

## PASTORAL PLAN

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

**School Motto or Mission Statement:** *One through Prayer and Learning*

**Theme for the Year:** *'We are Called to Love.'*

### Retreats:

**Grade 9:** Theme: **We are called to the journey** – Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader.

Grade 9 Religion Classes go to Rattlesnake Point in Halton. They are supervised by their Chaplaincy Leader and Religion Teacher. The hike symbolizes the journey of high school - inviting students to make connections and to see their gifts and hopes and joys and challenges of the high school journey. **Scripture connection - *Your life is a journey, and you must travel with a deep consciousness of God - 1 Peter***

**Dates:** September 14, 18, 21, 27; October 4, 18; April 16, 18, 23, 25, 29.

**Grade 10:** Theme: **We are called to act** - Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader.

Grade 10 Religion Classes go to Canadian Food for Children and return to school for a Liturgy. They are supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and their Religion Teacher. Students sort and load donations heading to developing countries. Students connect their work to the virtue of empathy. **Scripture Connection- *Be kind and compassionate – Ephesians 4***

**Dates:** - September 12, 19; October 23; November 15, 29; February 7; March 4, 27; May 1, 2, 7.

**Grade 11:** Theme: **We are called to serve** - Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader.

Grade 11 Religion Classes go to ReGen in Brampton to the kitchen and Marketplace. They are supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and their Religion Teacher. Students prepare and serve food for the vulnerable population in the kitchen and help work at the Marketplace. They discuss the need for generosity. **Scripture Connection- *Each of you should use whatever gift you receive to serve others. Peter 4:10***

**Dates:** October 16, 25; November 21, 23, 24; February 6, 8, 13, 15, 27.

**Grade 12:** Theme: **We are called to justice** - Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader.

Grade 12 Religion Classes prepare and distribute lunches to the homeless population of Toronto. They are supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and Religion teacher. Students reflect on

and discuss the causes of homelessness. The day ends with a Liturgy and lunch at St. Paul's Basilica. A Safety and Route plan is communicated to the students before each retreat.

**Scripture Connection-** *Act justly, love faithfulness and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

**Dates:** September 26, 28; October 3, 10, 19, 26; April 2, 4, 9, 11; May 14.

### **Other retreats:**

**SHSM Retreat** - Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader – Theme: **Venturing out in faith.**

Students participate in interactive and reflective activities on their gifts and contribution to the workplace. It is supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and the SHSM teacher contact. It takes place in school. **Date: May 2024**

**Co-op Retreat** - Facilitated by Chaplaincy Leader – Theme: **Hands and Feet of Christ**

Students participate in several interactive and reflective activities on the dignity of work. It is supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and the Co-op teacher. It takes place in school.

**Date: TBA**

**Planning for Independence Retreat** - Theme: **God's love**

Students participate in several interactive and reflective activities on God's love and how we experience that love. It is supervised by the Chaplaincy Leader and the PIP teacher. It takes place in school. **Date: June 2024**

**Grade 8 Retreat** – Theme: **One through Prayer and Learning**

Grade 8 classes from each 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.

**Date: May 2024**

**SERVE Retreat** – Theme: **I come to serve and not be served – Servant Leadership**

The Chaplaincy group of 85 students is called SERVE. Their retreat takes place in the school and is facilitated by the Chaplaincy Leader. This day centers the ministry of Chaplaincy on serving the school, community, and world in the name of Jesus. It is a day of prayer, community building and planning.

**Dates: October 2023 & May 2024**

**Salesian Leadership Retreat - Theme: Catholic Leadership – spirituality of St. Don Bosco**

Once per semester, students participate in a three-day Leadership Retreat at St. Francis Centre in Mono Mills. They are trained in leadership activities to come back and serve the school community.

**Activities of a Religious Nature**

Opening Mass – September 13, 2023 – In Gym with entire school
Chapel Liturgies – focusing on world peace, forgiveness, and Catholic Social teachings
All Souls Day Liturgy – November 2, 2023 – In Chapel
Advent Liturgy – First Monday of Advent – December 4, 2023 – in Studio
Sacrament of Reconciliation – December 13, 2023, and February 21, 2024
Advent Mass – Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Class Advent Liturgies – Fridays of Advent – on the themes of Advent
Stations of the Cross – Holy Thursday, 2024
Marian Liturgy – Wednesday, May, 2024
Catholic Education Week Liturgy –in Chapel with Period 2 classes
Year End Mass – June 2024- In Gym
Mass of Thanksgiving for Graduates – Thursday, June, 2024
Rosary in Chapel – Month of October and May
Staff Morning Prayer – 5 days a week in Chapel – Gospel of the Day reflection
Daily Morning Reflection – Live in Broadcast Studio

**Other Pastoral/Outreach Activities**

Terry Fox Movement – October 2023
Orange Shirt Day – September 2023
Red Dress Day- October, 2023
Truth and Reconciliation Week- September 2023
Thanksgiving Food Drive – Donations to Eden Food for Change & St. Vincent de Paul Society- October
Hoodies for Homeless – Donations to 5 GTA Shelters – November 2023
Weekly food deliveries to families in school community – year-round
Dr. Simone’s Warehouse – Monthly donations
Christmas Baskets – Supporting families in need during Christmas
Poverty Awareness Week – Chaplaincy Initiative in February 2024
Who’s Hungry? A hunger awareness event – February 2024
Day of Hope – A Day of Service in Advent – November 30, 2023
Sessions – class visits on tough issues with a lens of faith – year-round
Bullying Awareness Week – Activities within the school
Remembrance Day Prayer at Service – November 10, 2023
Shirt of My Back – Lent 2024
Wellness Committee – Various campaigns and activities to promote well-being
Eco-Team Stewardship Initiatives
Bereavement Group – Second Semester
Catholic Education Week Soap Drive – Donations to Canadian Food for Children
Pink Shirt Day
Treaties Recognition Week
Breakfast Program

**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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday, May 6	Guest Speaker: Dean Wardak- shares his story of hope and strength
Tuesday, May 7	Class Liturgies in Chapel – Period 2
Wednesday, May 8	Relay for Life for Cancer Research
Thursday, May 9	Food table – Donation Day
Friday, May 10	Catholic Trivia Competition based on themes of week – Homeroom classes

## 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.*

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 continues 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 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: 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 creates a faith filled department that works toward self-directed life-long learning, responsible citizenship, and to become a discerning believer. These attributes and others work 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 in chapel, Rosaries, Pick-A-Message inspiration quotes
Chaplaincy Office – 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 Club
Red Dress Day
Truth and Reconciliation Week
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:*

Visits by parish priests for Mass, Reconciliation and other liturgical events
Strong communication with Pastor and Pastoral team
Meetings at parish with feeder school administration for yearly planning (September and May)
Support parish charities (Knights of Columbus initiatives, Christmas Baskets)
Student participation in parish Youth Group and other ministries (altar servers, music, etc.)
Promote parish events / activities / initiatives through video & tv programming in school



## 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
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:*

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 – Spring 2024
Ordinandi Student Luncheon
Vocations Day – Spring 2024
Resources for graduates about various campus ministries in post-secondary institutions
Witness talks

### Resource List for Parents/Guardians

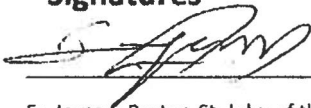
- General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2024 – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- Synod on Synodality - [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

### Resource List for Schools

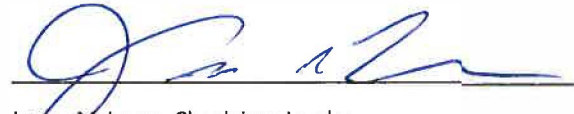
- General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2024 – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
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**Signature Page**

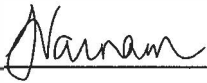
**Signatures**



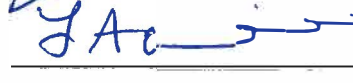
Fr. Joyson, Pastor, St. John of the Cross



James McLevey, Chaplaincy Leader



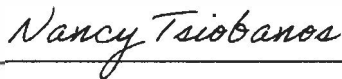
Jennifer Varnam, Principal



Laura Aquilina, Department Head of Religious Education

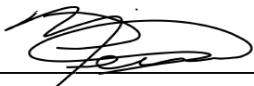


Mary Ambrogi, Vice Principal



Nancy Tsiobanos, Vice Principal

Laura Odo, Superintendent, Mississauga North



Neisma Peredo, School Council Chair



Teresa Principe, Faith Ambassador