

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Louis Separate School**

School Mission Statement:

The Mission of St. Louis School, a community living the Gospel Values, is to foster an environment where all students reach their academic potential as determined by Ontario Provincial Standards. Our commitment to a comprehensive system of support and a responsive partnership with family and church will ensure this outcome.

School Motto: form, inform, transform lives

Our Parish: St. Christopher

Pastor: *Rev. Scott R. Young*

Parish website: *www.stchristopher.on.ca*

Message from the Pastor:

One of my special ministries as Pastor at St. Christopher's is to visit St. Chris/St. Louis/St. Helen regularly. What comes of that is a family atmosphere when I am in the school and when I meet students and their families in the community. I am delighted that the children at St. Chris/St. Louis/St. Helen know me and greet me warmly whenever I am visiting. My visits also help me to understand better the challenges that families in our parish must face. I believe that my frequent visits help to bond the school community to the parish community, because of friendship and because of faith.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Louis Catholic Elementary School Council, as an advisory body, supports all initiatives within the school to foster a deeper understanding of our faith within the school and the St. Louis School Community. Our focus is to promote the vision and values of the Catholic Church and to provide a school wide perspective on issues pertaining to our School Pastoral Plan.

- 1) Our parish representative provides information and updates from the church to the community at large through our Council meetings.
- 2) Invitations are issued to the community to attend our school Masses held throughout the year via the school newsletter.
- 3) Regular visits take place from our Parish Priests, Father Scott and Father Jamie, to speak to the students.
- 4) Council continues support for sacramental preparation which is funded through the school council for our students and staff to meet and reflect together

These initiatives as well as the support from staff and the guidance from our administration brings our community together through Christ and fosters a true sense of Catholicity within our school.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Living as Joyful Disciples

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, 2020 - is Catholic Education Week.

Events:

May 1-8- Spring Book Fair -

May 4- ECO Presentation

May 5- Easter/ Catholic Education Week School Mass

May 5- School Wide Retreat

May 6- FDK- Open House

May 7 – Book Talk/ Signing- Library

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.

We believe in faith development, and we continue to support sacramental preparation, liturgical celebrations, community building retreats, prayer services and school wide reflection days. As a main goal this year, we are building capacity in both staff and students to learn to make connections to scripture in preparation for our sacramental faith development. We work together to assist in the faith formation of our entire community. We collaborate with our pastoral team, through pastoral visits, celebrations and prayer, to focus on faith, particularly with our students. Daily morning prayer on the PA system as well as periodic prayers throughout the day in classrooms, social justice projects and formal religious instruction, support the faith development of our students. All assemblies and gatherings are marked with prayer and reflection, keeping us mindful of our journey as people of faith in Christ and professors of Catholic Education.

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	March 24 & 25, 2020	
Sacrament of First Communion	May 9-31, 2020 – all masses	
Sacrament of Confirmation		January 14/15, 2020

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening / Thanksgiving Mass	October 15-2019 – 10am – our gym
Christmas Lighting of the Candles	Mon.Dec.2; Mon Dec 9; Mon Dec 16 – 8:45am
Christmas Mass	January 7, 2020 – 10am – our gym
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 26, 2020- 2pm- our gym
Easter/ Catholic Education Week Mass	May 5, 2020- 10am –our gym
End of Year/ Grad Mass	June 22, 2020-10am @ St. Christopher Church; and for the Gr 8- 7pm awards presentation - @ St. Christopher Church

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.

St. Louis School participates in various activities to support our community partners of Share Life, Compass Food Bank, Canadian Food for Children (Dr. Simone's Warehouse), Terry Fox

Walk. St. Louis School community supports a variety of social justice initiatives that affect both local and global needs - Cancer Fund; Heart and Stroke.

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.

Showing respect for Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations means infusing them into daily activities and curriculum. We, St. Louis School, have chosen *responsible citizen* upon which to focus. Through social justice programs, 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 in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

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.

St. Louis School celebrates the virtues daily as a school community through various activities and visible symbols. Monthly we meet in Grade Crossed teams who learn about this month's virtue – and have students participate in activities which lead them to reflective practices.

Our activities include:

Baking, art with fruit; coding; eco activities; physical fitness; mindful yoga


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.

St. Louis School has visible symbols of the Virtue of the Month on our Virtue Board. Our front entrance has the Holy Bible, the Cross and Saints' Statues adorning this sacred space for all visitors and members of the community. There is a prayer table 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 school motto and history are depicted in our front hall for all staff, students and parents to reflect on our 50 year + tradition of Excellence in Catholic Education – through a Home/ School and Parish triad.

We proudly commemorated our 50 anniversary with a large visual depiction of our history. It proudly depicts the influence of the Saint chosen to be our patron saint-St. Louis. It also shows the family connection to the school – both in building of the facility in 1961 to the continued involvement of parents in the education of their children. This floor to ceiling piece of art celebrates as a beautiful “child friendly” image which hangs at the conjunction of both hallways – chosen as a center point for our school. Our 50th anniversary was also celebrated with the creation of a new school logo which has two children – a boy and a girl-hanging onto a tree which bares a cross – sitting on the numeral 50. This was also created by a local artist and speaks to the love of the Earth – taught to the children through our in-school ECO team.

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

St. Louis School – 50 Years – 1961-2011- favourite memories of staff, students, and students about their favourite St. Louis memories.