

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** *St. Edith Stein Elementary School*

**School Mission Statement:**

Together with the families of St. Edith Stein School and St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, we are responsible for building a community that expresses the joy and hope of our Catholic faith and visibly symbolizes a deep commitment to academic excellence, life-long learning and faith development.

**School Motto:** To Have a Friend, You Must Be A Friend

**Our Parish:** St. Josephine Bakhita

**Pastor:** *Rev. Mark Villanueva*

**Parish website:** *[www.stjosephinebakhita.org](http://www.stjosephinebakhita.org)*

**Message from the Pastor:**

Greetings in the Lord! St. Josephine Bakhita Parish recognizes that strong parish-home-school connections are foundational to supporting the development of students in the Ontario Catholic School system. We will continue to guide and support the work of schools in Sacramental preparation. Through the continuation of sharing best practices with our elementary schools, students will affirm their Catholic faith in word and action through a variety of initiatives. We wish the students of St. Edith Stein School a blessed and fruitful school year and moving forward, look forward to the success of all students.

**Message from the Catholic School Council:**

Together with the families and staff at St. Edith Stein School, the Catholic School Advisory Council has the opportunity to influence the educational experiences as students continue in their faith journeys. We hope to provide valuable insight to the Board and administrator as they cultivate a truly authentic Catholic education for our children. Through fundraising initiatives, we hope to support the

goals of the Catholic School Learning Plan of St. Edith Stein School. We are eager to promote a sense of community where both students and parents are engaged in school initiatives.

### **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**

During Catholic Education Week, daily prayers will reflect the themes outlined above. We will also celebrate Catholic Education with a school-wide liturgy of the word on Thursday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m.

### **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.*

- Staff and students will deepen their understanding of Catholic virtues through implementation of our virtues program.
- The school community will actively develop an appreciation, understanding, and knowledge of the Mass.
- Students at all grade levels will improve their knowledge and enhance their understanding of our Christian Faith Story as told in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.
- The school community will continue to expand initiatives in stewardship and social justice, which meet individual, local and global community needs, always being mindful of a Catholic perspective.

- The school will continue to expand our goal to have students more frequently and authentically reflect on how they can contribute to the common good.
- The school will continue to enhance its relationship with the St. Josephine Bakhita Church by welcoming the Rosary Apostolate to pray the rosary with us.

**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 First Reconciliation	Schedule to be prepared by Fr. Mark	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Saturday, April 25 @ 2:00 p.m.	
Sacrament of Reconciliation		Schedule to be prepared by Fr. Mark, those who cannot attend scheduled sessions can go to their nearest parish/church for Reconciliation
Sacrament of Confirmation		Saturday, May 9 @ 2:00 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 mass	10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 10 @ St. Edith Stein
Remembrance Day Assembly	11:00 a.m., Monday, November 11 @ St. Edith Stein
Advent Mass	7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18 @ St. Josephine Bakhita Church
Ash Wednesday	2:00 p.m., February 26 @ St. Edith Stein
Stations of the Cross	1:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 8 @ St. Edith Stein

Easter Mass	10:00 a.m., Friday, April 17 @ St. Josephine Bakhita Church
Celebrating Catholic Education Week	School liturgy of the word; 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 6 @ St. Edith Stein
Crowning of Mary	Thursday, May 14 @ St. Edith Stein (Time TBD)
Year End Mass	10:00 a.m., Friday, June 19 @ St. Josephine Bakhita Church

**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 community works together as one family as we support one another and respond to the needs of the larger community through activities such as Food Drives, Recycling Program, Share Life, etc.

- September – Terry Fox run/Dufferin-Peel Share Life Walk/ Open House/ Orange Shirt Day
- October – Thanksgiving Food Drive/ Walk to school days/ Eco Source presentations/Share Life
- November – PALs program begins/ Litterless lunch days/ Eco Source presentations/Share Life
- December – Christmas outreach/ mitten tree/ St. Josephine Bakhita Church Family Gift Baskets/ Christmas Concert/ Staff Liturgical Advent Celebrations/Community Advent Mass
- January - Peel Waste presentation/School-wide recognition assembly
- February – Share Life Spirit Days/ Winter Walk to School Days
- March – Share Life – Roll out the quarters/ Easter Food Drive/Textile drive
- April – Sponsor a family at Easter/ Youth Faith Ambassador Retreat
- May – Share Life/ Geronimo’s Dream
- June – Parish building fund walk-a-thon

**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.*

As a Catholic community of learners including and involving students, home, school and parish, we are committed to the principles inherent in the following:

- We live and grow in our faith by modeling ourselves after our Lord, Jesus Christ.

- We appreciate our own uniqueness and the uniqueness of others by treating each other with courtesy, consideration, kindness, and respect.
- We build and foster school spirit by sharing, cooperating and learning from each other, recognizing that people are our greatest resource.
- We realize learning is a lifelong process in an ever-changing world and that we must take personal responsibility for our own learning and education.
- We provide a nurturing environment, in order that students may empower themselves, resulting in confident, creative risk takers and problem solvers in academic and social experiences.
- We foster a work ethic that includes pride and satisfaction in the quality of work through collaboration and communication among all members of our school community.
- We are informed and involved citizens who identify and respond respectfully to the human and environmental needs and issues of our global community.
- We strive for excellence in everything that we do in order to achieve our personal best academically, spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

We value and encourage the contribution and cooperation of all the St. Edith Stein community members in the achievement of all our goals.

### **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, the school population celebrates the Virtue of the month. The Catholic Virtues program incorporates a variety of activities related to the virtue. Our daily announcements and prayers include prayers for the virtues. The virtues celebrated each month are:

September – FAITH

October – EMPATHY

November – CONSCIENCE

December – HOPE

January – SELF CONTROL

February – RESPECT

March – KINDNESS

April – LOVE

May – ACCEPTANCE

June – FAIRNESS

Notification of assemblies will be given to parents through newsletters and the school website events calendar.

**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.*

- Adult Faith Ambassadors gatherings for staff
- School-wide liturgical celebrations and gatherings, student-led by classes and Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Youth Faith Ambassadors as faith leaders in our school
- Staff liturgies and reflections
- Daily prayers, readings and reflections on the announcements
- The foyer of the school welcomes students, staff, parents and visitors in a faith-filled community. The signs of our Faith, including the altar, seasonal altar displays, virtues program posters and scenes of the life of St. Edith Stein are visual reminders of our common heritage and the liturgical seasons.
- Classrooms have prayer tables/corner for individual prayer opportunities/focus for classroom celebrations
- Missionary presentations to students (Rosary Apostolate monthly visits enhance our connection with St. Josephine Bakhita Church).
- Resources provided to parents supporting a better understanding of the Family Life Education curriculum
- The Prayer Room provides a quiet place for staff and students to be closer to Our Lord

**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](#)

**School-Based**