

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Bernadette Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

St. Bernadette Catholic School is a community of teachers, parents, pastoral workers and children called to work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Together, we believe it is our responsibility to foster intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social growth within our Catholic-Christian community.

Students will be encouraged to develop their talents to the best of their abilities.

Each child will grow in respect for all members of the community and the environment.

Teachers will endeavor to foster a sense of self-worth and personal responsibility in each student.

We are committed to the development of our children into responsible members of society who follow the teachings of Christ.

School Motto: Together We Are One

Our Parish: St. Martin of Tours

Pastor: *Rev. Gijo Muthanattu, O.Carm*

Parish website: <http://stmartinoftourschurch.ca>

Message from the Pastor:

By strengthening the bonds between families, school and parish, we strengthen our Catholic Christian values in our greater community.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

School Council continues to support students in their faith-based learning journey, in dialogue with school administration. Our objectives include planning and setting priorities for fundraising and events which will support students, advocating for parents who wish to be more involved in the school and ensuring effective connections with the Parish and School Board.

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**

During Catholic Education Week, we highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic Education between our Catholic School, our Parish and our Parents.

- Catholic Education Week prayers every morning over the PA
- Grade 2 students making their First Holy Communion
- Grade 7 students making their Confirmation
- Crowning of Mary
- Virtue of the Month: Acceptance
- Each classroom will invite parents for an activity

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. Bernadette School supports both adult and student faith formation through our school masses, liturgies, virtues assemblies and outreach initiatives. The Gospel values are encouraged and modeled daily by both staff and students. Scripture is an integral part of our program. Staff and students demonstrate their faith through positive interactions with others. The Virtues program reflects Catholic faith practices.

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	December 7 th , 2019 @ 10:30am St. Martin of Tours	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 25 th , May 2 nd , May 3 rd , 2020 St. Martin of Tours	
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 5 th , 2020 @ 7:00pm St. Marin of Tours

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
School Opening Mass	September 24 th , 2019 @ 9:00am
All Souls' Day Staff Liturgy	November 1 st , 2019 @ 8:15am
Remembrance Day	November 11 th , 2019 @ 10:50am
Sacrament of First Reconciliation	December 7 th , 2019 @ 10:30am St. Martin of Tours

Advent Mass	December 11 th , 2019 @ 1:00pm
Lenten Mass	March 12 th , 2020 @ 1:00pm
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 25 th , May 2 nd , May 3 rd , 2020 St. Martin of Tours
Sacrament of Confirmation	May 5 th , 2020 @ 7:00 pm St. Marin of Tours
Year End/Graduation Mass	June 23 rd , 2020 @ 10:00am St. Martin of Tours Parish

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"> • Terry Fox Walk for Cancer Research • Thanksgiving Food Drive • Christmas Outreach Activities/Food Hampers/Gift Baskets • Angel Hat and Mitten Tree • Christmas Food Drive • United Way/ShareLife • ECO Initiatives |
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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.

<p>To celebrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we as a school faith community participate in Virtue Assemblies, as well as referring to the elementary school version of the Expectations.</p> <p>We honour our Grade 8 graduates by giving awards to students who exemplify each of the OCSGE.</p>

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.

Christian Virtues are celebrated and emphasized throughout our school community through monthly virtue assemblies, where virtuous behaviours are prayed for and celebrated by staff, students and parents. Students receive a “virtue bracelet” and they place a leaf on our virtue tree in the front foyer. We all watch as the tree “grows” during the course of the year. Virtues are emphasized and taught throughout the curriculum, as well as reflected/reviewed in discipline and conflict resolution when addressing behaviours at school.

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.

Visible signs of our Faith here at St. Bernadette School include the following:

- Youth Faith Ambassador activities – food drives/visit to the aged in our community
- School wide liturgical celebrations, prayer services
- Christian Meditation in our school prayer room
- School virtue assemblies
- Student led morning prayers
- Foyer display/altar/bulletin board displays
- Statues of Mary and Jesus
- Classroom prayer table/corner
- Daily Religious/Family Life Education
- Class/School visits to St. Martin of Tours Parish
- School Council Prayer at each meeting
- Sacramental Preparation
- Staff Adult Faith Ambassador initiatives
- School prayer room for student and staff liturgies, prayer and reflection

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

- Religion Textbook and Teacher's Resource: Born of the Spirit (FDK-Grade 8)
- Family Life Textbook and Teacher's Resource: Fully Alive (FDK-Grade 8)
- Bibles, library books, media resources