

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **St. John Fisher Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

We believe in providing a positive school environment that enhances its members to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and intellectually to their fullest potential.

We believe in the development and sharing of Christian values as witness in the Catholic tradition.

We believe in fostering a mutually cooperative relationship among the home, school and parish to develop the full uniqueness of the individual.

We believe in individual dignity, encompassing age, gender, race, capability and culture.

We believe in the constant growth in the preparation for the future, while cherishing the richness of our past.

School Motto: Learning in God's Light

Our Parish: St. John Fisher

Pastor: Rev. Regulo Imperial

Parish website: <http://stjohnfisher.ca>

Message from the Pastor:

St. John Fisher Parish collaborates with St. John Fisher School establishing a liturgical calendar to guide us throughout the year. The calendar reflects Eucharistic Masses held as a school community at the Parish. The staff work closely with Father Imperial in establishing guidelines and programs for Sacramental preparation (Grade 2 and 7). The children also receive school wide Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Correspondence from the Parish is relayed through Church Bulletins and school updates. Families are encouraged to participate in all liturgical celebrations at the Parish.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Our Catholic School Advisory Council is an integral part of the parish – school - home connection at St. John Fisher School. Through collaborative practices, we support many faith-forming and community-building initiatives and events which develop the whole child and contribute to improved student achievement and overall well-being. We value and depend on the strong partnership that already exists among our families, staff and parish. We look forward to building our partnership as we continue demonstrating our united commitment to Catholic Education.

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**

For Catholic Education Week our schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 4– Staff Appreciation Day

Tuesday, May 5- Catholic Education Week School Mass 7:00 P.M.,

Wednesday, May 6– Welcome to Kindergarten 6 P.M.

Thursday, May 7th – Hospital for Sick Kids Walk 9:30 A.M. - Kids Helping Kids

Friday, May 8th – Parent Volunteer Tea @ 1:30P.M.

It is our hope to provide opportunities to welcome parents/guardians into the school to showcase the collaborative work of our staff, student, families and community partners that highlights the theme of “Igniting Hope.”

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.

In support of Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, we work to provide an increased number of faith opportunities and developing an understanding of scripture as it is connected to our daily life. We believe and nourish our faith development through sacramental preparation, liturgical celebrations, sacramental retreats, community service projects, prayer services, staff liturgies, attendance at weekly mass and school wide reflection days. In collaboration with our pastoral team, through pastoral visits, celebrations and prayer, we work together to nurture the seeds of faith for the community. Our daily morning prayer and formal religious instruction support the understanding of scripture for our students. Through the pastoral works of our adult and youth faith ambassadors, we bring scripture into action as we support community outreach and organize a breakfast program. As a community, gatherings are marked with scriptural prayer and reflection to keep us mindful of our journey as people of faith in Christ.

Sacramental Preparation:

As Catholic 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	Saturday, March 28, 2020 11:00 A.M.	
First Holy Communion	Saturday, May 9 th , 2020 5:30 P.M.	
Confirmation		Thursday, June 11, 2020- 7:00 P.M.

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/Presentation	Monday, November 11, 2019 -11:00 a.m.
Reconciliation (Grades 3, 4 and 5)	Monday, December 3, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Advent Mass	Thursday, December 17, 2019- 1:30 p.m.
Reconciliation (Grades 6, 7 and 8)	Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.
Lenten Mass	Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – 1:30 p.m.
Catholic Education Week Mass	Tuesday, May 5, 2020 -7:00 p.m.
Grade 8 Community Mass	Thursday, June 4, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.
St. John Fisher Novena and Mass	Tuesday, June 16, 2020–9:00 a.m.(Kindergarten- Gr. 4)
St. John Fisher Novena and Mass	Thursday, June 17, 2020– 9:00 a.m.(Grade 5 to Grade 8)

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 activities to support our community partners including ShareLife, Christmas baskets for school families in need, Knights Table Foodbank, Dr. Simone, Sick Kids, Share Life, Terry Fox, and local food drives. We recognize Autism Awareness, Orange Day in recognition of the First Nations suffrage in residential schools, Pink Day for anti-bullying and Purple Day- Breaking the Silence on Child Abuse. St. John Fisher community unites to support social justice initiatives to impact both local and global needs as we work to developing responsible citizenship.

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 Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations, we as a school have chosen Becoming a Responsible Citizen as our focus through instruction, curricular connection and reflection. Through student led liturgies, curriculum links and parent education we highlight the OCSGEs as the central foundation for all our students. Through our home school communication, we support the education of our community of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. We provide varied spiritual, academic and social opportunities for students in order to reach their potential with the intent to foster and celebrate the God-given gifts and talents of our students.

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 the virtues, we gather together as a community to celebrate our faith. Through daily prayer, monthly newsletters, staff weekly bulletins and conversations we communicate openly our call to model and live the virtues. The display case in the front foyer highlights our virtue. Through the student leadership our Youth Faith Ambassadors, we gather monthly through student led liturgies to share in communal prayer and recognize the virtues evidenced in our student community.

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.

As you walk into the school, the cross, the blessed altar and the Holy Bible adorn the sacred space for all visitors and members of the community on a daily basis. The front seasonal display reflects the colour and symbolism of the Liturgical Season. Within every classroom, the living sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day. Our Virtue posters and Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations banner in the front hall and "Responsible Citizen" visual in the classrooms serves as reminders to all who enter that we are called to Catholic faith.

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](#)

School-Based