

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Basil Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

**In striving to attain eternal happiness for the greater glory of God, the St. Basil Catholic School community celebrates each child's spiritual growth, promotes academic excellence and lifelong learning, places high regard on the respect and dignity of every individual and works for social justice and equity to maximize the potential of every person.**

St. Basil Catholic School is committed to Catholic education as outlined in the mission statement of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, with our Catholic faith as our common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our faith and values systems form the foundation of our school program. We provide a learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school.

**School Motto:** The school motto, "Living, Loving, Learning", and our mission statement, reflect our commitment to nurture the whole child to strive for personal growth and lifelong learning. Staff, the pastoral team, and our parent community work collaboratively to help students understand and accept the challenges and joys of walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Together, we welcome all within our community and reach out to others outside of our community, accepting each person as a child of God.

**Our Parish:** Saints Martha and Mary

**Pastor:** *Rev. Darrin Corkum*

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

## Message from the Pastor:

*The importance of Catholic Education cannot be seen unless it is fully realized in the family and the parish as well. It is the three pillars of faith in action that is seen in the partnership of PARISH, FAMILY*

*and SCHOOL. Together, we see faith nurtured in the family, grown in the weekly parish Mass and put into practice in the greater community as seen in the local Catholic school. Each builds upon the faith of the preceding element and influence. The school is the outward expression of faith of the family, as lived in a parish community. For Catholic educators, it is the three-fold expression of our faith, this three-fold live reality of our faith that is at the core of who and what and why Catholic education is so important. The expression of Catholic education is seen in the school not as an end in itself, but as a part of the greater whole; that education is part of a holistic examination of one's personal life and his/her prayer life all bound together in a social and learning life found in our Catholic schools. It is encouraging to see our Catholic educators living their faith amongst their students in the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass. This lived reality of faith is manifested in the lessons of the school; that what is learned on Sundays is not limited to only one day, but are reflected during the lesson plans of the week. This unity of faith, family and school are fundamental to spiritual and moral growth. I am truly pleased to say that our Catholic schools in Mississauga reflect well the aims and goals of our families and parishes. Together, let us serve our Lord and one another, in love and faith.*

### **Message from the Catholic School Council:**

*The St. Basil Catholic School Council proudly supports faith formation for our community. We collaborate with the school in order to support faith formation. Our Council has supported various activities to raise funds for local charities, such as, St. Vincent de Paul Society and food banks and annually support Archdiocese of Toronto ShareLife campaign.*

### **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, 2020 is Catholic Education Week.

The theme for CEW 2020, *Igniting Hope*, was inspired by three sources:

- The recent Papal Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, by Pope Francis following the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment
- The recent Ontario Bishops' pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise* (2018)
- The *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations* by the Institute for Catholic Education (2011)

During Catholic Education Week, the students at St. Basil Catholic School will be demonstrating a spirit of hope, awareness and reflection 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.

Various activities will take place during the week; highlights of specific activities will be posted in the newsletter, emailed, sent via Twitter and on our website.

The Catholic Education week will initiate with a liturgy and conclude with the crowning of Mary. The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:

Monday:	<b>Our Hope in Christ</b>
Tuesday:	<b>The Hope Within Us</b>
Wednesday:	<b>The Hope Among Us</b>
Thursday:	<b>Hope for the World</b>
Friday:	<b>A Future Full of Hope</b>

### **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.*

This year our continued focus will be on Scripture as per our School Board Learning Plan Cycle. As a school community, we endeavor to begin each day with morning prayers that concentrate on the scripture readings. Scripture readings will be explained in student friendly language. The readings are reflected upon in a variety of ways and integrated throughout the curriculum.

St. Basil Catholic School participates in various activities that support both adult and student faith formation. These activities include daily prayers and reflections with a focus on the Virtue of the Month and selected Catholic Graduate Expectations. Staff meetings all begin with prayer and/or short liturgy that will focus on the themes of Hope and Communities of Faith.

*Our Virtues are celebrated at the school and in classrooms. We acknowledge and highlight students who have demonstrated the virtue of the month during these celebrations. We celebrate school wide masses and Liturgies throughout the year. Our Grade 2 and 7 students prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Each month the Rosary Apostolate volunteers visit our school to pray the rosary with each class.*

Our school has staff members who are Faith Ambassadors as well as Youth Faith Ambassadors more commonly known at the school as Student Leaders who provide by example a devotion to our faith and commitment to encourage others to express themselves

through faith-based activities including prayer and faith in action initiatives. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors assist in food/clothing drives, Christmas outreach initiatives, liturgies, and other special events throughout the year.

Annually, staff and faculty have an opportunity to participate in adult faith formation through the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Adult Faith Ambassador program. Both staff and students regularly participate in various gathering, liturgies and retreats throughout the year.

### **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. Please note all Parent information meetings and Sacramental Celebrations are held at Sts. Martha and Mary Parish.*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
Teacher Parish Meeting	September 25, 2019	September 25, 2019
Parent and Enrollment	October 3, 2019	October 17, 2019
Sacrament of Reconciliation	March 3, 2020 @ 7:00 pm	
First Communion	April 26, 2020 @ 2:00 pm	
Sacrament of Confirmation		February 18, 2020, @ 7:00 pm

### **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>
Welcome Liturgy & Assemblies	September 9, 2019 @ 9:30 am
Opening/Thanksgiving Mass	October 15, 2019 @ 10:15 am
Remembrance Day Service	November 11, 2019 @ 10:45 am

Virtue Celebrations	Classroom Celebrations & Monthly Acknowledgements. School Celebrations for the Virtue of Hope, Respect and Acceptance
Advent Mass	December 10, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - Sts. Martha & Mary Parish
Ash Wednesday - Principals' Commissioning	February 26, 2020 @ 9:00am - Sts. Martha & Mary Parish
Ash Wednesday Service	February 26, 2020 @1:00 pm - St. Basil School
Holy Thursday observance - Stations of the Cross	April 9, 2020 - scheduled per grade /division
Easter Liturgy	April 30, 2020 @ 10:15 am
Graduation Liturgy	June 22, 2020 @ 6:30 pm @ Philip Pocock Secondary
End of the Year Liturgy	June 25, 2020 @ 9:30 am

### **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 ShareLife, food banks and the like. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors/Student Leaders and Faith Works organize food drives throughout the school year as well as raise funds to support the 34 agencies of ShareLife. Staff also contribute to ShareLife by participating in *casual dress days on Fridays*, coat drives and contribute to the food drive.

The school participates in the following outreach activities throughout the year

- The Terry Fox Foundation
- Food drives to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Thanksgiving, during Advent and Lent
- Donation of food, clothing, toys, mitts, hats etc. for needy families at Christmas
- ShareLife/United Way is supported through a variety of activities such as dress down Friday for staff, school spirit weeks and specialty luncheons
- Eco Schools in looking after and sustaining our environment

**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. Basil Catholic School demonstrates a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Classrooms focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues education. We infuse our Catholic Graduate Expectations and our Virtues into our daily activities at the school and through our Religious Education and Family Life program.

- To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community present and incorporate readings and reflections during morning announcements.
- Posters are visibly displayed in the front foyer of the school and in the hallways
- The St. Basil School newsletters highlights one of the OCSGE each month

**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.*

**Virtue Celebrations**

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 virtue assemblies at different times throughout school year, led by our primary, junior and intermediate divisions. The school also has a Virtue display that highlights our virtues of the month.

**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 has many visible signs our Catholic Faith including crosses, bibles, prayer tables and evidence of community services throughout the school. Our foyer is decorated with an altar, cross and a statue of Mother Mary.*

*Display cases proudly highlight our commitment to our Virtues and Catholic Faith. All classrooms and common areas such as the library and office area have Sacred spaces dedicated to prayer and reflection.*

*Our faculty, staff and students serve as witness to our faith by their daily interactions and by devoting time to community events that help those in need.*

**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**

Sts. Martha & Mary Parish