within the nature of the visual and performing arts for students to discover and explore the tenets of their Catholic faith. All of our creative talents are God given, as is our nature to share, nurture, and develop them. The virtues of empathy, kindness and compassion are central to studying characters in drama, choosing subject matter for a painting, or encouraging our aspiring musicians. It is impossible to separate the joy and wonder of creative expression from the God who bestowed them.

### School Environment reflective of our Faith

*These religious icons, symbols and visible expressions of our Catholic identity are present in the school environment:*

Chapel – Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, Marian statue, Our Lady statue, prayer colouring, library of Catholic literature, Rosaries, Pick-A-Message inspiration quotes
Chaplaincy Workroom – books for prayer and reflection, meeting room, fellowship
Posters and pictures outside the Chapel vicinity; Banner reflecting Liturgical / Pastoral Theme
“Witness” posters throughout the school
Virtue of the Month pillars in the foyer
Scripture quotes throughout school
Prayer / Sacred space in each classroom with Liturgical cloths, prayer books and other items
Green-Room: Outdoor classroom to promote being ecologically friendly
Bulletin boards & Art displays illustrating various community building and faith initiatives
Altar in foyer to create Sacred Space; reminder that all areas of our school are sacred
Cross with Liturgical Colours in foyer to remind community of our Liturgical cycle

## Collaborative School Culture

*These activities are organized by the School Catholic Community Culture and Caring Action Team:*

Breakfast of Champions
LEAD Mentorship Program
Breakfast Club
Bullying Awareness Week
Symposiums
Chaplaincy Ministry
Carmel Salesians
Carmel GSA
Club Fair
Compassionate Care Ministry

## Parish Connections

*Planned and existing initiatives that maintain and enhance positive relationships with the local parish communities:*

Regular visits by parish priests for Mass, Reconciliation and other liturgical events
Strong communication with Pastoral Associate and Youth Minister
Meetings at parish with feeder school administration for yearly planning
Support parish charities (Knights of Columbus initiatives, Christmas Baskets)
High student participation in parish Youth Group and other ministries (altar servers, music, etc.)
Bulletin board design to promote faith at Mt. Carmel
Weekly Mass bulletin blurb
Promote parish events / activities / initiatives through video & tv programming in school
Community Mass – OLMC staff, students and families attend Sunday Mass at parish once per year

## Staff Faith Development

*Spiritual accompaniment and faith formation for our staff:*

Opportunities for morning prayer in the Chapel
Faith development at monthly staff meetings
Sharing resources of faith development opportunities via email
Conference opportunities
Online Retreat options



## Transitions

*Students supported in the area of transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9, from Grade 12 to Post-Secondary as well as from one grade to another:*

LEAD Mentorship Program: Orientation, Retreat, Academic follow-up, other activities
Grade 8 Curriculum Night: Students and parents invited to experience life at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Grade 8 Transition Retreat – “One Through Prayer and Learning – held in May/June
Grade 12 Retreat program: Focus on post-secondary plans and how faith will shape future choices
Grade 12 post-secondary assemblies, university/college visits, field trips: Aim to help students integrate the OCSGE’s into their future plans

## Vocations

*Vocations to religious life and pastoral ministries promoted through:*

Optional Day retreat to Mount Carmel Spiritual Center in Niagara Falls (Fall or Spring)
Ordinandi Student Luncheon
Vocations Day during Catholic Education Week
Resources for graduates about various campus ministries in post-secondary institutions
Witness talks - online

## Resource List for Parents/Guardians

- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021\_– Catholic Education Week 2021

## Resource List for Schools

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 - [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

## Signature Page

### Signatures

---

Fr. Joyson, Pastor, St. John of the Cross

---

James McLevey, Chaplaincy Leader

---

John Lezon, Principal

---

Laura Aquilina, Department Head of Religious Education

---

Mary Ambroggi, Vice Principal

---

Nancy Tsiobanos, Vice Principal

---

Martine Lewis, Superintendent, Mississauga North

---

Pam Olivieri, School Council Chair

---

Teresa Principe, Faith Ambassador