

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** **St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre**

## **School Mission Statement:**

We, the inclusive Catholic Community of St. James, are called and committed to cultivate an environment where our students are inspired to grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and culturally.

We encourage our students to become compassionate life-long learners and active citizens of a diverse global community.

**School Motto:** Creative, Collaborative, Curious & Compassionate

**Our Parish:** St. Mary Star of the Sea

**Pastor:** *Rev. Michael Simoes*

**Parish website:** <https://stmarystaroftheseami.archtoronto.org>

## **Message from the Pastor:**

Dear School Staff and Students,

Many blessings to you in this school year. These blessings come to you in various ways and we are to give thanks to God for them. The first is being aware of these blessings. They come when we have some sort of accomplishment, whether it be in academics or in sports. They come to us in our friendships that we develop and maintain. They come to us when we have a personal breakthrough and live out the virtues.

The reality is that God is blessing us at all moments. And as we receive them, we give thanks to God for them. As we become more aware of those blessings, the more we develop an attitude of gratitude. Having an attitude of gratitude assists us in many ways. As staff and students, the most applicable way that an attitude of gratitude assists is when we are comparing ourselves to others. Rather than comparing, give thanks to God for what you have because it is exactly what you need to be holy.

The word Eucharist means Thanksgiving. It is right praise of God when we are thankful. That is why we come together as a school community connected to the parish community to offer that thanks to God in Holy Mass. Our lives become enriched when we allow this to happen every week on Sunday.

Be assured of my prayers for the St. James' school community.

### **Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The St. James 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. The council supports opportunities to celebrate our faith, recognizing the celebration of the new sacraments for students and collaborating in school wide charity work.

### **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**

As a school we will....

- share how students are learning and sharing in faith
- highlight the significance of Catholic education's presence and contribution in our Church, school and in our society.
- Welcome Father Michael into classrooms on the Feast Day of St James
- Welcome into classrooms parish Youth Minister & Lay Pastoral Associate

### **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.*

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as there that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14*

Improve student application of scripture, sacramental life and Catholic social teachings by:

- Term 1 focus on responses through Liturgy of the Word celebrations, Father Michael Celebrant
- Term 2 focus on parts of the mass through school masses, Celebrant Father Michael hosted at the school and at the parish
- ensuring that Sacred Spaces and visual signs of our faith are evident throughout the school and in classrooms
- providing students with leadership opportunities by having students lead morning prayers/announcements from their classroom
- encouraging reflection on Gospel reading of the day
- supporting sacramental preparation
- highlighting Virtue Program
- encouraging Youth Faith Ambassador outreach activities
- providing Adult Faith opportunities

### **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.*

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35*

Event	Grade 2	Grade 7
Lay Pastoral Associate classroom visits	September 27, March 8, May 4	
First Communion parent information meeting	October 6, 2022	
Confirmation parent information meeting		October 13, 2022
Sacrament of Reconciliation	March 4, 2023	
Sacrament of First Communion	April 30, 2023	
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 28, 2023

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

*His disciplines said To Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." Luke 1:1*

Celebration	Date
Opening/Thanksgiving liturgy of the word	October 19, 2022
Advent – Family Mass	December 13, 2022 at 7 pm
Ash Wednesday liturgy of the word	February 22, 2023
Lenten Mass	March 22, 2023
Crowning of Mary	TBA
Easter Mass	April 19, 2023
Year end mass	June 15, 2023
Graduation Mass	TBA

### 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.*

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Our school participates in a variety of activities that support members of our school, community and the world:

- Book Drive
- ShareLife
- Terry Fox
- Christmas Hampers
- Food Drives
- Dr. Simone – Canadian Feed the Children

Global community outreach opportunities

### **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.*

*Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let each exercise them accordingly.*  
*Romans 12:6*

To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community, challenge our students to be active members of the school, local and global communities. We encourage our intermediate students to minister to the family, school, parish and wider community through service as part of their preparation of the sacrament of confirmation as well as their IB MYP Community Project Reflection. We are explicit in the connections between the IB Learner Attributes and the Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

### **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 God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:12-16*

The notion of virtue is deeply rooted in Catholic Christian tradition. It is in a community of caring, committed partners that we find the space and time to become our best selves. Virtue formation contributes to a healthy positive learning environment by fostering a climate in which all members feel safe, confident and hope-filled about themselves, their relationships and their futures.

By praying, we receive the grace of God to continue to concentrate on finding ways to follow Jesus' example in all that we say and do.

Each month we focus on and celebrate a particular virtue: September-Faith October-Empathy November-Conscious December-Hope January-Self-Control February-Respect March-Kindness April-Love May-Acceptance June-Fairness

Students are recognized at our school monthly virtue assembly. The virtue is highlighted during morning announcements and in the monthly newsletters.

### **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.*

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:19-20*

- Visible signs of our Faith include: crosses, bibles, advent wreaths, prayer tables.
- School masses and liturgies of the word take place in the school gymnasium and at the parish
- Prayer is experienced daily as a whole school community, as a class and as an individual.
- Classroom prayer is an integral part of the dismissal and lunch procedures.
- Gospel Readings are shared during morning announcements.
- Classroom prayer tables/corners reflect the liturgical calendar and colours.
- Lay pastoral associate and youth minister from the parish visit classes
- Monthly school assemblies recognize students who have demonstrated the virtue of the month.
- Morning prayers and messages reinforce the monthly virtues.

**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](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2022 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- 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 2021 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

**School-Based**

- Children’s Daily Prayer for the School Year 2022-2023
- Fully Alive / Many Gifts / Growing in Christ
- Vocations Units
- History of the Dufferin-Peel Parishes - *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*
- Various Library Books/Resources

**Signature Page**

**Pastor Rev. *Michael Simoes***

**Faith Ambassador(s) *Janette Roy***

**Chairs of Catholic School Council *Airene Cunanan & Adam Patola***

**Principal *Michelle Cloutier McCann***

**Superintendent *Cairine MacDonald***