

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **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: Fr. Suresh Xavier

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

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents and families,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord.

As the new Pastor of St. Anne's Parish, I welcome you to St. Joachim School, our partner school committed to the development of the whole student. Our parish "being the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament", I humbly present to you our parish initiatives for the school year 2024 -2025, such as:

1. In-person Sacramental Preparation Program for candidates of First Holy Communion and Holy Confirmation from your school run by well -trained Catechists.
2. Active Participation of the Parents in the Parish through their participation in Parent's meeting and Retreat and their unwavering commitment to bring their children in the faith formation classes and Sunday Masses.
3. Retreat for all the First Communicants and Confirmandi that will thoroughly prepare them to receive the sacraments in addition to their Religious Education Formation classes.
4. Rites of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) Program for the unbaptized children from Public and Catholic schools for them to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Confession and Communion and Confirmation.
5. Holy Masses and Confessions to be celebrated in the school besides in the parish.
6. Children's Liturgy in the church where the Scripture Readings of the Holy Mass are broken, opened and explained by a trained Liturgy Leader so that the children can grow in their love and understanding of God.
7. Youth Ministry **with its mission to bring our generation of youth closer to God, in a joyful faith-filled fellowship to enable them to transform the world with Jesus Christ at the centre of their lives which is taking place every Friday at 6:00 pm.in the church.**

8. Parish' strong collaboration with the parents and the school so that Catholic Education may continue to flourish

As our Holy Father, Pope Francis stated, *"Catholic schools are much more than a place to expand intellect. It is also a place where one learns that God loves us, that each and everyone are gifted by God and every life matters."* We are all together, hand in hand in forming our children to become "disciples of Christ".

May the Holy Spirit guide us to become what we want to become for God's greater glory.

Have a joyful and a safe school year ahead and stay blessed continuously!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Suresh Xavier

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 4th – May 9th, 2025

Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope
L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance

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.

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

"Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée."
(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l'espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**

Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**

Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**

Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**

Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

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 Catholic 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
Communion	Spring 2025	
Confirmation		Spring 2025
First Reconciliation	Spring 2025	

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 1, 2024
Advent Confessions	December 3, 2024
Advent Mass	December 9, 2024
Lenten Mass	March 21, 2025
End of year Mass	June 2, 2025
Grad liturgy	June 24, 2025

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 (Knight’s Table- Thanksgiving Food Drive)
- Geronimo’s Dream (Orange Shirt Day)

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

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 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- New Family Life Curriculum 2023 - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- [Encyclical Letters](#) : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)
- Jubilee Year 2025 – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- Renewing the Promise – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letters](#) : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

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

Signature Page

Pastor F. d-Smerby

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable) *J. Russo*

Teacher(s) *J. Russo*

Chair of Catholic School Council *A. Bacz / A. Valente*

Vice Principal(s) *S. Salameh*

Principal *J. Lise*

Superintendent *A. Scigliano*