

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Faustina Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Working through the open arms of Christ, the St. Faustina Catholic School community of dedicated staff, parents and parish collaborate to establish an atmosphere of positive learning that respects the uniqueness of each individual child. Children will be nurtured in the development of self-esteem and self-discipline, enabling them to celebrate Christian values of respect, communication, honesty and love. The integration of faith, culture and knowledge provides a stimulating environment that encourages children to grow emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually to their full potential as responsible, contributing members of society.

School Motto: Jesus, I Trust in You

Our Parish: St. Josephine Bakhita

Pastor: *Rev. Mark Villanueva*

Parish website: www.stjosephinebakhita.org

Message from the Pastor:

Greetings in the Lord! St. Josephine Bakhita Parish recognizes that strong parish-home-school connections are foundational to supporting the development of students in the Ontario Catholic School system. We will continue to guide and support the work of schools in Sacramental preparation. Through the continuation of sharing best practices with our elementary schools, students will affirm their Catholic faith in word and action through a variety of initiatives. We wish the students of St. Faustina School a blessed and fruitful school year and moving forward, look ahead to the success of all students.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Mark Achilles Villanueva
Pastor

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. Faustina School community strives to live the teachings of Christ, instilling these faith values in our children. The home, school, parish partnership is essential in our children's faith development ensuring that "each one called by name" reaches his or her potential through the Catholic Graduate Expectations. The Catholic School Council of St. Faustina School supports the work of staff, students, and parent community as we journey in faith together by promoting the vision, sacramental life and Catholic practices of St. Faustina School. We welcome all members of the community to share in our journey through the many celebrations, gatherings, and social justice initiatives held at St. Faustina.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Nurturing Hope / Cultiver l'espérance

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.

May 2 – May 7, 2021 is Catholic Education Week.

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)
«Ceux qui mettent leur espérance dans le Seigneur trouvent des forces nouvelles.» (Isaïe 40,31)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:

- Monday: **Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre**
- Tuesday: **Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude**
- Wednesday: **Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations**
- Thursday: **Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits**
- Friday: **Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller**

Our staff, students, and parents will be involved in activities that provide us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate Catholic Education. During this week, there will be a variety of in-class activities that will be designed to highlight the unique role our faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum. Information will be shared with the community closer to Catholic Education Week.

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.

St. Faustina Catholic Elementary School promotes faith by having youth actively involved in developing their faith formation as well as Adult Faith Leaders who provide guidance, support, liturgical opportunities to support our staff. Our school community continues to promote and empower our students to become discerning believers, effective communicators, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners, collaborative contributors, caring family members and responsible citizens. Through liturgy, word, and action we embrace and practice our Catholic responsibility and Gospel values. Our plan for faith formation this school year will, understandably be altered due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

- Faith In Action Team (F.I.A.T.) Youth Faith Ambassador initiatives
- Faith Ambassador gatherings for staff
- School wide Liturgical celebrations
- School wide morning prayer
- Daily classroom prayer
- Daily Religious and Family Life Education
- Rosary Apostolate
- Sacramental Retreats
- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others

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	tbd	
First Holy Communion	tbd	
Sacrament of Confirmation		

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass live stream	October 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
Advent Mass at the parish	*December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday at the school	*February 26, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
Easter Mass at the parish	*April 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
Year End Graduation Mass at the school	*June 19, 2021 at 1:15 p.m.

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.

Our school participates in various outreach activities and supports organizations such as Share Life, St. Vincent de Paul, Eden Food For Change, etc. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors typically organize food drives throughout the school year as well as raise funds to support various Catholic agencies and charities. Staff also contribute to Share Life by participating in casual dress days and special events, throughout the school year. Our plan for social justice and outreach activities as well as our support for charities this school year will, understandably, be altered due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Further details will evolve as the 2020-2021 school year progresses.

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.

St. Faustina School staff strive to instill the values of the Catholic Graduate Expectations into our curriculum to help students as they journey in faith to becoming caring family members and responsible citizens.

The Catholic Curriculum resources at all grade levels, contribute to achieving the expectations for all graduating students.

Some of the ways we highlight these expectations include:

- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations highlighted at school assembly
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations Medallions awarded at school assembly
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are integrated in classroom activities
- The Grade 8 classes reflect on the OCSGE as part of a self-reflection assignment in preparation for graduation from elementary 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.

At St. Faustina School, we pray a daily prayer for the Virtue of the Month. We have monthly school-wide assemblies to celebrate the virtues and recognize students who have displayed the virtues in their daily interactions within the school community. We infuse the virtues in our daily teachings to promote greater awareness of living out the virtues in our lives including:

- Monthly Assemblies celebrating the virtue of the month, including student liturgies
- Students presented with the Living Our Faith Award and Principal's Award
- Virtues are integrated in morning liturgy with students

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.

St. Faustina School welcomes the community with a faith filled foyer displaying an altar, bible, cross, mural, school banner, Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations banner, and prayer space for community members who have passed away. Each classroom contains a sacred space including a prayer table and other faith objects. Staff and students of St. Faustina strive to live the Gospel values daily. Through our community service we demonstrate our faith as:

- Stewards Of The Earth - led by our Eco Team
- Youth Faith Ambassadors – led by our Faith In Action Team (FIAT)
- Service Project at Dr. Simone's Warehouse

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 "Laudato Si'" - [Laudato Si'](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

Resource List for Schools:**Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si'" - [Laudato Si'](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)

- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

School-Based

- School Website <http://www.dpcdsb.org/FAUST>
- School Twitter @StFaustinaES