

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. Joseph Rodrigues**

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

Message from the Pastor:

Message from Rev. Joseph Rodrigues

One of my special ministries as Pastor at St. Christopher's is to visit St. Christopher's School. What comes of that is a family atmosphere when I am in the school and when I meet the students and their families in the community.

I would be delighted to meet the children and greet them warmly whenever I am visiting, try to get familiar with them and their families. My visits, I hope, will 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 because of friendship of 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 – April 30 – May 5, 2023

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One
L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un

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.

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

*«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.»
 (Romains 12, 5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

- Monday: **When we see / En voyant**
- Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**
- Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**
- Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**
- Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

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 'We are Many, We are One'. Suggested activities may include a school wide retreat with our Parish Youth Minister, Levy, Crowning of Mary celebration with our Rosary Apostolates and Father Joseph at our local Parish. As well as an in-school liturgy prepared by students, our Kindergarten Journey Into Learning event and other 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 past, St Christopher School was named as the top fundraising Elementary school in the entire Archdiocese of Toronto; 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.

As a school community, we will continue to engage in Spirit Weeks to support ShareLife and will continue to participate in social outreach (e.g., food drives, Candy drive for Dr. Simone Food for Children, as well as in support our local community as evidenced in our Terry Fox Fundraiser. We will continue to bring awareness and understanding to our students to support Truth and Reconciliation by participating in Orange Shirt Day and engaging in Treaties Recognition Week, seeking justice and reparation. Students will also continue to engage in Eco Team lead initiatives; modelling and promoting good stewardship and showing respect for the sacred and ancestral lands of the Michizaagiig Anishinaabek.

As a staff, we are committed to equitable and inclusive education. We will continue to listen, and “unlearn” so that we may begin to engage in courageous conversations with an equity lens. We will incorporate this in our staff meetings and will provide opportunities for our staff to self-reflect and examine our biases so that we may continue to strive to be the face of God to our community and to promote Gospel values.

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	Date/Activity	
Sacrament of Reconciliation		
First Holy Communion	April 29, 30, May 6, 7th	Gr.2
Confirmation	May 16, 17	Gr.7
Reconciliation Preparation w/Youth Minister Levy	March 28th	Gr 4-8
Confessions w/Fr. Joseph	April 11th	Gr. 3-8

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
All Saints/ All Souls Day Mass (w/Fr. Joseph)	November 1
Remembrance Day Liturgy (Student Led)	November 11
Advent/Christmas Liturgy (Student Led)	December
OCSGE Assembly (Admin Led)	October
Ash Wednesday Liturgy (w/ Fr. Joseph)	Feb 22
Lent/Stations of the Cross (Student Led)	March
Easter Mass (w/ Fr. Joseph)	April 12
CEW Liturgy (Student Led)	May 4-5
CEW Junior Retreat (Gr.4-6 w/ Youth Minister Levy)	May 4-5
Crowning of Mary Celebration	May 23
Graduation Mass	June 27
End of Year Liturgy/Canada Day Celebration	June TBD

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 "Scare and Share" (we collect Halloween candy for Sr. Simone Food for Children) 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 in our school assemblies, monthly newsletters, in daily announcements and in our daily interactions with one another. Educators regularly weave the expectations daily as they align with our virtue education. 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.

St. Christopher fosters a safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive environment. Our foyer will house our altar with bible, crucifix and display bulletin board 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 Virtue's 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 day, with both our adult staff and student body.

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 will house 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. The main office and classrooms have reflect a 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. Our iconography is also being examined to ensure it is reflective of our safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive environment, striving to ensure that students see themselves in Christ.

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 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

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 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

School-Based : (Signature Page)

Pastor Fr. Joseph *Rodrigues*



Chair of Catholic School Council: Megan Ferreira



Vice Principal: Rosalie Coelho



Principal: Greg Hilton



Superintendent: Silvana Gos

