

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide a Catholic education which develops the spiritual, intellectual, and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of tomorrow, thus enriching the community.

School Motto: Achieving, Believing, Caring *Can delete the "choose an item" and type in your own.*

Our Parish: Merciful Redeemer

Pastor: *Rev. Msgr. A. Robert Nusca*

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

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents, Staff and Students of our Parish Schools

On behalf of the Priests, Staff and Parishioners of **Merciful Redeemer Parish**, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our prayers for you and all of your loved ones during the new 2021-2022 School year. I have only recently been appointed as Pastor of Merciful Redeemer Parish and look forward to meeting you and to serving the people of our vibrant parish community.

Although we continue to operate under COVID protocols and certain limitations, we are reminded that we are all one in Christ and one in the Spirit, and so the responsibility we have to one another and for each other in Christ must endure!

Please know that we are ready to assist you as parents, students, educators, and administrators, in whatever way we can to know, love and serve the Lord. The Church remains open for Mass, Confessions, private prayer; many of our ministries are up and running – whether online or in-person (socially distanced) – to this end; our office is open, and Youth Minister (Danielle Lape) is organizing our Edge and Life Teen programs. www.mercifulredeemer.org).

You are encouraged to make Sunday Mass as well as an active participation in the life of the parish a part of your family routine. At the same time, I welcome your ideas as to how your parish may be more attentive to your needs and support your family, to make you feel at home and to help you to know and love the Lord, and to pass on our Faith to your children as you pledged and promised to do before the Lord on the day of their Baptism.

Once again, I am pleased to assure you and our school communities of a remembrance in my prayers, along with those of Fr. Suresh and Fr. Abraham. Kindly, remember us also in yours during these challenging times.

With prayers and best wishes,

Pax Christi,

Msgr. Robert Nusca,

Pastor

Merciful Redeemer Parish

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Council plays a vital role in our school community connecting parents/guardians to educators, staff, and students. It is with the active involvement, collaboration, and volunteer efforts of parents/guardians that we endeavor to enhance the elementary school experience of every student and work to ensure that each student reaches their full academic potential through a Catholic faith lens.

Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Restaurer, Renouveler Ensemble

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.

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.» (Apocalypse 21,5)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are:

Monday: **Rediscover / Redécouvrir**
Tuesday: **Rebuild / Rebâtir**
Wednesday: **Restore / Restaurer**
Thursday: **Renew / Renouveler**
Friday: **Rejoice / Se réjouir**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

During Catholic Education we will have reflections and liturgies based on each theme throughout the week. We will also plan classroom activities that will be presented to the entire school community at an assembly (likely virtual). We also hope to run ShareLife fundraiser during this 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.

Please highlight the school activities that support both adult and student faith formation.

Through daily reflections on the morning announcements our entire school community will pray together, read from scripture, and reflect on the Good News through the gospel. Staff will participate in monthly liturgies along with the entire school community celebrating important liturgical events (ie: Advent, Lent, Ash Wednesday) as well as feast days. The school community will also learn about and reflect on the importance of the monthly virtues

and prayers and virtues reminders will be communicated to our Parent/Guardian community each week through the “Weekend Update” newsletter.

All our classes have prayer corners/tables set up displaying images of our faith and will pray together as a class throughout the day (grace before meals, closing day prayers) as well as participating in their own class liturgies and reflections.

As members of the Merciful Redeemer Parish, we will also have the opportunity to celebrate Mass together (through live streamed Eucharistic celebrations at this time) as well as monthly participation in the Rosary Apostolate. We also look forward to welcoming the Pastoral team from the Parish into our school for classroom visits.

Through work in individual classes, our school will display student work reflecting our faith including the display case in the front hall of the school which is being decorated each month by a different class.

Finally, through morning reflections, and classroom work, students will continue to learn about, reflect on, and develop the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

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	Wed. March 23, 2022	
First Holy Communion	Sunday, May 8, 2022 @ 2:00 Sunday, May 8, 2022 @ 4:00 Sunday, May 15, 2022 @ 2:00 Sunday, May 15, 2022 @ 4:00	
Crosses and Confession		Wed. March 30, 2022 @ 4-8
Confirmation		Mon. May 2, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Year Mass	September 28, 2021 @ 10:00 am
Advent Mass	November, 30, 2021 @ 10:00 am
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	March 2, 2022 @ 10:30 am
Year End Mass	June 13, 2022 @ 10:00 am
Graduation Mass	Monday, June 20, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

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.

Our school will participate in ShareLife fundraisers throughout the year as well as several food drives. We will also raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation and any needed outreach for our Parish.

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 we will have reflections on the morning announcements, posters up in the classrooms and in the Learning Management systems and classes will discuss and reflect on them. This will also be infused with our 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.

Each month we will reflect on the virtue of the month through morning announcements, videos, sharing of books and examples of virtuous behaviour throughout the school. Students exhibiting the virtues will be celebrated. Examples of the virtues will also be sent home each week to our Parents/Guardians in the weekly newsletter.

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.

Upon entry to our school you are immediately greeted with our altar donning the appropriate cloth for the liturgical season as well as symbols of our faith. You can see crosses and statues throughout the school and prayer tables in each classroom. As a school community we are undergoing a project to transform the front foyer of the school through murals. This will include visible signs of our faith and spiritual life at our school.

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](#)
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”**- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message** – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- **Renewing The Promise** - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”**- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message** – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

School-Based:

- Children’s Daily Prayer 2021-2022
- Adaptive Finding God Program-Loyola Press (Provided by the Board)
- A Year of Virtues: Creating Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Communities (Provided by the Board)
- Teaching Christian Kids: Reading, by Barbara Adams
- Living and Celebrating Our Catholic Customs and Traditions: Feast Days and Holiday, by Joan Marie Arbogast
- Growing in Grace: 35 Prayer Services for Children, by Alison Berger
- Exploring Liturgical Seasons with Young Adolescents, Edited by Roxane Kadrlik Chlachula
- Guided Meditations for Young Catholics, by Glynnis Hope B. Dawson
- Hands on Faith, by Mary Doerfler Dall
- Exploring the Old Testament: Bible Based Activities for Children Aged 7-12, by Louis Fidge

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- Words for the Journey for Kids, by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller
- Words for the Journey for Teens, by Lisa Freemantle, Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo-Ferrara
- A Time to Pray with the Old Testament: Prayer Celebrations for Youth, by David Haas
- A Time to Pray With the New Testament: Prayer Celebrations for Youth, by David Haas
- 22 Ready-Made Prayer Services with 100 Extra Prayer Ideas, by Maryann M. Hakowski
- Sunday Missal for Young Catholics, Edited by Natalia Kononenko
- Bible Lessons: Virtues and Values, by Pamela J, Kuhn
- Active Learning for Catholic Kids: Primary Grades, Edited by Jean Larkin and Mary C. Noschang
- Active Learning for Catholic Kids: Intermediate Grades, Edited by Jean Larkin and Mary C. Noschang
- Time to Pray: Seasonal Prayer Services for Middle Grades, by Patricia Mathson
- Favorite Catholic Saints, by Carol Ann Morrow
- Guided Meditations for Children, by Jane Reehorst BVM
- 30 Ten Minute Prayer Celebrations for Young Children, by Debbie M. Repp
- God's Rules for Me, by Virginia Helen Richards and D. Thomas Halpin, FSP
- 100 Activities Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, by Ellen Rossini
- 26 Creative Celebrations for All Generations, by Sr. M. Valerie Schneider, SND
- Communion of Saints: Saints in Art and Symbol, by Katherine Sotnik
- Exploring Saints and Feast Days with Young Adolescents, by Jenni Vankat
- The Creed Explained, by Silvia Vecchini
- The Ten Commandments Explained, by Silvia Vecchini
- Saints for Young Readers for Every Day: January-June, by Susan Helen Wallace, FSP
- Saints for Young Readers for Every Day: July-December, by Susan Helen Wallace, FSP
- Skits from Scripture: 10 Plays from the Old Testament, by Paige McKean Zyromski
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- Resource – “Where to Find it in the Bible”** “Where to Find it in the Bible, The Ultimate A to Z Resource”. This book allows users to search the Bible using modern language.

Signature Page

Pastor

Msgr. Nusca

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

Jennifer Cahill

Kathleen Wolak

Chair of Catholic School Council

Tara Harkin

Kayla Stephenson

Principal

Leslie Marchand

Superintendent

Martine Lewis