

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

The mission of St. Teresa of Calcutta School is to develop the faith of our members and to recognize that God lives in all of us. We also strive to do small things with great love, as St. Teresa of Calcutta did. As a Catholic School Community, we are committed to nurturing and developing the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social growth of each student. It is our intent that students grow in respect for neighbour, sense of self-worth, personal responsibility, and love of God. We also strive to promote academic excellence and the well-being of every individual. As a school, one of our goals is fostering an effective partnership between home, school, and the parish in a safe, inclusive, and Catholic environment. Our social outreach programs assist students to develop healthy minds, bodies and spirits while instilling self-respect and respect for others. The students will become contributing members in our Catholic community and demonstrate their involvement by participating in school initiatives.

School Motto: Hands to Serve

Our Parish: St. Patrick (Mississauga)

Pastor: **Father John Facey**

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

Message from the Pastor:

We, the Parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, proclaiming our belief in Christ's message of love, with the support of the Holy Spirit, are committed to building a welcoming faith community for the greater glory of God. Sharing our gifts from God, we strive to grow in service and knowledge and to recognize Jesus in everyone on our journey together. Our school is under the pastoral care of Fr. John Facey at St. Patrick's Church. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for mass at the times listed below:

Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12 noon

7:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Daily (Monday-Friday) - 8:15 a.m.

Evening Mass: Tuesday & Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith-filled environment. Our Catholic School Council, on behalf of the parents of St. Teresa of Calcutta School, support the staff in promoting Catholic values and building a sense of Catholic Community.

Catholic Education Week – 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 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**

Classes will be engaged in a variety of activities, including outdoor play, religious activities, and ECO School activities.

In addition to our daily activities, the following celebrations have been scheduled to highlight Catholic Education Week:

The week will begin with a School Mass. We will reflect on the power of prayer throughout the week and continue to practice prayerful mindfulness.

We work together to prepare our gardens for planting with the help of our Eco Team. We celebrate our faith in community by giving thanks to our parent volunteers

Journey into Learning: Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Engagement Evening – New Kindergarten Year 1 families are invited to meet their new FDK Teams, explore their new learning spaces and engage in sharing about how to best support their child’s transition to school.

Crowning of Mary Liturgy: A May “Crowning of Mary” is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual with special devotions made to our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth. Various divisions will be hosting parents through planned activities such as a Poetry Café etc. The week following Catholic Education Week we will have the Crowning of Mary liturgy and procession, involving the entire school.

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.

Student Faith Formation:

Understanding of scripture and its connection to sacramental life, Catholic social teachings, and daily life are focuses for our school. We begin every day at St. Teresa of Calcutta by honouring our country, its first inhabitants and our faith - O Canada is sung, the Land Acknowledgement is recited, and a scriptural reading or special reflection is read, followed by our school prayer of St. Teresa of Calcutta or a Catholic prayer (e.g. Hail Mary). Each month a different class commits to leading us in prayer during the morning announcements. Later in the year, our Mental Health Champions will also be doing Mindful Mondays and practicing mindfulness with the school community over the announcements.

- School masses: Opening; Advent Mass, Lenten/Easter Season Mass, Year-End mass
- Youth Faith Ambassadors participate in social justice activities (Food collections, donations) reading and virtues assemblies.
- Monthly Liturgies/Virtues assemblies
- Promoting Inclusivity; Social Justice initiatives (Fundraising for ShareLife, food and toy

drives), Black History presenters

Adult Faith Formation:

- School masses: Opening/Thanksgiving Mass, Advent Mass, Lenten/Easter Season Mass, Year-end Mass
- Monthly Virtues assemblies.
- Opening Liturgies for Staff and School Council meetings
- Board opportunities for faith development will be advertised to staff

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
First Reconciliation	TBD	
First Holy Communion	TBD	
Confirmation		TBD

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
Advent Mass	Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
Lenten Mass	Wednesday, February 29, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Easter Mass	Thursday, April 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Year End Mass	Wednesday, June 12 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

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.

As a school community, we continue to be committed to supporting those among us who are in greater need. Through our Faith Ambassadors, School Council, and classroom initiatives, we will ensure that funds, food, and other needed items will be directed to needy families of St. Teresa of Calcutta School and agencies.

Our school participates in raising funds and/or donations for:

- Food Drives – Thanksgiving Food Drive
- The Terry Fox Marathon of Hope for cancer research (Thursday, September 28, 2023)
- School food drives at Advent & Lent
- Remembrance Day poppies (November 10, 2023)

Adult Faith Ambassadors take a leadership role in creating and running prayer services and liturgies. Our YFA with the help of the Adult Faith Ambassadors, assist with collecting items for food drives, toys, and toiletries for the needy within our school/local community.

At St. Teresa of Calcutta School, we believe the words of St. Teresa, “not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

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.

The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations are highlighted daily through visual signs, announcements, and classroom experiences. Teachers embed the expectations into daily curriculum learning opportunities, while modeling the same for all students. Students engage in leadership and live our Catholic values through our Youth Faith Ambassador Program, Eco Teams, Virtue recognition certificates, social justice initiatives and announcements. Our front foyer is a space for displaying student-initiated work and a space for highlighting our Virtues.

A Discerning Believer

- Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, school masses and sacramental preparation. Daily prayers and visible signs of our faith (sacred spaces and crucifixes) are found throughout school. In November, students will participate in anti-bullying week activities.

An Effective Communicator

- Students have the opportunity to participate in Eco School, OPHEA Healthy Schools

Certification, PALS, the Arts, Eco Schools, Sports, and YFAs to promote a caring, inclusive school that celebrates diversity, embraces social justice initiatives, and evangelizes the teachings of Jesus.

A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker

- Student learning is celebrated throughout school and showcased during Open House, Christmas Concerts, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and Grade 2 & 7 sacramental preparation, Crowning of Mary in May. Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, YFAs, and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner

- All diverse learners are encouraged to work to their full potential and be reminded of their God-given talents, which are showcased throughout the year during Bullying Awareness Week, Black History Month, Open House, Christmas Concerts, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and sacramental preparation, mindfulness as well as opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities.

A Collaborative Contributor

- YFAs and Virtues assemblies and liturgies, which support our safe school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

A Caring Family Member

- Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, food drives, school masses and sacramental preparation, and daily prayers.
- PALS, YFAs, and Virtues assemblies, fundraising for, Terry Fox and ShareLife provide students with opportunities to apply Jesus' teachings to a wider community and witness the connection between school-home and parish.

A Responsible Citizen

- Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, YFAs, and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

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.

The St. Teresa of Calcutta School community gathers regularly to focus our attention on ten virtues. The virtues are an area of daily focus through our announcements, prayers, and daily interactions. Classroom teachers regularly implement the program through integration with daily curriculum and learning opportunities. School administrators and teachers infuse the virtues when assisting students to problem-solve and learn how to better foster relationships with peers. We celebrate our accomplishments and give thanks for God's presence in our daily lives. We highlight the Monthly Virtues in many forms, from morning announcements, virtue certificates, virtue assemblies, and student recognition.

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. Teresa of Calcutta School has visible symbols of the virtues. Our front entrance has the Holy Bible and altar with our beloved statue of St. Teresa of Calcutta to greet everyone. A statue of the Virgin Mary is in our display case. The Bible, a symbol of our faith stands tall and proud surrounded by plants and our precious Canadian Flag. The monthly virtue is displayed on the altar. This creates a sacred space for all visitors and members of the community. Each room has a cross, prayer table and student-created signs of faith. Our students and staff live our faith in their actions.

Virtues, Family Life and Religious Education programs are integrated in all curricular and extracurricular activities and the Ontario Catholic Graduate expectations are part of daily school life.

As a school and parish community, we gather to celebrate social teachings and read scripture at masses. We strive to authentically put into practice the social teachings from scripture through our daily actions.

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors work together with other students to understand the gospel stories. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors work with the Adult Faith Ambassadors to organize school-wide virtual liturgies, coordinate social justice initiatives, and community building events.

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

- Information is on the School Website [St. Teresa of Calcutta Webpage](#)
- Staff Weekly updates “Weekly St. Vincent de Paul Staff Memo”
- Monthly Newsletters and email blasts to the community
- Twitter: [@stocmississauga](#)

Signature Page

Pastor Father J. Facey

Faith Ambassador(s) Students in Grade 7 and 8.

Teacher(s) Luisa Linhares Medeiros, and Miranda Tully

Chair of Catholic School Council: Claudia Filipe and Julia Van de Kraats

Principal: Gráinne Maddison

Superintendent: Ms. Dulcie Belchior