

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

We, the faculty of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School celebrate spirituality and diversity in an inclusive Catholic environment. We will ensure the Board's Catholicity goal for improving each students' application of scripture, sacramental life, and the Catholic social teaching in each students' daily life.

We, the parents of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, in partnership with staff and students, are dedicated to our children's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development in a secure environment, at home and in class. Working together, we attain success by educating students to their full potential.

We the students of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, will act and learn together as a Catholic community. We will demonstrate our love for God by respecting each other and by trying to meet the expectations of our parents and teachers.

School Motto: Living Our Vision Every Day

Our Parish:

Pastor: **Reverend Damian Ali**

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

Message from the Pastor:

Our Catholic Faith is all about our personal response to the God who has loved us first. Everything we do as Catholics must reflect the fact that we believe in the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and the Holy Spirit who continues to sanctify us. We are blessed to have a School system in Ontario that can call itself Catholic. By working with the Church and parents, our schools strive to

impart a well-rounded Catholic education to our children. As Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, I am grateful for the opportunity to work in collaboration with our three elementary schools for the good of our precious children. May our loving God continue to bless all of you.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Council will work with all partners in our school – staff, parish, parents, and volunteers - to put children first by building a community that communicates effectively and works cooperatively with one another. We are dedicated and committed to bring out the best in each other by working together to create welcoming and supportive relationships.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 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**

- *Liturgy to begin Catholic Education Week.*
- *Classroom activities in which parents can participate & witness.*
- *Volunteer Appreciation Tea*
- *School-wide activities that include opportunities to link our work on Treaty Recognition Week, Safe Schools, & the work of our Youth Faith Ambassadors*

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.

Our adult faith formation and the liturgical life of our school is an entire school effort and we are charged with the continuous growth of our Faith development alongside our academic achievement.

This faith formation is supported through:

- staff liturgies for faith formation, prayer, support & wellness
- altar displays to reflect the liturgical calendar
- virtues recognition, & display case with a connection to the OCSGE
- food drives, Dr. Simone
- Participation in Share Life board events
- support Christmas outreach programs (gift / mitten trees, food baskets)
- providing resources, readings & organizational support for masses & liturgies
- providing seasonal and Holy Day liturgies virtually for the staff (Opening School Mass, Thanksgiving Liturgy, Advent, Lent, Crowning of Mary, & Year-End & Grad Mass)
- sacramental support for Grades 2 and 7
- participation in Adult Faith Formation Days and Adult Faith Family Events

Youth Faith formation is supported largely through the work of our Youth Faith Ambassadors that generate goals and action steps which address issues like: Equity, Inclusion, Respect (anti-bullying), Treaty Recognition Week (We are all Treaty People), Faith, Mental Health, Healthy school Goals – Mindfulness, Eco goals – Stewardship & Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Others include:

- Outreach Projects: Eden Food Bank, Sick Kids, Gifts of Hope
- Spirit Weeks Activities to support ShareLife
- Youth Faith retreats
- Lenten Activities: The Giving Tree, Spirit Days, Easter Food Drive

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	Sat. Dec 2 @ 11am	
Confession for Confirmandi		Sat. May 25 @1:30 pm
First Holy Communion	Sun April 28 @ 4 pm Sun May 5 @ 4pm	
Holy Confirmation		Sun June 2 @ 4 pm
		Sun June 9 @ 4pm

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 & Thanksgiving	Oct. 11 @ 1 pm. at the church
Advent Mass	Dec. 5 @ 1 pm in the church
Lenten Confessions	<i>Grade 3 & 5:</i> Feb. 23 @ 10:15-11:30 (at the church) <i>Gr. 8:</i> Feb.23 @ 12:30 pm (at the church)
Easter Mass	April 16 @ 1pm. at the church
Year End Mass	June 25 @ 1pm in the 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.

Terry Fox Marathon of Hope
Christmas, Easter & Spring Food Drives
Anti-Bullying Awareness
Mindfulness Activities
PALS playground program (if permitted)
Community Building – SFA CARES Campaign
Christmas Outreach to Parish families in need (Angel Tree)
Board & School Share Life and United Way Events
World Vision

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.

- Student led morning announcements and liturgies
- OCSGE & Virtue assemblies that recognize those students who model & strive to emulate the virtues & the OCSGEs.

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 Francis of Assisi, we gather as a faith community to recognize and reflect on the virtues, reflect on our faith and reflect on the connection to the OCSGEs. We honour our students, and their student voice.

The virtues are rooted in Gospel Values and are emphasized in the Catholic School Graduate Expectations with an emphasis on the development of the whole child.

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.

Upon entering St. Francis of Assisi, our virtues and our altar are proudly on display. A prayer center / table is in every classroom, on which a cross, Bible, and candle can be found along with other relevant symbols of our Faith. The hallways of our school and front display are adorned with Faith based activities produced by the students of St. Francis of Assisi, in keeping with the liturgical calendar (i.e., saints during November, the Stations of the Cross during Lent...). Staff and students also contribute to various drives throughout the school year by donating money via School Cash online, food donations, and personal need items donations (i.e., Thanksgiving Food Drive, Mitten Tree, etc.). Staff come together to volunteer to deliver presents collected to our families in need.

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

Rosary Apostolate

Signature Page

Pastor Sr. Damien S. Aeri

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

Teacher(s) Liana Jovic-Mastroianni

Chair of Catholic School Council Namh Ruan Preami

Vice Principal(s) P. P. P.

Principal A. J. J.

Superintendent Silvana Jos