

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **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 the home, school and the Parish in a safe, caring, inclusive and Catholic environment. Our mission is to provide many opportunities to further develop the faith of all 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 as our school goals.

School Motto: Together we learn

Our Parish: St. Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Terence Dias

Parish website: <https://stdominischurch.blogspot.com/>

Message from the Pastor:

St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School is under the pastoral care of St. Dominic Parish. We invite and encourage families to register with the parish and join us for mass on:

- Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.
- Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

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

Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2023

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One
L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un

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.

“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.» (Romains 12, 5)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

Monday: **When we see / En voyant**

Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**

Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**

Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**

Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

A variety of activities will be held during Catholic Education Week that highlight our students bringing their faith into action. Our Crowning of Mary Celebration, praying of the Rosary, and Celebrating Mass will bring our students and community together not only in prayer and reflection but also to our commitment to our own relationship with Christ.

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 that concentrate on scripture. Scripture readings are explained in student friendly language and reflect upon a variety of ways that not only integrate the curriculum but are presented so that students can relate and make a connection to their own lives.

School wide masses are celebrated at St. Dominic's Parish in person with students from Queen of Heaven and St. Paul's Secondary School.

Every Wednesday, one of our classes and one class from Queen of Heaven will celebrate mass at St. Dominic's Parish. This is an opportunity for students to participate in the traditions and customs of a Catholic Mass. It will also help students strengthen their own relationship with Jesus.

Grade 2 and Grade 7 students will prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation respectively this year. The school and parish will work in collaboration to prepare our students through Catechism classes and retreats.

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors and school leaders at St. Dominic School will plan, organize and assist in food drives, gift card drives, Christmas outreach initiatives, eco-friendly and healthy life style initiatives, building a strong sense of school community and putting their faith into action.

Our school community participated in a naturalization project with the Credit Valley Conservation Group. Our students took part in planting and learning about trees and shrubs and being stewards of the earth.

All meetings, staff, divisional, school council, IPRC meetings etc. begin with our land acknowledgement, prayer and short liturgies and reflections that focus on deepening our faith as educators and followers of Jesus.

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
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Preparation Classes with St. Dominic Parish Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Church	
Sacrament of First Communion	Preparation Classes with St. Dominic Parish Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Church	
Sacrament of Confirmation		Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Church Retreat with St. Dominic Parish

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening / Thanksgiving Mass	October 26th, 2022
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11th, 2022
Advent Mass	December 6th, 2022
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 22nd, 2023
Easter Mass	April 19th, 2023
Year End Mass	June 14th, 2023
Graduation Mass	June 20th, 2023

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.

Social justice is an integral part of the Church teachings. Social justice calls us to preserve everyone's human dignity and to work with one another to help and care for all living things in our world.

St. Dominic School participates in various outreach activities and supports organizations such as:

- The Terry Fox Foundation
- Food drives and Gift Card drives
- Angel Tree – Donation of gift cards for needy families at Christmas
- ShareLife is supported throughout the school year by a variety of activities such as dress down Friday for staff and school spirit weeks for students
- Our Eco School team is fundamental to all that we do in looking after and sustaining our environment here at St. Dominic School and within our community

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.

Showing respect for Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations (OCSGE) means infusing them into daily activities and curriculum.

Posters outlining the OCSGE are visibly displayed in the front foyer of the school. Grade 8 staff regularly incorporate the OCSGE in lessons and formally recognize students who emulating each of the OCSGE at the graduation ceremony with an award. Through social justice programs, student led liturgies, curriculum links and parent education, we highlight the OCSGEs as the central foundation for all our students.

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.

As a Catholic community, we embed the Virtues program in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically.

We incorporate Virtues into our daily prayers, lessons, classroom displays, and acknowledge the good actions of our students. Students are provided with examples of stories that display the virtues to assist in teaching, modelling and guiding students in making better decisions.

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.

Symbols of our faith are visible in each classroom and throughout the school. Liturgical cloths, crosses, Bibles, sacred spaces, Advent wreaths, candles and books that speak to our Catholic faith are clearly evident, especially during our virtual liturgies and celebrations.

The display case and entrance to the school welcomes all who enter through our doors and gives a strong message to our visitors that St. Dominic is a Catholic School in word, deed and action. Staff and students are committed to Catholic Education and living out our Faith daily through prayer, reflections and kind acts of charity and compassion.

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 “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2023 <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources-2/>
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

Signature Page

Pastor Rev. Terence Dias

Chair of Catholic School Council Natasha Kovar

Principal Laurie Mundy

Superintendent Cairine MacDonald