

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: 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: Choose an item. " Committed to Spiritual and Academic Growth"

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross Parish

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

Parish website: Choose an item. <https://stjohnofthecrossmi.archtoronto.org/>

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 informing 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 – May 5th – May 10th, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Called to Love
L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer

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.

"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12

Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)


The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

- Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**
Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**
Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**
Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**
Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

Activities and/or events planned for the Week:

- Catholic Education week resources ordered and available for staff in Library
- Catholic Education Week Liturgies in the classrooms based on the sub-themes
- Community celebration honoring Mary-Crowning of Mary (Rosary Apostolate)
- Theme of Catholic Education Week shared in Newsletter
- Catholic Education Week prayers over P.A. for the whole school
- Parent Engagement Evening and/or 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 part and parcel of all actions and activities, which occur each day in our community. The day begins with our National Anthem, followed by the Gospel Reading of the day and prayers 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 Catholic Equity and Well-Being Ambassadors promote Social Justice Projects within the school (i.e., Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, Angel on the Tree for Christmas, Gifts sponsoring SVDP; 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 Wreath, Nativity Scene, Altar Cloths 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

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>	Nov 20 & 21 @7:00pm	
<i>First Holy Communion- Enrolment Ceremony</i>	Jan. 27 & 28 All masses Feb 3 & 4 All Masses	
<i>Sacrament of First Holy Communion</i>	Saturday, April 13 -10:30am Sunday, April 14 - 2:00pm Saturday, April 20 - 10:30am Sunday, April 21 @ 2:00pm	
<i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>		Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:00pm Thursday, April 11 @ 7:00pm

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 5, 2023
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10, 2023
Advent Staff Liturgies	Weekly during Advent
Advent Liturgy/Distribution of Advent Wreath	November 27, 2023
Advent Feast Day Mass	December 14, 2023
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14, 2024
Reconciliation- All Grades	February 29, 2024
Staff Lenten Liturgies	Weekly during Lent
Stations of the Cross Presentation	March 28, 2024
Marion Celebration	May 9, 2024
Graduation/End of the Year Mass	June 18, 2024
Graduation Liturgy Celebration	June 26, 2024

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 Marathon of Hope
- *Food Drives
- *Angel on the Tree (Christmas)
- *Canadian Food for Children Candy Drive

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:

- *Display banner in the front entrance of the school
- *Engage in classroom discussions regarding the OCSGE
- *Create bulletin boards 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 engage in:
- *Monthly Virtue prayers daily over the announcements
 - *Monthly Library Virtue Displays with resources available to reinforce learning in classrooms
 - *Monthly Virtue display board based on the Virtue of the Month with students' reflections

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 Awards
- *Foyer Altar
- *Framed prints of Pope Francis, Religious Leaders and Saints
- * Library display of religious symbols and virtue resources
- * OCSGE banners
- *Banners and 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:

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar**
- **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 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024**
- **Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024**

Resource List for Schools:

Board

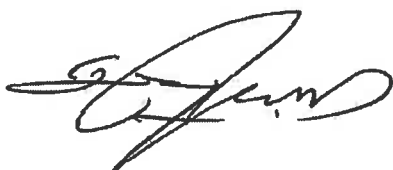
- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar**
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023**
- **Renewing the Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education**
- **Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti" - Fratelli Tutti**
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024**
- **Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024**

School-Based

- Virtues Programs
- OCSGE
- Library Faith Resources

Signature Page

Pastor



Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable) Mya Vigna Keira

Teacher(s)

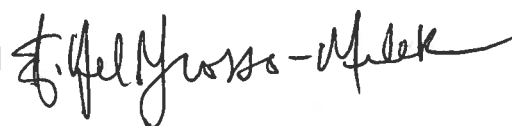
Jeffromazela Dmeany

Chair of Catholic School Council

Ashly Carlamae

Vice Principal(s) N/A.

Principal



Superintendent

