

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Divine Mercy Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Community of the Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School,  
will nurture, inspire and educate our children  
in a physically safe and emotionally secure environment.

We will promote the spiritual, emotional and  
intellectual potential of each individual  
and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

We are Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary

**School Motto:** Living, Loving, Learning

**Our Parish:** Merciful Redeemer

**Pastor:** *Rev. Monsignor Owen Keenan*

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

## Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents, Staff and Students of our Parish Schools,

On behalf of Merciful Redeemer Parish, I express the assurance of my prayers for you and all your loved ones during the 2020-2021 School year. After the longest March Break in history, in the middle of a resurging pandemic, and with stresses and worries multiplied more than usual, the return to school has been a mixed blessing. It is good and necessary to have our children back learning, in the structured and social environment of the classroom, in each other's company and living a semblance of normalcy. Doing so, however, is not without added challenges and worries, and some children have not returned and

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This new situation in which we find ourselves – pray it may be over soon! – reminds us of how connected we all are, and therefore of the responsibility we have to each other and for each other. We are, to use the Biblical expression, “our brother’s keeper”. Know that Merciful Redeemer Parish is ready to assist you as parents, students, educators and administrators, in whatever way we can and in all circumstances, to know and love and serve the Lord. The Church is open for Mass, Confessions, private prayer; many of our ministries are up and running – online or in-person (socially distanced) – to this end; our office is open and Youth Minister (Danielle Lape) is organizing our outreach to our young parishioners (check our website: [www.mercifulredeemer.org](http://www.mercifulredeemer.org)). You are encouraged to make Sunday Mass and participation in the life of the parish a part of your family routine. I welcome your ideas as to how your parish can be more attentive to your needs and support your family, to make you feel at home and to help you to know and love the Lord, and to hand the Faith on to your children as your pledged and promised to do before the Lord at their Baptism.

I am pleased to assure you and our school communities of a remembrance in Fr Suresh', Fr Tom's and my prayers. Remember us also in yours.

God bless and be well,

Msgr Owen Keenan – Pastor Merciful Redeemer Parish

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

Divine Mercy's Catholic School Council supports the pursuit of education and the Catholic faith in our school community through collaboration between the school, the parent community, and Merciful Redeemer parish to promote the pastoral plan. Daily practice of the tenets of our faith through prayer, instruction, sacramental celebration, donation to local charities, and fundraising to support school-wide

activities, enrich all of us in the knowledge and love of the Lord our God, as well as follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

### **Catholic Education Week Theme: Nurturing Hope / Cultiver l'espérance**

*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 2 – May 7, 2021 is Catholic Education Week.

***“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)***  
***«Ceux qui mettent leur espérance dans le Seigneur trouvent des forces nouvelles.» (Isaïe 40,31)***

**The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:**

- Monday:       Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre**
- Tuesday:      Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude**
- Wednesday:   Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations**
- Thursday:     Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits**
- Friday:        Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller**

Catholic Education Week begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes.

Catholic Education Week 2021 will be held May 2-7, 2021.

For more information about Catholic Education Week and to access OCSTA Resources, visit the [OCSTA website](#)

Our staff, students, and parents will be involved in activities that provide us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the privileges of Catholic Education. During this week, there will be a variety of in-class activities at the school and will be designed to highlight the unique role our faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum. We will begin with an opening liturgy on Monday May 3.

**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.*

**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
<b><i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i></b>	Wednesday February 10, 2021 6:00pm-9:00 pm Merciful Redeemer Church	
<b><i>Sacrament of First Communion</i></b>	Saturday May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 12:00 noon  Sunday May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 4:00 p.m.  Sunday May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. Merciful Redeemer Church	
<b><i>Crosses &amp; Confession</i></b>		Tuesday February 23, 2021 9:30 am -11:30 am Divine Mercy School
<b><i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i></b>		Monday April 26, 2021 @ 7:00 pm Merciful Redeemer Church
<b>Parish Visits for Grade 7 Students- preparing for Confirmation</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• November 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• December 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>

**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>
Opening School Mass	Wednesday September 23-Virtual 10:00 a.m.
Advent Mass	November 30, 2020 9:30 a.m.- Virtual
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 17, 2021 9:00 a.m. @ Divine Mercy
Holy Thursday Liturgy	May 23, 2021 @ Divine Mercy
Crowning of Mary	Friday May 7, 2021 (tentative)
Year End Mass	Monday June 14 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m. Merciful Redeemer Church
Grade 8 Graduation Mass & Ceremony	Monday June 21, 5:00 pm @ Merciful Redeemer 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.*

Our school participates in several activities such as: Eden Food for Change, Terry Fox Walk, ShareLife Fundraising, Youth Ministry programs at Merciful Redeemer Parish, and supporting initiatives such as Food Drives and toy/gift card drives to support St. Vincent de Paul during the Advent season.

**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.*

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are fostered in all our actions as a school community. We strive to nurture an environment where students not only learn the curriculum but also how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life-Long Learners;

Discerning Believers; Collaborative Contributors; Effective Communicators; Caring Family Members; Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. The OCSGE are visible in all areas in our school – in our classrooms, hallways and office.

### **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.*

Through student-led assemblies and liturgies, students, staff and community members of Divine Mercy Catholic School celebrate the virtues of faith, respect, empathy, kindness, conscience, love, hope, acceptance, self-control and fairness. We strive to ensure that these virtues are consistently visible within our school. The virtues are referred to through prayer, daily announcements, progressive discipline and curriculum connections. School Masses and Liturgies are two areas where our virtues come to life within our school community.

### **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 Divine Mercy Catholic School, the cross, the altar and the Holy Bible, the Virtue banners, the OSCGE banner, images and booklet welcome all visitors and members of the community on a daily basis. Within every classroom, a visible sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day. The most vibrant sign of faith you will see when you enter Divine Mercy Catholic School are the students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators working together to bring to life the Gospel values. Together we live our faith as a school community.

### **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 “Laudato Si’”- [Laudato Si’](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

### **Resource List for Schools:**

#### **Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’”- [Laudato Si’](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

#### **School-Based**

- Many Gifts Resource
- Fully Alive Program
- Dear Pope Francis
- Auditing our Catholic Schools
- Pope Francis Childrens’ book( provided to our Kindergarten students)

#### **Class Visits**

We are privileged to have such a strong parish team at Merciful Redeemer Parish. Through the spiritual leadership of Monsignor Owen Keenan, and his Associate Pastors, Fr. Tom Kluger, and Fr. Suresh are school is blessed to have our clergy along regularly visit classes from Kindergarten to Grade 8. During these visits, students learn about the importance of the gospel, the Sacraments and the Virtues. In addition, Jane Scamurra helps coordinate and facilitate the organization of parents’ nights and students’ preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. This Parish team is instrumental in assisting Divine Mercy students with faith development.

School Rosary live-streaming schedule for 2020-2021:

<b>Grades 1-3</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Time</b>
2020-10-20	Joyful - The Annunciation	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2020-11-17	Joyful - The Visitation	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2020-12-15	Joyful - The Nativity	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2021-01-19	Joyful - The Presentation	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2021-02-23	Joyful - The Finding of Jesus	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2021-03-24	Sorrowful - The Crucifixion	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2021-04-20	Glorious - The Resurrection	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm
2021-05-18	May celebration	1:30 pm to 1:45 pm

<b>Grades 4-8</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Time</b>
2020-10-21	Joyful	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2020-11-18	Joyful	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2020-12-16	Special Christmas Presentation	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2021-01-20	Luminous	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2021-02-24	Sorrowful	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2021-03-25	Sorrowful	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm



2021-04-21	Glorious	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
2021-05-19	May celebration	2:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**Signature Page**

**Pastor**

**Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)**

**Teacher(s)**

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

**Vice Principal(s)**

**Principal**

**Superintendent**