

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name: St. Valentine Catholic Elementary School**

## **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. James Cherickal**

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

### **Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from St. Francis Xavier Parish pastoral team.

Albert Einstein stated: "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious". Catholic education has taken the responsibility of developing curiosity about spiritual and intellectual matters.

As the parents of the sacramental classes (Grade 2 & Grade 7) are already informed. The sacramental preparation classes will be online and in person. Information will be given to all at Parent information Meetings. A team of teachers are being trained under the leadership of Mrs. Caroline Athaide. We look forward to the strong support of parents/guardians in this sacramental preparation.

Please be aware that our Church is open for prayer from 7am to 8 pm. We have two Masses daily at 8am and 7pm. All details about our Sunday schedule, other faith formation programs, activities, please visit: [www.stfrancisxaviermi@archtoronto.org](http://www.stfrancisxaviermi@archtoronto.org)

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Cherickal, Pastor.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Catholic Education: We are Called to Love**

**L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer**

*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.*

*"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12*

*Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**

Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**

Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**

Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**

Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

- Prayers/Liturgies over the PA System
- Virtue Assembly
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- 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.*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
<b>Parent Information Meetings for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion</b>	October 10, 11 and 12 @ 5pm/ 6pm and 7pm	
<b>Parent Information Meetings for Confirmation</b>		October 16, 17, 18 and 19 5pm/6pm and 7pm
<b>Confirmation enrolment Ceremony</b>		October 14 and 15
<b>Parish Confirmation retreat</b>		May 11, 2024
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation</b>	April 9 and April 10	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion</b>	April 13 and April 20	
<b>Confirmation</b>		May 24, May 31 and June 1

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

<b>Celebration</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Beginning of Year Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 4, 2023</b>
<b>Advent Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 6, 2023</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 14, 2024</b>
<b>End of Year/ Graduation Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 26, 2024</b>

**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 actively participates in a variety of Social Justice projects and Outreach Activities:

- **Share Life**
- **Terry Fox**

- Food Drives
- Hat and Mitt Collections
- Donation Collections for Christmas (gift cards for St. Vincent De Paul)

### **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...*

- **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 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- 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 2024](#) – Catholic Education Week 2024
- [Synod on Synodality](#) – Synod 2021 - 2024

## Resource List for Schools:

### Board

- General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023

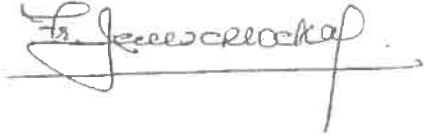
- [Renewing the Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- Fratelli Tutti](#)
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- [Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

### **School-Based**

- Growing in Faith  
Growing in Christ
- Fully Alive Program

**Signature Page**

**Pastor- Rev. James Cherickal**



**Chair of Catholic School Council – Nancy Naami**



**Vice Principal(s) – Rosalie Rodrigues-Coelho**



**Principal – Gina Pedroso**



**Superintendent** *Silvana Jos*