

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. John the Baptist Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

We believe that education is a life-long process involving physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development.

To this end, we will strive to promote the full development of children in the image of Christ. We believe that each member of the St. John the Baptist School Community is unique and special and has a positive contribution to make to society.

We aspire to be living examples of Christ's message of love, serving as role models in the Christian formation of all members of the Community. We endeavor to "touch the hearts and minds of those with whom we work," and in co-operation with our parents, and our parish priests, we will assist children in their own personal development of faith and appreciation and understanding of the Gospel values. Together, we will provide a friendly and caring environment that inspires academic excellence, fosters self-esteem, and promotes respect for others.

School Motto: Preparing the Way

Our Parish: Holy Family

Pastor: *Rev. Andrew Cyruk*

Parish website: <https://holyfamilybo.archtoronto.org/>

Message from the Pastor:

Holy Family Parish recognizes how the School and Parish serve the family – the “Domestic Church”. In a sense the Family and the School are rooted in the soil we call “Parish”.

Holy Family supports the faith formation of students and staff within St. John the Baptist School Community through liturgy, prayer, and the Sacraments. St. John the Baptist School supports the work of evangelization in the parish through promotion of parish wide Youth Ministries.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. John the Baptist's 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.

Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together
L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Restaurer, Renouveler Ensemble

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.

***"Behold, I make all things new."* (Revelation 21:5)**
***«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.»* (Apocalypse 21,5)**

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are:

Monday: **Rediscover / Redécouvrir**
Tuesday: **Rebuild / Rebâtir**
Wednesday: **Restore / Restaurer**
Thursday: **Renew / Renouveler**
Friday: **Rejoice / Se réjouir**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

Activities and events planned for the Week:

- Celebration of Mary – Virtual
- First Communion Retreat – Tentative

- Rosary presentation – Tentative
- Various in-class activities/celebrations

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.

Please highlight the school activities that support both adult and student faith formation.

- Virtues assemblies – Virtual
- Rosary Apostolate – on hold
- Food Drives – Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Food Drives
- Hat, Glove and Scarf Drive in conjunction with Holy Family Parish
- Advent Retreat (staff) – on hold
- Seder Meal (staff) – on hold
- Staff/student liturgies – virtual
- Youth Faith Ambassadors – Virtual
- Masses at the school – Virtual
- Adult Faith Ambassadors

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
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>May/June 2022</i>	
Enrolment of Confirmation		October 31, 2021
Enrolment First Communion	October 31, 2021	
Parent Catechetical Meetings on the Eucharist	TBD	
Celebration Of First Reconciliation	TBD	
First Communion	TBD	

Information/Confirmation Meeting		TBD
Confirmation Catechetical Meetings		TBD
Confirmation		TBD

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Thursday November 11, 2021 Virtual
Advent Mass	Thursday December 16, 2021 Virtual/Pending
Ash Wednesday Celebration	Wednesday February 2, 2022 Virtual
Stations of the Cross	Thursday April 14, 2022 Virtual
Easter Mass	Tuesday April 19, 2022 Virtual/Pending
Year End Mass	Monday June 27, 2022 Virtual/Pending
Graduation Mass	Pending

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Christmas Child – pending • Hat, glove and Scarf drive with Holy Family Parish for St. Leonard place • Food Drives supporting families in Caledon region – directed to food banks • Jump Rope for Heart – pending • Autism and Down Syndrome Awareness days – pending • <i>ShareLife-in conjunction with Food drives and various staff events</i> • Terry Fox – raising awareness and funds |
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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.

- Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place
- Post visible signs of the OCSGE around the school and classrooms
- Celebrate mass/virtues as a school community
- Promote forgiveness, honesty, and respect when conflicts arise
- Listen to the word of God through morning scripture and prayers
- Focus on respecting the thoughts and opinions of others
- Celebrate our gifts given to us by God
- Care about our school, parish, community, and the world around us
- School Eco-Team focuses on being Stewards of the Earth, maintains community garden and memorial tree

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 St. John the Baptist school community celebrates the Virtues in the following ways:

- Teachers use the virtues as the foundation of their teaching and learning experiences
- Monthly assemblies are held celebrating the virtues and recognizing students who exemplify the virtues with Virtue certificates
- Inclusion of virtue in monthly newsletter
- Visible signs in the front foyer highlighting the virtue of the month

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.

- Altar in the foyer of the school
- Visual displays of many Saints
- Sculpture of St. John the Baptist in foyer
- Prayer space in each classroom
- Crucifix in every classroom and office

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 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

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 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

School-Based

- Many Gifts Resource

- Fully Alive Program- All about Me program
- St. John the Baptist website Parish tab
- Church bulletin available in school office
- School Council Parish Rep liaison shares information from Parish to Council
- Teacher reference and student library resources

Signature Page

Pastor

Faith Ambassador(s) *(as applicable)*

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

Principal

Superintendent