

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Lester B. Pearson Catholic School**

School Mission Statement:

Religious Education, through liturgies, catechism, daily prayer, the sacraments, and good works, creates a Christian atmosphere, which permeates our school community.

Students are provided with the opportunities to achieve success in the basic skills, concepts, and attitudes. These opportunities will allow them to be lifelong learners. School must be a safe place that nurtures learning. Self-esteem is crucial to the healthy development of each child.

We believe that children can learn, and that failure is only a starting point for further learning. An orderly, focused school atmosphere provides the framework for self-directed learning. Promotion of a friendly interchange among students and adults will lead to mutual understanding and harmony within the school community.

We believe that the child, as a learner, is the central focus of all our endeavors. We recognize that we all have unique gifts and talents to share.

School Motto: We Can Make a Difference.

Our Parish: St. Anthony of Padua

Pastor: *Rev. Joseph Pham*

Parish website: www.stanthonyofpadua.ca

Message from the Pastor:

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is truly a privilege to serve as the Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church for the past 8 years. As we begin this new school year, I pray that you will join me in thanking God for the gift of education. Please join me in praying and showing our gratitude to God for our dedicated and hard-working group of teachers who will not only teach but minister to your children in their education. The start of a new school year is always a special time filled with much excitement as we begin to travel the road ahead. There is so much to learn and experience that we must thank God for these many blessings of growth and discovery. It is my prayer that God may watch over our students, parents, teachers, and administrators and grant us all the grace of wisdom and understanding, patience and abundant charity throughout this new school year.

Pope Francis, in his message for the relaunching of the Global Compact on Education, sponsored by the Congregation for Catholic Education, highlights the role of education as one that becomes a creator of fraternity, peace and justice. He Prays and hopes that we may be sustained by the conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope of peace and justice, the hope of beauty and goodness, the hope of social harmony. I invite you to return to St. Anthony of Padua church for Sunday worship. Here at our parish community of St. Anthony of Padua, we believe that the Lord is always present among us. Jesus gathers us as a family every Sunday so we can be fed by His Word and Eucharist. Indeed, the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” We gather to be nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist so that we can be living examples of Jesus to our brothers and sisters. At St. Anthony of Padua Church, we encourage our families to attend Mass on Sunday. Our weekend Masses are Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:15, 9:30, 11:00am and 12:30pm. Besides coming to Mass on Sunday, I also encourage your family to spend a few minutes daily praying together. When the family prays together, it brings them closer to each other and to God. Invite the Lord to come into your family and place in His hands your joys and sorrows. As parents, you are called to be examples of faith to your children. Together we can make a difference with the help of God. Please keep me in your prayers, and may God bless you and your family always.

With trust in God’s providential care, I will keep you daily in my prayers.

Fr. Joseph Pham

Pastor – St. Anthony of Padua Church

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The Lester B. Pearson Catholic School Council proudly supports faith formation for our community. We collaborate with the school in order to support faith formation. Our Council has supported various activities to raise funds for local charities, sacramental gifts and retreats for our students.

Catholic Education Week* 2023-24 program are as follows:
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 five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 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

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God who is love,
Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.
As we celebrate Catholic Education Week,
may our love in action reveal to our world
that we are people of justice and mercy.
May our daily words and example show clearly
that we are people of faith and hope.
In the ways we reflect you daily,
may everyone recognize us as people of joy.

Help us to never forget how much you love us,
and to cherish your life within us,
which gives energy and direction to our loving.
May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively,
and may we call our world to be more loving also.
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.
Amen.

**For more information on Catholic Education Week, please check out the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association (OCSTA) website:*

<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>

During Catholic Education Week we plan to have:

- School liturgies
- Parents/Guardians will visit classrooms
- Principal and Vice Principal will promote Catholic education at Lester B. Pearson Catholic School
- Staff Retreat

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.

Ongoing and effective communication between home and school is essential for supporting our students' faith formation and creating successful learning experiences. We celebrate communal prayer as a school community that reflects the Liturgical calendar including: our Feast Day Mass, Advent Family Mass, Reconciliation, Catholic Education Week Mass, and End of Year Mass.

Activities that support both adult and student faith formation:

- Morning Prayer reflection written by students
- Land Acknowledgement every morning in recognition that we are a Treaty people
- Student and Adult Faith Ambassadors initiatives
- Staff liturgies
- Sharelife Events for staff (e.g., Wilf Hartzburg Walk Run Roll, Sharelife Gala etc.)
- Staff Stations of the Cross Retreat

- School Masses (end of year mass to take place at St. Anthony of Padua Church)
- Sacramental Retreats
- Confirmation Preparation classes at St. Anthony of Padua Church
- Confirmation service projects
- First Holy Communion and First Confession Preparation Classes
- St. Anthony of Padua Youth Ministers visit school and provide sacramental instruction
- Missionary Visits
- Rosary Apostolate
- Virtues assemblies
- Health and well-being initiatives aligned to our Faith
- Sacred spaces within classrooms
- Food Drives
- Mitten Drive
- *The Knight's Table Christmas Food Drive*

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
Sacrament of Reconciliation	February 17, 10am-11:30	
First Holy Communion	May 11- 11am & 18-2pm	
Confirmation		June 6 and 7-7pm

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass and Thanksgiving	Oct. 10, 2023 @10am
Advent Mass	Dec. 7, 2023@ 1:30pm
Lenten Mass	March 19, 2023, @10am
Year End Mass	June 6, 2023 @1:30pm

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.

- ShareLife activities (Staff and school-wide spirit events)
- Cancer Society (Terry Fox Run)
- Heart and Stroke (Jump Rope for Heart)
- Food banks/drives (Thanksgiving drive, Christmas drive)
- Toys for Tots drive
- St. Vincent de Paul Donations of Christmas gifts and clothing and the Mitten Tree
- Christmas basket collection in support of St. Anthony's Parish
- Youth Faith Ambassadors volunteer
- School Choir
- The Giving Tree

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.

- Create classrooms that focus on OCSGE and Virtues education
- Build awareness of OCSGE at Virtues bi-monthly assemblies
- 'We Can Make a Difference' campaign (Students do 10 hours of community Service)
- Share the word of God daily through our Family Life program
- Provide varied spiritual, academic and social opportunities for students
- Focused scripture study based on the virtue of the month. All teachers are asked to present a school-wide monthly scripture passage to discuss and develop understanding of application of Jesus' teachings through scripture

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.

We practice the virtues at our school by...

- Adults modeling our Catholic faith and Virtues
- Virtues education is celebrated during morning announcements, classroom activities and at bi-monthly assemblies
- Virtue posters and altar display
- Display of monthly Virtues on school monitor
- Virtue Certificates in class
- Monthly scripture passage study focused on the specific virtue of the month on school website

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.

Our call to discipleship and service are evident throughout Lester B. Pearson Catholic School. These visible reminders help us to focus our learnings and interactions on the key tenants of our shared faith.

- Each classroom has a clearly identifiable sacred space in a prominent place that serves as a focal point for prayer and reflection. These sacred spaces reflect the liturgical season and are equipped with items that assist in intentional prayer.
- The Catholic Graduate Expectations are posted throughout the school and are a focus for all students and staff

- Monthly posting of scripture passages to the school website
- The Catholic identity of our school is clear upon entry to the building as we have an altar and sacred space that is set up in the foyer
- We will continue to recognize over the announcements each morning that we are a Treaty people, and we respect and honour these treaties of our fellow Indigenous brothers and sisters. We have posters throughout the school honouring these treaties and delivering the message that we are all stewards of the earth
- Statue of our Patron Saint Teresa in school garden and banner in the foyer
- Our students serve as witness to our faith by devoting time to community service
- Display of monthly Virtues on school monitor
- Liturgical seasonal displays (Advent wreath, Liturgical colors)

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

Our Patron Saint: **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**

Saint Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious community of nuns who serve the "poorest of the poor".

Born in what is now Albania, on August 26, 1910, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, entered the Loreto sisters (the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) in 1929 and was sent to India as a teacher.

It was on September 10, 1946, during a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat, Saint Teresa received her "inspiration, her call within a call." On that day, Jesus' thirst for love and for souls took hold of her heart and the desire to satiate His thirst became the driving force of her life.

Saint Teresa left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary charity. Her response to Jesus' plea, "Come be My light," made her a Missionary of Charity, a "mother to the poor," a symbol of compassion to the world, and a living witness to the thirsting love of God. As a testament to her most remarkable life, Pope John Paul II permitted the opening of her Cause of Canonization. On December 20, 2002, he approved the decrees of her heroic virtues and miracles. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003.

On September 4, 2016, Saint Teresa was canonized by Pope Francis.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5611