

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **San Lorenzo Ruiz Elementary School**



School Mission Statement:

San Lorenzo Ruiz is a community of learners committed to the development of the whole person. We are gifts of God, working together to serve the Lord Jesus and each other. With family and parish, we strive for excellence and a commitment to life-long learning.

School Motto: A Community Growing in Faith

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier

Pastor: *Rev. James Cherickal*

Parish website: <https://stfrancisxavierchurch.blogspot.com/>

Message from the Pastor:

Catholic Education aims at forming students into faithful disciples of Jesus. Its three-fold objectives are: a) to provide an environment in which students are enabled to build and deepen their relationship with God; b) to foster an academic culture aimed at the pursuit of truth; c) to actively promote growth in virtue. Parents are the primary educators of their children through words and exemplary actions, and the school is but an active, yet essential, extension of parental education. I am very happy with the relationship and cooperation among the parish, the school and the parents. However, we should not be contented with what we are all doing now. Let's do more to realize the three - fold objectives of the Catholic Education.

Fr. James Cherickal

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School Council strives to fulfill its obligation to "promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the school and Board". The Council provides advice to the school principal on a number of items including goals and procedures for supporting the best interest of the Catholic school community. A Parish Representative is appointed to the Council annually to serve as a communication link between the parish and Council with respect to parish information and to provide guidance and support on initiatives and faith formation in the school community.

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**

A school-wide liturgy, focused morning prayer / reflections, and a school-wide retreat day will highlight our week. Each division will be involved in a number of events, each emphasizing the week's themes. Through prayer, music, reflection, spiritual meditation, drama and art, students will come to deepen their understanding of this year's theme: Igniting Hope. We will also be raising funds and awareness to a charity of the community's choice. Our week will culminate in the celebration of the Crowning of Mary- our annual celebration made possible by our partnership with the Rosary Apostolate. Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these

resources as well as our own developed activities, we will prepare activities. This year San Lorenzo Ruiz School celebrates its 20th anniversary. We will gather as a school community during Catholic Education Week to celebrate. Information will be shared with the community closer to Catholic Education Week.

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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School promotes faith by having a vibrant Youth Faith Leaders program as well as Adult Faith Leaders who provide guidance, support, liturgical opportunities to support our staff at the school and our MBC Family of Schools. Our school community continues to promote and empower our students to become discerning believers, effective communicators, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner, collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Through liturgy, word, and action we embrace and practice our Catholic responsibility and Gospel values.

- Faith Ambassador gatherings for staff
- Stations of the Cross
- School Wide Liturgical celebrations and gatherings
- Staff Liturgies and Reflections
- Student led morning prayers
- Daily classroom prayer: beginning of the day, lunch and dismissal
- Daily Religious/Family Life Education
- Staff PD opportunities, "When Faith Meets Pedagogy," religion in-services
- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others
- Sacramental retreats

At the MBC Family level, teachers gather for Advent and Lenten Celebrations. In our school, the Adult Faith Team invites colleagues to prayer services held after school over the course of the year. The Youth Faith Ambassadors is a program that invites students from grades 7-8 to become faith leaders in our school. From social justice initiatives such as planning food drives and our Angel Tree gift drive, to faith formation of the school by leading retreats for our primary grades, the YFAs play a vital role in the faith development of our school. The MBC Family of Schools also organizes a YFA retreat for all students to celebrate as a group their efforts at the school level as well as share ideas with other schools.

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 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parent Meeting for FHC @ St. Francis Xavier Parish 7pm | Tuesday, September 16, 2019 | |
| Parent Meeting for Confirmation @ St. Francis Xavier Parish 7pm | | Tuesday, September 24, 2019 |
| First Reconciliation @ St. Francis Xavier Parish 6:30pm | Thursday, Feb 13, 2020 | |
| FHC Mass @ St. Francis Xavier Parish 10am | Saturday, April 18, 2020 | |
| Confirmation Mass @ St. Francis Xavier Parish 7pm | | Tuesday, April 21, 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 | Wednesday, Oct 9, 2019. 1pm @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |
| San Lorenzo Feast Day | Wednesday, Sept 25, 2019 |
| Advent Mass | Tuesday Dec. 10, 2019. 1pm @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |
| School Reconciliation | Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020. 9 am @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |
| Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020. 1pm @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |
| Lenten Mass | Wednesday, April 1, 2020. 1pm @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |
| Graduation/Year End Mass | Wednesday, June 17, 2020. 9:30am @ San Lorenzo Ruiz School |

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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz students are encouraged to look beyond themselves to the needs of others. Students are involved in local, regional, national and international outreach. As a faith community, we may be called to be involved in outreach that is not listed below.

September: Terry Fox Run ,Wilf Hartzenberg Walk / Run Event

October: Thanksgiving Food Drive

November: Candy Drive for Dr. Simone, Volleyball for Sharelife with our Peel Police Officers

December: Angel Tree

February: Sharelife student/Peel Police event

March: 'Cram the Cruiser' Canned Food Drive,

Youth Faith Ambassadors visiting Dr. Simone's Warehouse

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.

San Lorenzo staff strive to instill the values of the Catholic Graduate Expectations into students as they journey in faith to becoming well-rounded members of society. The Catholic Curriculum resources at all grade levels, contribute to achieving the expectations for all graduating students. Teachers make the CGE's a concrete part of their in-class expectations, not just in religion class but across the curriculum, and in extra-curricular activities. Some of the ways we highlight these expectations include: Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations highlighted in monthly virtues.

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.

At San Lorenzo School, we say a daily prayer for the Virtue of the Month on the morning announcements to highlight the Virtue and remind students what the virtue looks like, feels like and sounds like in the classroom and in the schoolyard. As a school community, we will gather monthly to celebrate the virtues together and recognize those who have been instrumental in demonstrating the virtue for that month. We will continue to infuse the virtues in our daily teachings to promote

greater awareness of living out the virtues in our lives. This year, we will connect our Virtues to digital citizenship. This allows students to demonstrate the virtue of self-control, respect, and acceptance in a digital age.

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.

At San Lorenzo Ruiz we welcome the community with a faith filled foyer displaying a sacred space, which reflects the liturgical calendar colours and each month's virtue. Each classroom has a sacred space and a cross. Hallways have posters and pictures of 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](#)