

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. John of the Cross Catholic School**

School Mission Statement:

As a nurturing Catholic community, made up of students, staff, parish and families, committed to the highest quality academic and spiritual growth...we develop our children as self-directed life-long learners.

School Motto: "Committed to Spiritual and Academic Growth"

▶ **Link: Catholic Board Learning Plan CBILC 2016-2019**

Our Pastoral Plan supports the work of the CBILC centered on creating Catholic conditions that promote respectable and sustainable environmental practices through eco-schools, reduce and recycle programs, moving towards a paperless learning environment and continuing towards the eco-certification for the Province of Ontario.

Our Pastoral Plan supports all areas of the Board's Learning Plan by teaching the students the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and establishing ways to promote Pathways to Success through our All About Me Portfolios.

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross

Pastor: *Rev. Joyson George, O. Carm.*

Parish website: www.saintjohnofthecross.com

Message from the Pastor:

As a pastor of a Carmelite Parish, we are blessed to have a special relationship with the Family of Schools, all named in the Carmelite tradition. We have the opportunity to gather and celebrate our faith together whilst forming our children in the Catholic tradition and the particular uniqueness of our Carmelite heritage.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

As a Catholic School Council we strive to build upon and reinforce the connection of the parish, the school and parents/students in all that we do. Our mission is to build upon the foundation and tools available to the community to strengthen our relationship with God and the Church.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope

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 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us**

Thursday: **Hope for the World**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope**

- Catholic Education week resources ordered and available for staff in Library
- Catholic Education Week Liturgies in the classrooms based on one of the Sub-themes from Dec. to April.
- Catholic Education Week Mass for the whole school in May
- Community celebration honoring Mary-Rosary Apostolate in the Schools
- Theme of Catholic Education Week shared in Newsletter
- Catholic Education Week prayers over P.A. for the whole school

- Parent Engagement Evening
- Dance Presentation

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.

Everyday Life at School

Christianity and the expectations of our Catholic faith are embedded in all actions and activities, which occur each and every day in our community. The day begins with our National Anthem, the Gospel Reading of the day and prayers/reflections led by our students that focus on the Virtue of the Month. Prayer is an integral part of our day and children pray with their teachers in a variety of ways and at different times throughout the day, such as grace before meals.

Student Faith Ambassadors promote Social Justice Projects within the school (i.e. Angel on a tree for Christmas Gifts sponsoring families within the community; Food Drives; Share life; Rosary Apostolate, Stations of the Cross, etc.)

Signs & Symbols of Faith

Various signs and symbols are displayed throughout the school as reminders of our Catholic beliefs and traditions. At the office, in the front foyer, Library, halls and classrooms: foyer monthly virtue display, altar/prayer table, bible, candle, crucifix, stations of the cross, banners, pictures, prayer books...

Liturgical Season Symbols

Jesse Tree, Advent Wreathes, Nativity Scene, Altar Cloths in foyer and on classroom prayer tables to reflect liturgical season.

Catechesis

- † Religion Program: Cdn. Catechism
- † Family Life Program: Fully Alive
- † Additional Programs:
 - ~ Gr. 4 Sexual Abuse Prevention
 - ~ Aids Program for Grades 1 to 8
 - ~ Grade 7 Chosen

Liturgical Celebrations

Liturgical celebrations are a way of actively participating, acknowledging and renewing our faith.

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
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<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>Nov 11, 14, & 15 @ 7:00</i>	
<i>First Communion Enrolment</i>	<i>Feb 15, 16, & Feb 22, 23 All Masses</i>	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Grade 2 Saturday April 25, 10:30am Sunday April 26, 2:00pm Saturday May 2, 10:30am Sunday May 3, 2:00pm	
Rite of Enrolment		October 20, 27 All masses
Reconciliation & Retreat		Saturday March 28, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Sacrament of Confirmation		Grade 7 April 21, 2020, 7pm April 23, 2020, 7pm April 28, 2020, 7pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 8, 2019
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11, 2019
Advent Staff Liturgies	Weekly during Advent
Advent/Feast Day Mass	December 13, 2019 @ 10:45 @ School
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 26, 2020
Reconciliation- All Grades	April 2, 2020
Staff Lenten Liturgies	Weekly during Lent
Stations of the Cross Presentation	April 9, 2020
Catholic Education Week Mass	May 4, 2020 @ 1:15 @ School
Marion Celebration	May 7, 2020
Graduation/End of Year Mass	June 16, 2020 @ 10:15 am @ Church
Graduation Liturgy/Celebration	June 23, 2020 in School Gym

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:

- *ShareLife Activities*
- *Terry Fox Walk/Run*
- *Food Drives*
- *Angel on the Tree (Christmas)*
- *Sock Drop*

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:

- *Banner display in the front entrance of the school*
- *Classroom Discussions*
- *Bulletin Board of student reflections*

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.

To celebrate our Virtues, we as a school community:

- *Virtue prayer daily over the PA Announcements*

- *Monthly Library Virtue Display with resources available to reinforce learning in classrooms
- *School entrance Virtue display board changes monthly based on the Virtue of the Month- Students work is displayed to represent the virtue of the month
- *In classrooms, students' reflections monthly

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.

We have Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables, Community Service, Foyer Altar
 Framed prints of Pope Francis, Religious leaders and Saints
 Library display of Religious symbols and virtue resources
 OCSGE banners
 Banners of our Virtues
 Each classroom has an interactive sacred space
 Newsletters
 Catholic School Council
 Faith Ambassadors/Youth Faith Ambassadors
 Front Foyer monthly Virtue display

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](#)