

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Joachim Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

*“Whatever you do for your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for God. All we do, our prayers, our work, our suffering, we do for Jesus.”*

Within the community of St. Joachim Catholic School, the mission of the staff, students and parents is to respect and accept the uniqueness of each individual as a follower of Jesus. All members are encouraged to realize their full potential – spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Staff and parents shall strive to develop within each student: a sense of belonging, self-confidence, an ability to interact positively with others, pride in the school community, an ability to problem solve, respect for self and others, responsibility, and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Our ultimate goal is to provide our children with the tools to become happy, productive, and responsible members of society. We, the staff of St. Joachim School, believe that the school’s job is to help children learn in a loving Catholic community. Our school teaches us about Jesus, how to be His followers, and how to care for others. We need to develop our skills and to understand the technology to use our skills to face future challenges. We need to develop our special talents so we can share them with the world.

**School Motto:** Growing together in faith and knowledge to serve one another.

**Our Parish:** St. Anne

**Pastor:** *Rev, Joel Pabilona, Jr.*

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

**Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Parents and Families,

The school year 2023-2024 is being met with great optimism as the schools of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board opened their doors once again. St. Anne's Parish will resume to serve all the seven Catholic Schools under its pastoral care open to new and creative ways as deemed necessary.

This year, all the usual liturgical and pastoral activities are in place:

- School Masses
- School Confessions
- Sacramental Preparations
- School Visitations

There is an urgent need for school visitations most importantly to make surveys on whether everyone has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Holy Confirmation) accordingly. I enjoin the parents to make sure that their children are taken care of in this regard, especially those preparing their children for the Sacraments of Initiation,

I also urge everyone to keep in mind the significance of their promise at the baptism of their children to bring them up in the practice of the faith that is to love God and love others as God loves us. Incidentally, the theme of this school year coming from DPCDSB is "the call to love".

May the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons bring us hope, peace, and joy! My prayers and best wishes to the families.

God's continued blessings upon you all!

Fr. Joel B. Pabilona Jr.

***Nota Bene:*** I will be leaving the parish on the 1st December for my 6-month sabbatical. Fr. Suresh Xavier will replace me as pastor. Thank you for your support and cooperation during my tenure. God bless!



**Fr. Joel B. Pabilona, Jr.**  
Pastor

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

***For God did not give us a spirit of timidity. But a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline" St. Timothy***

As the St. Joachim Catholic School Council, we believe in supporting the school community by promoting the vision, values, sacramental life and the Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Through a financial contribution to St. Anne's Youth Ministry program, we are helping to develop and enhance the spiritual and faith formation of the children in our Parish. To celebrate and recognize the celebration of the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, we present each student with a small token to serve as a reminder of their spiritual journey which is presented at one of the monthly Virtues Assemblies. In addition to this, we have purchased crosses for our Grade 8 graduates to present to our Junior Kindergarten students at an outdoor liturgy as a sign of "Passing on the Faith".

**Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

St. Joachim School participates in a variety of classroom based activities ranging from liturgies to classroom events where parents are invited to attend. Details are sent out closer to the date.

### **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.*

Faith formation is a process of journeying into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Its primary points of reference are our own lives and the Bible. Through them we come to know Jesus most profoundly and we are shaped as a biblical people. Within the community of St. Joachim School, the mission of staff, students and parents is to respect and accept the uniqueness of each individual as a follower of Jesus. All members are encouraged to realize their full potential spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. The School Improvement Learning Cycle for St. Joachim School focuses on faith formation through the lens of providing “connections to scripture” for the well-being and mental health of all community members. In addition, we strive to achieve a positive climate that is tempered by an “awareness of practices that support and honour the many cultures, needs and voices of our diverse groups”. Through this focus on faith formation we aim to create a healthy social space that includes student voice, staff voice and community representation; a place where all learners feel safe, involved and supported. Students, staff and families are included in:

- ✚ Daily prayer at the beginning, at lunch and at the end of the day
- ✚ Organization of monthly liturgies for all students
- ✚ School wide celebration of Mass
- ✚ Special Intentions of all members of our school community in our Morning Prayers
- ✚ Adult and Youth Faith Ambassadors
- ✚ Weekly Advent Liturgies for staff
- ✚ Weekly Lenten Dedications
- ✚ Holy Week reverence with a focus on Scripture
- ✚ Stations of the Cross
- ✚ Prayers by students in different language

### **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
<b>Communion</b>	<b>Spring 2024</b>	
<b>Confirmation</b>		<b>Spring 2024</b>
<b>First Reconciliation</b>	<b>Spring 2024</b>	

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
<b>Opening Mass</b>	<b>October 2/2023</b>
<b>Advent mass</b>	<b>December 11/2023</b>
<b>Lenten Confessions</b>	<b>March 1/2024</b>
<b>Lenten Mass</b>	<b>March 18/2024</b>
<b>End of year Mass</b>	<b>June 3/2024</b>
<b>Grad liturgy</b>	<b>June 20/2024</b>

**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.*

- Outreach Projects and Food Drives
- Terry Fox Run- Cancer outreach
  - Share life fundraising activities – Spirit Weeks
  - Brampton Food Bank

## 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 make the connection between the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and our Virtues program by highlighting in our newsletters and our virtues assemblies how we, as a school community, are striving to fulfill these expectations. Grade eight graduation awards will continue to recognize those students who are demonstrating the values, attitudes and actions of each of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in addition to their knowledge and skills.

1. Participate in workshops/programs about digital citizenship and how to use social media in a socially responsible way (Curriculum Connections, Peel Regional Police)
2. Attend community events as representatives of St. Joachim and Catholic Education, in partnership with the greater Brampton Community.
3. Student Faith Ambassador Events
4. Eco Schools Student Green Team
5. Student Retreats where focus is sharing, building, growing and communicating in Faith (Sacramental prep)
6. Anti-Bullying/Bullying Awareness initiatives

## 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.*

Aligned with our Virtues Program, once a month, one grade level will organize a celebration of the virtue of the month. These monthly assemblies highlight how students can positively interact with each other in the classroom, hallways and outside at recess. Morning announcements and the virtue wall serve as reminders of the need to look for the actions we are practicing.

1. Newsletters Submissions
2. Visible signs via posters and student work throughout the school
3. Monthly virtual assemblies
4. Progressive Discipline based on developing strategies to support growth as a virtuous person

### **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.*

Visible signs and symbols are displayed throughout the school as reminders of our Catholic beliefs and traditions – at the office, front foyer display, halls and in the classrooms.

1. Visible signs of our Faith: prayer tables, altars, front foyer display, posters and wall displays, bibles, sacred cloths to match the colour of the liturgical season, crosses, rosaries, statue of Mary, picture of the Holy Family, Diverse representations of our faith, St. Joachim prayer.
2. Faith events and activities highlighted in classroom calendars and school newsletters
3. Saint Feast days included in daily prayer
4. Daily announcements include gospel and bible readings
5. Catholic Code of Conduct embedded in discipline
6. Library displays based on Liturgical season and representative of our diverse community of learners

Administrative messages of faith in newsletters and other communications



**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**

- Fully Alive Program/Family Life

- Religious Education Program
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- Virtues Program
- Pastoral Team
- Parish Sacramental Coordinator
- OAPCE Parent Representative