

PASTORAL PLAN

School: St. Sebastian Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

“As soldiers of Christ, the students and staff of St. Sebastian Catholic Elementary School, in unity with our families and church community, are dedicated to fostering Catholic values in all spiritual, intellectual and social learning experiences. Our commitment to respect and cooperation encourages the development of faithful, caring and responsible citizens. We strive to reach our full potential, while facing the challenges of life.

School Motto: Soldiers of Faith, Endurance and Freedom

Our Parish: Merciful Redeemer

Pastor: Rev. James (Seamus) Hogan, Rev. Abraham Lukose, Rev. Suresh Xavier, Deacon Bruno Vitetta

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

Message from the Pastor:

May the peace of Christ be with you,

On behalf of the Priests and Staff of **Merciful Redeemer Parish**, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our prayers for you and all your loved ones as we prepare for a full pastoral program this fall. I have only recently been appointed as Pastor of Merciful Redeemer Parish, and I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to all of you, to introduce myself and, as COVID protocols are lifted and we

come together, to invite you to return to fully participating in the life of our parish, with its passion for liturgy, especially the celebration of Sunday Mass.

Please know that we, the priests and staff of Merciful Redeemer, are here to serve your needs and to help you deepen your encounter with Jesus Christ through His Church. We are happy to work with our parish schools, long term care homes and others to reach out to as many people as possible with a message of hope. In a special way, I thank our many volunteers for their dedication to the parish and to you.

Once again, I am pleased to assure you and your families of a remembrance in my prayers, along with those of Fr. Suresh, Fr. Abraham, Deacon Bruno and our staff. Kindly, remember us also in yours.

With prayers and best wishes,

In Christ,

Fr. Séamus Hogan

Pastor

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The mission of the St. Sebastian Catholic School Advisory Council is to be a Catholic, multicultural community of faith called to strengthen and enhance the triad of home, school, and church. We will achieve our mission through various community events with the focus of building a strong Catholic faith community where parents, guardians, students, administrators, teachers, and support staff all feel welcome and celebrated. St. Sebastian CSAC will endeavour to participate at school faith events and to be ambassadors for the community parish churches of Merciful Redeemer and St. Josephine Bakhita

Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2023

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One
L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un

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, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

*«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.»
(Romains 12, 5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

- Monday: **When we see / En voyant**
 Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**
 Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**
 Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**
 Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

St. Sebastian Catholic School will mark the beginning of Catholic Education Week with an opening liturgy led by our Youth Faith Ambassadors. Our morning announcements will include a prayer reflecting Catholic Education Week. Teachers will highlight each sub-theme through lessons in their classrooms using the resources provided by OCSTA. Our school wide *Gratitude Wellness Moment* will highlight the significance of Catholic Education. During this week, we will be hosting the *Celebration of Mary* inviting our community to attend. We will conclude the week with a school wide faith-centered outdoor activity.

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.

Adult faith formation is supported through:

- the celebration of liturgies on a monthly basis: weekly throughout Advent and Lent, to celebrate secular and religious holidays (i.e., Beginning of the School Year, All Souls Day, St. Sebastian's feast day, End of the School Year), and as needed to support members of our school community (i.e. to pray for our loved ones who are ill);
- Food drives
- Sacred spaces in all learning spaces
- Virtual Virtues Assemblies and front foyer displays
- Youth faith formation is supported largely through our Youth Faith Ambassador Program
- reenactment of Stations of the Cross
- student-lead liturgies to celebrate relevant feast days and periods in the liturgical calendar (i.e. Advent, Lent), in all classrooms;

- student-lead classroom presentations and school-wide announcements, teaching students of all ages about important aspects of our faith (i.e. the liturgical calendar, saints, tenets of our faith, Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, Mother Mary, stewardship)
- artworks illustrating what has been taught and/or celebrated in the classroom, adorning the walls of our school.
- student photos capturing the Ontario Catholic Student 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 1, 2023 4:00pm -7:00pm | |
| Sacrament of First Holy Communion | Sunday June 4, 2023 3:00pm | |
| Sacrament of Confirmation | | Friday May 5, 2023 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 Mass | Tuesday, September 22, 2022, 11:00am |
| Remembrance Day Liturgy | Thursday, November 11, 2022, 11:00am |
| School Confessions (Grades 3-8) | TBD |
| Advent Mass | Wednesday, November 30, 2022, @11:00am |
| Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 22, 2023, @11:00am |

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stations of the Cross | Thursday April 6, 2023 @ 11:00am |
| Celebration of Mary | Friday, May 5, 2023 |
| Year End Mass | Thursday June 15, 2023, @ 11:00am |

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 participates in ShareLife....

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and generosity by giving to those in need. We will continue to look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and His ministry through community service projects. By reaching out to others, students are encouraged to become thoughtful and caring members of the community and to appreciate the importance of social justice and stewardship. We will be supporting ShareLife and Society of St. Vincent de Paul through the Christmas Angel Tree, staff luncheons, food drives, fundraiser initiatives (i.e. dances)

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....

The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations are anchors for well-being in the promotion of our Christ-centered approach to education. We align our assessment and evaluation of the Learning Skills and Work Habits with the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Our Ontario Graduate Expectations are displayed in each classroom and are captured in the student photos displayed throughout our school hallways.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| September: I Am a Believer! | March: I Care! |
| October: I Have a Voice! | April: I Care! |
| November: I Have Ideas! | May: I Am a Team Player! |
| December: I Care! | June: I Have Responsibilities! |
| January: I am a Learner for Life! | |
| February: I Have Responsibilities! | |

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.

We have monthly assemblies....

A Catholic faith community 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. St. Sebastian School will 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. Classroom activities, school-wide activities, and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. Each month virtue recipients will receive a certificate and a small journal in which to record their spiritual journey in alignment with our wellness theme.

Faith Virtual Assembly Liturgy- September 2022 (Administration)
 Empathy Virtual Assembly Liturgy- October 2022 FDK Team
 Conscience Virtual Assembly Liturgy- November 2022 Grade 8 Team
 Hope Virtual Assembly Liturgy – December 2022 Grade 6 TEAM
 Self-Control Virtual Assembly Liturgy – January 2023
 Respect Virtual Assembly Liturgy – February 2023 (Special Education)
 Kindness Virtual Assembly Liturgy – March 2023- Grade 4 & 5
 April Virtual Assembly Liturgy- April 2023 (Grade 6s)
 May Virtual Assembly Liturgy –May 2023- FDKs
 June Fairness Virtual Assembly Liturgy –June 2023 (Grade 2/3s)



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.

We have ...Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables, community service

In all of our classrooms, students have access to a sacred space to help their faith development; this space is maintained following the liturgical calendar. Bulletin Boards in the classrooms and hallways display faith-based activities. In our foyer: our cross, gathering space, display cabinet (which highlight the Monthly Virtues and special days in our liturgical calendar) which supports keeping our faith central to all that we do.

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 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

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 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

School-Based

Signature Page

Pastor: Completed in collaboration with Merciful Redeemer Parish

Faith Ambassador(s) *(as applicable)* : Completed in collaboration with all staff

Teacher(s): Completed in collaboration with all staff

Chair of Catholic School Council: Completed in collaboration with all CSC members

Vice Principal(s): C. Roda

Principal: A. DeCicco Tavares

Superintendent