

PASTORAL PLAN

School: St. Christopher Separate School

School Mission Statement:

At St. Christopher School we believe that we are called to nurture all members of our community in our Catholic beliefs and traditions. Our staff, students, parents, and parish team will work together to foster a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all. We will work together to ensure the academic, social and emotional success of all learners as we journey to fulfill the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

School Motto: Hand in Hand, Heart to Heart, United in Faith

Our Parish: St. Christopher

Pastor: *Rev. Scott R. Young*

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

Message from the Pastor:

"One of my special ministries as Pastor at St. Christopher's is to visit St. Chris School regularly. What comes of that is a family atmosphere when I am in the school and when I meet students and their families in the community. I am delighted that the children at St. Chris know me and greet me warmly whenever I am visiting. My visits also help me to understand better the challenges that families in our parish must face. I believe that my frequent visits help to bond the school community to the parish community, because of friendship and because of faith."

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Faith development at St Christopher has been very strong for many years. Our Catholic School Council works closely with our parish encouraging pastoral visits with our students, planning masses and sacramental celebrations. Our students are constantly provided the opportunity to practice their faith by participating in ShareLife, Families Helping Families, Compass Food Drives, Terry Fox walk, and reciting the Rosary.

Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together
L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Restaurer, Renouveler Ensemble

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.

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.» (Apocalypse 21,5)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are:

Monday:	Rediscover / Redécouvrir
Tuesday:	Rebuild / Rebâtir
Wednesday:	Restore / Restaurer
Thursday:	Renew / Renouveler
Friday:	Rejoice / Se réjouir

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources as well as our own developed activities we will prepare activities which will highlight how our school is reflecting on the theme 'Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together'. Suggested activities may include a school wide retreat, liturgy, Journey Into Learning event and classroom activities. Information will be shared with the community closer to Catholic Education Week.

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.

The St. Christopher School community participates in many activities that nurtures our Catholic faith, virtues, and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. We keep all of this in focus as we

align to the Board goal of improving the student application of scripture, sacramental life, and Catholic social teachings in daily life to our school goals. We, at St. Christopher, continue to support sacramental preparation in partnership with the pastoral team, participate in liturgical celebrations, and pray the rosary. Each day one will see and hear us engaged in prayer services, daily morning prayers and virtue prayers prepared and delivered by students. We also participate in masses with the Parish during the school year, including our Advent Mass. Our Lenten Journey begins with an Ash Wednesday liturgy and culminates with a Holy Thursday Stations of the Cross presentation lead by our Grade 8 students.

In the school year of 2019-2020 St Christopher School was named as the top fundraising Elementary school in the entire Archdiocese of Toronto. A total of \$5840 was raised by staff and students, which is a testament to how we all work to promote the ideals of servant leadership and giving to those less fortunate.

Adult faith formation in our school includes First Friday liturgies. Our Staff continues to focus on ShareLife as their single charity to contribute to in the form of parking space draws and dress down Fridays.

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
Reconciliation Liturgy and Individual Confession – parish <i>(families select a date in advance)</i>	Tuesday, January 18, 6:30 pm Wed., January 19, 6:30 pm Thursday, January 20, 6:30 pm	Wednesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m.
First Holy Communion Mass <i>(families select a date in advance)</i>	Sunday May 1, 3:30 pm Sunday, May 8, 3:30 pm Sunday, May 15, 3:30 pm Sunday, May 22, 3:30 pm (Victoria Day weekend) Sunday, May 29, 3:30 pm	
Confirmation Mass <i>(families select a date in advance)</i>	Thursday, June 2, 7:00 pm (only if necessary) Friday, June 3, 7:00 pm Saturday, June 4, 2:00 pm	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Advent Mass	Wednesday, December 1, 2021 (tentative)
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Stations of the Cross	Thursday, April 14, 2022
Crowning of Mary	Thursday, May 19, 2022

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 many activities such as the Terry Fox Walk, Share Life Halloweek and Families Helping Families at Christmas. Staff partake in a monthly raffle for Share Life for two coveted parking spots. As a community, we truly believe in the value of helping those in need. Our ShareLife school campaign was quite successful and a faith-filled learning experience and outreach opportunity for our students, therefore, ShareLife will continue to be our primary Catholic charity to support. The messages from Pope Francis, regarding our responsibility and commitment to be stewards of the creation, are lived out through the actions and activities of our Eco Team.

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.

As a Catholic community, we embed the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. It is our endeavor to provide the best education to our students to ensure future success. We highlight the OCSGE on weekly newsletters, in daily announcements and at our assemblies. Educators regularly weave the expectations on their daily

classes. We keep all of this in focus as we align to the Board goal of improving the student application of scripture, sacramental life, and Catholic social teachings in daily life to our school goals.

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.

As a Catholic community, we embed the Virtues program in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially and physically. Our Virtues assemblies are prepared and presented collaboratively by students at various points of the year. The monthly Virtues prayer is a part of our daily announcements and faith reflections and it is highlighted on weekly staff and community memos. Students are provided with examples of stories that display the virtues and the virtues assist us in teaching and guiding students throughout their school day. We keep all of this in focus as we align to the Board values of BELIEVE and THRIVE to our school goals here at St. Christopher.

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.

St. Christopher fosters a safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive environment. Our foyer houses our altar with bible, and display case that features the virtue of the month. We also have our school banner, the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations banner, St. Christopher standing guard, and seasonal liturgical banners and Virtues plaques. The main office and classrooms have a dynamic living sacred space that makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop, each and every day, with both our adult staff and student body.

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**
- **Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"- Fratelli Tutti**

- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – Catholic Education Week 2021**

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023**
- **Renewing The Promise - Renewing The Promise**
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- Fratelli Tutti**
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – Catholic Education Week 2021**

School-Based

- **Information is on the School Website <http://www3.dpcdsb.org/CHRIS>**
- **School Weekly Newsletters “Storm Tracker”, Twitter @stchris_dpcdsb**

Signature Page

Pastor




Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

W. DeWane K. Cardoso

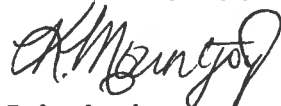
Teacher(s)

Christina A. Murphy

Co-Chairs of Catholic School Council



Vice Principal(s)



Principal



Superintendent Silvana Jos

