

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Gregory Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

We are a community of Catholic educators devoted to the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social development of each child in the image of Christ. We inspire, serve, and guide our children to become confident, capable, lifelong learners and productive citizens, who bear witness to Christ's teachings.

School Motto: "We Care, We Share, We Dare!"

Our Parish: St. Joseph

Pastor: **Rev. Paul Dobson**

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

Message from the Pastor:

St. Joseph Parish's involvement in the faith formation of our schools and its children has four key dimensions: sacramental preparation, school Masses, classroom visits and offering the sacraments. We offer sacramental preparation for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion (Grade 2 students) and share the work with the schools in preparing the Grade 7 students to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our primary role is to help foster an encounter with the Lord, and to teach the children the importance of recognizing God in their lives. School Masses are a great opportunity to do this,

both through the beauty of the Liturgy and the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. By doing this, we introduce the children to communal prayer and lay the groundwork for them so that they can build their own strong relationship with God through personal prayer. We also want to have the young people experience the Mass in their parish Church, and for this reason we have requested that at least one of the four yearly school Masses take place at St. Joseph's parish.

The Parish's final and perhaps most important role is to make the sacraments readily available to the children. We do this by pointing out to them the days and times of our sacramental celebrations (Masses, Reconciliation, etc.). Hopefully, this will prepare them to take ownership of their spiritual lives and to live a sacramental life where they may truly grow and flourish. We look forward to collaborating with our schools in this endeavor throughout the year.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. Gregory Catholic School Council is striving towards ensuring that each and every student's happiness and welfare is of the up most importance. Ongoing and effective communication between home, parish and school is essential in supporting our student's faith formation and creating a successful learning experience. As a Catholic School Council, we sponsor, support and host many events, such as coffee hour at St. Joseph Church, and graduation that help to engage parents in both our school and St. Joseph Parish. Parents and guardians are always welcome and encouraged to attend school liturgies and events showing their support of the students and community. St. Gregory also has many community outreach projects and charities that support stewardship in our faith. St. Gregory Catholic School Council wishes to welcome you to the 2023 – 2024 school year. It is our hope that you and your children have a wonderful and blessed school year. We look forward to working with and supporting the school community.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Called to Love
L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer

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.

"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12

Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**

Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**

Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**

Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**

Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

- French café
- Faith Based Retreat – School Wide
- Literacy Lessons/Assemblies per division
- YFA initiatives
- Faith Based Playday
- Liturgies
- Prayer Service Daily on Themes
- Parent engagement by division throughout the 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.

Please highlight the school activities that support both adult and student faith formation.

- Monthly visits from the Rosary Apostolates
- School Masses (Opening, Lenten, Easter, Year End/Graduation)
- Advent/Lent Liturgies for Staff
- Stations of the Cross
- Visits from priests to school events
- Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation (with St. Joseph's)

- *Sacramental Retreats*
- *Staff Liturgies*
- *Advent and Lenten retreats through MBC Family of Schools*
- Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors for students
- ShareLife activities
- Various Outreach Projects (Food Drives and St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Campaign)
- Prayers to begin each day
- Sacred spaces in all classroom and throughout the school (ie. Chapel and front foyer)
- Values of our faith are infused throughout the curriculum
- Students lead daily prayer, including scripture and reflection to develop their understanding of scripture and its connection to their daily life.

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
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>Date/Activity</i>	
First Communion Rehearsal	April 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm	
Sacrament of the Eucharist	April 21, 2024 at 2:00 pm	
Confirmation Retreat		March 28, 2024 at 9:00 am
Confirmation Rehearsal		April 17, 2024 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 16, 2024 7:30 pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	September 22, 2023 at 10:00 am
Advent Mass	December 1, 2023 at 10:00 am
Lenten/Easter Mass	April 5, 2024 at 10:00 am
Closing Mass	June 7, 2024 at 10:00 am
Graduation Mass	June 7, 2024 at 10:00 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 ShareLife....

- Thanksgiving Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul
- Halloween Candy Drive for Dr. Simone
- Halloween Dance Donation to ShareLife
- Christmas Hampers for St. Vincent de Paul
- Soap Drive
- Easter Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul
- Spring Clothing Drive for CFFC
- ShareLife Spirit Days
- Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day
- Anti-bullying Week/Pink Shirt Day
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Core Club promoting equity and diversity
- Mental Health and Well Being Committee

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.

To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community....

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. To celebrate, we as a community recognize each child as an individual with strengths and unique abilities. The OCSGE are infused in daily programming such as: Clubs, Athletics, My Blue Print, All About Me Portfolio, Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors, ECO Team and preparation for sacramental life.

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.

We have monthly assemblies....

We recognize our Catholic Virtues during our morning prayers and post reflections on our school TV located in the foyer. Classroom teachers teach the virtues as part of the FL and Religion program. Classes will organize assemblies every 2 months and recognize the two virtues and Catholic Graduate Expectations. The assemblies are a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together once a month to better understand the virtues and how we can live them every day. Additionally, the virtues are highlighted in the St. Gregory Grizzly newsletter at the beginning of each month. By sharing the virtue in our newsletter, we are not only promoting the virtues to our students but to the greater community as well.

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.

We have ...Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables, community service

Visual signs of our faith serve to remind us of God's love for us and that Jesus is the primary focus of our school. We have:

- An altar and cross that are located in our foyer
- A sacred space that is located in our foyer
- Each classroom has a sacred space
- Symbols and colours of the liturgical year are displayed
- Our chapel is used on a continual basis for class liturgies
- tablecloth and the symbols on the table changing to align with the liturgical colours, seasons and virtues.
- A portrait of our Holy Father, Pope Francis in the office

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **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 2024** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)


Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)

- **Renewing the Promise** – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”** - [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2024** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)


Signature Page


Pastor 

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council 

Vice Principal(s) 

Principal 

Superintendent Adrian Scigliano