

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** *St. Simon Stock Elementary School*

## **School Mission Statement:**

It is the mission of St. Simon Stock Catholic Elementary School to enable students to:

- \* Become self-motivated life-long learners who strive to reach their full spiritual, academic and physical potential;
- \* Acquire and demonstrate the skills and attitudes that will enable them to make informed choices for their future;
- \* Grow in an understanding of Roman Catholic teachings and Gospel values, and incorporate these into their everyday life.

By providing an environment:

- \* Where we learn and grow within the context of a cooperative, community team of the Family, School and Church;
- \* That is nurturing and safe, where the Christian ideals of mutual trust, responsibility, equality and respect for all are encouraged

**School Motto:** “Rooted in Christ”

**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 the 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 work and action through a variety of initiatives.

We wish the students of St. Simon Stock a blessed and fruitful school year and moving forward, look ahead to the success of all students.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Mark Achilles Villanueva - Pastor

**Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The St. Simon Stock Catholic School Council proudly supports faith formation in our community. The Catholic School Council collaborates with the school in order to support faith formation and outreach work. We will continue to support various activities to raise funds for local charities and sacramental gifts.

C. Camilleri, Co-Chairperson, Catholic School Council 2019-2020

**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**

The students at St. Simon Stock will be demonstrating a spirit of awareness and reflection during Catholic Education Week on the significance of Catholic Education's presence and contribution in our Church, and in our society. We invite all members of our community to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2020 in our 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.*

St. Simon Stock Catholic School participates in various activities that support both adult and student faith formation. These activities include student retreats, masses and student and staff liturgies. We have active Faith Ambassadors as well as Student Youth Faith Ambassadors.

**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	Saturday, April 18, 2020	
Sacrament of Confirmation		Saturday, May 09, 2020

**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	Wednesday, October 09, 2019 (10:00)
Advent School Community Mass	Thursday, December 19, 2019 (7:00)
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (1:00)
Lent/Easter Mass	Thursday, April 16, 2020 (10:00)
Year End Mass	Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (10:00)

**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 various outreach activities and supports organizations such as Share Life, St. Vincent de Paul, Eden Food For Change!, etc. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors organize food drives

throughout the school year as well as raise funds to support various Catholic agencies and charities. Staff also contribute to Share Life by participating in casual dress days and special events, throughout the school year.

### **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.*

St. Simon Stock Catholic School demonstrates a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Classrooms focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues education. We address the Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues at bi-monthly assemblies and through announcements and the Family Life program.

### **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.*

Through teacher modeling of our Catholic faith and the virtues program, each child develops spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. Virtues education is celebrated during morning announcements, classroom activities and at bi-monthly assemblies.

### **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.*

Our school signifies our faith through visual signs such as crosses, bibles, prayer tables but also through service and outreach. Our foyer demonstrates the Virtues and our school motto. It also houses our altar. We have a prayer room where students go to reflect and pray. Our students serve as witness to our faith by devoting time to community service.

**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](#)