

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Dominic Separate School

School Mission Statement:

As a Catholic School Community, we are committed to nurturing and developing the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth of each student. We pledge to promote an effective partnership with home, school and the Parish in a safe, caring, inclusive and Christian environment. The mission of St. Dominic School is to further develop the faith of our members and to recognize that God lives in all of us. We strive to promote academic excellence in a success-oriented environment. Through social outreach programs, we strive to help students develop healthy minds, bodies and spirits. Instilling self-respect, respect for others as well as compassion and empathy are our goals as a school.

St. Dominic School works in partnership with the Church. We belong to St. Dominic Parish and are fortunate to have Father Phil Jones celebrate the Eucharist, share in liturgies and prepare and administer the sacraments.

School Motto: Together We Learn

Pastoral Plan Links to Strategic Plan/Catholic Board Learning Plan:

▶ **Link: Strategic Plan [2014-2019 Strategic System Plan](#)**

Our Parish: St. Dominic

Pastor: *Rev. Philip D. Jones*

Parish website: *www.stdominicschurch.ca*

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of St. Dominic's Parish. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for mass. Weekend masses – Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Weekday masses - Monday and Friday 8 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 7:00p.m. ; Wednesday 9:15 a.m.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Dominic Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment. We would like to welcome all parents/guardians to the council for it is through active participation that our students' lives will be enriched.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Walking Forward Together

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.

April 30 – May 5 is Catholic Education Week.

*Walking Forward Together
St. Dominic and Queen Heaven School Mass at St. Dominic Parish (May 10)
Environment Presentation
School Spring Concert*

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.

As a school community we begin each day with Morning Prayers and gospel readings. Our monthly Virtue celebrations focus on virtues and highlight the students who have displayed the virtue of the month. Each week grade level teaching partners from Queen of Heaven School and St. Dominic School attend weekly masses at St. Dominic Parish.

We celebrate several times throughout the year at St. Dominic Parish with our neighbouring school Queen of Heaven with the Pastoral Team of St. Dominic Parish. The Grade 8 students from Queen of Heaven and St. Dominic also celebrate liturgical activities with the students from St. Paul S.S. on Shadow Day in October to support elementary transitions to High School.

Our Grade 2 & 7 students prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

Our Youth Faith Ambassador program is very strong. Our YFA assist in food drives, Christmas outreach initiatives, liturgies, and Spring concert.

Each month the Rosary Apostles visit our school to pray the rosary with each class.

The Adult Faith Ambassadors provide liturgies for the staff especially during Advent and Lent. These liturgies help us to reflect and become closer to our Catholic traditions and values as a staff.

Sacramental Preparation:

As Catholic 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>Registration for Confirmation</i>		<i>March 27 at 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Confirmation Enrollment</i>		<i>April 8 and 9 at all masses Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:30am, 11:30 am and 2:00 pm</i>
<i>Celebration of Confirmation for Grade 7 Candidates</i>		<i>Saturday June 3 at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 4 at 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 2:00 p.m. Masses</i>
<i>Registration for First Communion/First Reconciliation</i>	<i>Sunday, Sept. 25 at 1:30 p.m. and Sept. 27 in the St. Dominic Church Hall</i>	
<i>First Reconciliation Celebration</i>	<i>Saturday, December 3 at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish</i>	
<i>First Communion Enrollment</i>	<i>Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, November 27 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses</i>	
<i>First Communion Celebration</i>	<i>Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Masses</i>	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
<i>Opening School Mass with Queen of Heaven</i>	<i>October 12th , 2016 at 9:15 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Remembrance Day liturgy</i>	<i>November 11th , 2016 at 10:30 am in our school gym</i>
<i>School Mass with Queen of Heaven School</i>	<i>November 16th, 2017 at 9:15 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Weekly Mass with grade level partners from Queen of Heaven and St. Dominic Schools</i>	<i>One class from each school celebrates mass together at St. Dominic Parish every Wednesday, except when there is a School mass scheduled.</i>

<i>Family Advent Mass</i>	<i>December 15th, 2016 at 7:00 pm at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>School Mass with Queen of Heaven School</i>	<i>January 18th, 2017 at 9:15 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>March 1st, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Easter Mass</i>	<i>April 12th, 2017 at 9:15 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Catholic Education School Mass with Queen of Heaven</i>	<i>May 10th, 2017 at 9:15 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>
<i>Closing Mass/Graduation Mass for Grade 8 Students from St. Dominic School</i>	<i>June 28th, 2017 at 10:00 am at St. Dominic Parish</i>

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.

St. Dominic School participates in several activities that support members of our school, our community and the world.

Share Life/United Way/Other Charities: Donations are collected through various activities – Dress Down Fridays, ShareLife, Terry Fox Walk, Free the Children Clean Water Coin Collection, and St. Vincent de Paul, Angels on the Tree donations.

Food Drives: St. Dominic staff and students share the spirit of the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter) by conducting food drives to benefit the St. Dominic Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Dr. Simone Food Bank.

Blessing in a Box: Items are donated at Christmas and placed in shoeboxes which are distributed within the Parish community and St. Vincent de Paul.

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.

To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community challenge our students to be active members by joining various clubs such as Eco, Youth Faith Ambassadors, Free the Children, PALS, Chess, Battle of the Books and sports such as Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball etc. Each month students from different classes together with their teachers create the virtue liturgies for St. Dominic School.

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 and the OCSGE are celebrated each day when we gather to pray. Gospel readings and prayers are infused with the lessons of Virtues and the OCSGE. Students are recognized by their individual teachers for their achievements with regards the Virtues and/or OCSGE.

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.

The St. Dominic community of students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrator, will answer to our foundation call of our Baptism. Through our actions and our words we will answer to the call of acting justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly, to serve generously and to live peacefully.
In developing a renewed appreciation of hope in the Church, we accept our spiritual gifts. We promote unity within our school community by gathering together in a variety of contexts to share common prayers. Prayer is experienced daily as a whole school community, as a class and as an individual. Readings are shared with the whole school. Classroom prayer is also part of the dismissal times at lunch and end of day.

Students and staff are invited to participate in The Rosary. The rosary is prayed, in class with the assistance of pastoral outreach from St. Dominic Parish.

The St. Dominic Youth Faith Ambassadors work together to help the students of the school understand the gospel stories. The YFA organize and coordinate the Food Drives and read the Virtue Announcements.

The school choir is made up of students from Grades 3 -8. The students gather together to practice holy music and sing at every mass and liturgy.

The Adult Faith Formation Team help to enrich the spiritual lives of the adults in our school community. The Adult Faith Team help to organize Family of School Events, namely the Advent and Lent Weekly Liturgies for staff.

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

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **Vocations Units**

We have Vocations units as part of the Grades 2, 5, and 8 curriculum. The goal of these supplementary units is to deepen one's understanding of God's call – the “*vocare*” – to various forms of life within the Church.

- **History of the Parish**

Through the resource book *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*, grade 7 students have the opportunity to learn about the history of our parish.

- **Enduring Gift Video**

School-Based