

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Richard Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

As dedicated professional educators of St. Richard Catholic School, we strive to develop a community of life-long learners by providing a caring and Catholic environment, which fosters the individual's spiritual, intellectual and social growth, and helps to prepare students to assume their responsibilities as productive citizens. In the words of St. Richard "Feel Deeply, Act Wisely, Think Clearly and Follow Him Closely."

School Motto: Love - Faith - Kindness - Hope

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross

Pastor: *Rev. Joyson George, O. Carm.*

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

Message from the Pastor:

As a pastor of a Carmelite Parish, we are blessed to have a special relationship with the Family of Schools, all named in the Carmelite tradition. We have the opportunity to gather and celebrate our faith together whilst forming our children in the Catholic tradition and the particular uniqueness of our Carmelite heritage.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Catholic School Councils are a gift to the Catholic school community. Our Catholic School Council has the opportunity to influence educational and faith formation experiences as children journey towards realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and ultimately, a vocation of Christ-like service in the world beyond school. The purpose of our Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of the parents, to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. In addition, the mission of Catholic School Councils in the Dufferin-Peel

Catholic District School Board is to promote the vision, values and sacramental life of Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, the Catholic community it serves, and advise the principal and board. We also promote and maintain a positive, faith-infused school environment for all students and staff. We facilitate active and meaningful participation of parents, and all members of the school community, and provide staff, parents, and students with an accountable system to which they can voice their concerns, comments and suggestions for the well-being and academic improvement of the school community.

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**

During Catholic Education Week, all Catholic School Boards in Ontario will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic School Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education. The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is 'Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together.' During Catholic Education Week the students participate in special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities. 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. We invite all members of our community, especially our parents/guardians, to participate in the celebrations and activities planned during this important 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.

Some of the activities that support both adult and student faith formation at St. Richard Catholic Elementary School include:

- Active Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Recognizing students for the demonstrating the Virtue of the Month
- Morning Prayers, scripture readings, reflections and announcements
- School masses and liturgical celebrations
- Liturgical calendar celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Adult Faith Ambassadors – liturgies for staff
- Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Connecting with Father Joyson and Father Felix from St. John of the Cross Parish
- Highlighting the Rosary
- Food/Clothing/Gift Card Drives
- Christmas gift card campaign in conjunction with St. John of the Cross Parish
- Sharelife fundraising activities for staff and students
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life instruction

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
Reconciliation	Nov 8, Nov 9, Nov 12 at 7:00 p.m.	
First Communion Registration Meetings	Jan 16, Jan 18 at 7:00 p.m.	
First communion Enrolments	Feb 19, Feb 20 – All Masses	

	Feb 26, Feb 27 – All Masses	
First Communion Masses	April 30 at 10:30 a.m. May 1 at 2:00 p.m. May 7 at 10:30 a.m. May 8 at 2:00 p.m.	
Confirmation Registration Meetings		Sept 26 at 6:00 p.m. Sept 28 and Oct 7 at 7:00 p.m.
Rite of Enrollment		Oct 23, Oct 24 – All Masses Oct 30, Oct 31 – All Masses
Online Sessions		Thursdays 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Nov 4, 18 Dec 9, Jan 13, Jan 27 Feb 24 March 3 OR Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.– Nov 6, 20, Dec 11, Jan 15, Jan 29, Feb 26, March 5
Reconciliation and Retreat		March 26 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Confirmation Masses		April 27 at 7:00 p.m. April 28 at 7:00 p.m. May 3 at 7:00 p.m. May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

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	Oct 1, 2021
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Nov 11, 2021
Advent Mass	TBD
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	March 2, 2022
Stations of the Cross	April 14, 2022
Catholic Education Week Mass	TBD
Year End Mass	TBD
Graduation Liturgy	TBD

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 are committed to supporting those among us who are in greater need. Through our Youth and Adult Faith Ambassadors and our Eco Team we ensure community participation in social justice activities and programs, and a focus on the sustainability of our environment. Examples include participation in:

- Ongoing work of our Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Ongoing and continued support of ShareLife
- Support for Canadian Food for Children (Dr. Simone Warehouse), Terry Fox Foundation, St Vincent de Paul, Jump Rope for Heart
- Autism Awareness, Rock Your Socks in support of Down Syndrome
- Efforts to support Catholic digital citizenship
- Continued Diversity and Equity Lead Initiatives
- Eco-School activities that support stewardship of our sacred environment

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.

At St. Richard, The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are infused in all our actions as a school community. We strive to nurture an environment where students not only learn the curriculum but also how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life-Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. A continued goal is to ensure that the OCSGE are visible throughout the school and infused throughout our daily practices.

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.

A Catholic faith community is rooted in a set of common beliefs which are inspired by the life, mission and teaching of Jesus. As a Catholic community, we are called to learn, to grow, and to become more like Jesus in the way we see and treat others. Our Catholic faith plays an important role in helping us shape schools that are safe, caring and inclusive. Catholic school education provides us the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. At St. Richard School we will continue to focus our attention on the Catholic Virtues. This program is designed to help us nurture virtue and character development in the lives of our students. Each month, the entire school will focus on a different virtue; Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-Control, Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance and Fairness. Classroom activities, school-wide activities, and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. The entire school community work together to develop a safe and caring school environment that emphasizes student well-being, and strong physical, emotional, and intellectual growth throughout their school year

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.

As you enter St Richard, our school banner, the cross, the altar and the Holy Bible adorn the sacred space for all visitors and members of the community on a daily basis. The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and the monthly Virtue are clearly evident as well. Within every classroom, the living sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day.

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

Signature Page

Pastor

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

Principal

Superintendent