

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Valentine

School Mission Statement:

St. Valentine Catholic School is committed to honouring the diversity of individuals in a safe, nurturing environment where one can learn with dignity, live with self-respect, and grow in love and faith.

We are the unique creation of God in which members of this school community exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are centered on Christ and focused on students.

We believe in a shared responsibility of education that exists between the school, the family, the parish and the community.

We believe we are a school community anchored in the Catholic Faith where Christian values apply to life's opportunities, challenges and choices.

We believe in the provision of a variety of enriching and integrated opportunities for spiritual and social growth and providing a curriculum and learning environment that is dynamic, practical and relevant to enable our students to have the power and responsibility to create a future just society.

We respect the diversity of individuals, value self-esteem and place importance in creating a welcoming atmosphere of mutual respect that is safe, secure, co-operative and equal.

We believe we must actively fulfill the mission statement of St. Valentine School throughout our daily interactions.

We believe in the wholeness of a person and that we need to live, learn, love and pray to our best potential with mind, heart and soul.

School Motto: Learning , Loving, Praying

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Cyruk

Parish website: <https://stfrancisxavierchurch.blogspot.com/>

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Catholic Elementary School Families,

As we embark on our new pastoral plan, I want to extend my warmest blessings to each and every one of you. This school year promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for learning, sharing friendships, and deepening our Catholic faith.

I pray that this year brings you health, joy, and an abundance of hope. Together, let's support our students and teachers as we grow in faith and community. May our journey be filled with love and inspiration.

Wishing blessings to all our wonderful students, dedicated teachers, and cherished families. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

With heartfelt blessings,

Fr. Andrew

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Valentine Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment.

Catholic Education Week – May 4th – May 9th, 2025

Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance

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.

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

"Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée."
(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l'espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**

Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**

Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**

Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**

Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

- Prayers/Liturgies over the PA System
- Virtue Assembly
- Journey To Learning
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Classroom Visits
- French Café
- Crowning of Mary

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.

- Daily School wide prayers/ bible readings and reflections
- Student Youth Ambassadors (leaders in school events and social justice initiatives)
- Monthly staff liturgies
- Parish priest visits
- Virtue Assemblies
- Virtue recognitions
- Monthly acknowledgement and highlighting of the OCSGE
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation Medal program
- Grade 7 Confirmation retreat
- 1st Communion Retreat
- Masses/ liturgies and religious celebrations throughout the school year
- Sacramental preparation
- Rosary Apostolate

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
1 st Reconciliation	Tues. April 29 Wed. April 30	
1 st Holy Communion	Sat. May 3 Sat. May 10 Mon. May 12	
Confirmation		Thurs. May 15 Sat. May 17 Sat. May 24

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Beginning of Year Mass	Friday, October 4, 2024
Feast Day Mass	Thursday, February 13, 2025
End of Year/Graduation Mass	Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Life • Terry Fox • Food Drives • Angel on The Tree (Christmas Toy Drive) • Donation Collections |
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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.

- **Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place**
- **Have visible signs/ posters of the OCSGE posted around the school and classrooms**
- **Celebrate masses/virtues as a school community**
- **Promote forgiveness, caring and respect when conflicts arise (use of WITS/ 4 step apology)**
- **Promote self-reflection in both staff and students**
- **Focus on Respecting the thoughts and opinions of others**
- **Celebrate our gifts given to us by God**
- **Promote a sense of authentic stewardship (caring of our school, parish, community, and the world around us)**

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.

At St. Valentine we have...

- **Student lead monthly assemblies**
- **Teachers use the virtues as the foundation of their teaching and learning experiences**
- **Daily prayers based on Virtues**
- **Monthly student virtue recognition**
- **Virtue wall with names of students**

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 ...

- Display case in front foyer (Virtue focus)
- Alcoves displaying Saints and Bible
- All classes have crosses and Bibles
- Prayer tables in all classrooms
- Visual displays of many Saints
- Stain Glass windows portraying scripture
- Hangings with spiritual sayings
- Wall display of OCSGE and the Virtues
- OCSGE medal program

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- New Family Life Curriculum 2023 - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- [Encyclical Letters : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)
- Jubilee Year 2025 – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- Renewing the Promise – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letters : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'](#)

- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2025** – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

School-Based

- Blessed and Beloved Program
- Fully Alive Program

Signature Page

Pastor *J. Almo of Agnes*

Chair of Catholic School Council 

Vice Principal *Nicole Harris*

Principal *Mede*

Superintendent