

PASTORAL PLAN

School: St. Helen Separate School

School Mission Statement:

The Mission of St. Helen School, a community living the Gospel Values, is to foster an environment where all students reach their academic potential as determined by Ontario Provincial Standards. Our commitment to a comprehensive system of support and a responsive partnership with family and church will ensure this outcome.

School Motto: Growing Together in Christ

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. Helen School is to visit St. Helen School. 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. Helen School 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 helps to bond the school community to the parish community, because of friendship and because of faith."

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Helen Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith-filled environment.

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**

Teachers and students will engage in activities in their classrooms pertaining to the theme "Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together".

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.

We believe in faith development, and we continue to support sacramental preparation, liturgical celebrations, community building, prayer services and school wide reflection days. We work together to assist in the faith formation of our entire community. We collaborate with our pastoral team, celebrate and pray, to focus on faith. Daily morning prayer on the PA system as well as periodic prayers throughout the day in classrooms, social justice projects and formal religious instruction, support the faith development of our students. All virtual meetings and gatherings are marked with prayer and reflection, keeping us mindful of our journey as people of faith in Christ and professors of Catholic Education.

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
First Reconciliation	Jan. 18th, 19th, 20th, 2022	
First Holy Communion Sundays	May 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th , 2022	
Confirmation		June 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 2022
Sacrament of Reconciliation		May 25 th , 2022

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Advent Mass (virtual)	December 2021
Easter Mass	April 2022
Closing Mass	June 2022
Graduation Mass	June 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.

St. Helen School participates in various activities to support our community partners, such as: Share Life, Compass Food Bank, Terry Fox Walk, St. Vincent de Paul (through the St. Christopher Parish), Angel on the Tree. St. Helen School community supports a variety of social justice initiatives that affect both local and global needs.

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.

Showing respect for Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations means infusing them into daily activities and curriculum. We, St. Helen School, have chosen *responsible citizen* upon which to focus. Through social justice programs, student led projects, curriculum links and parent education, we highlight the OCSGEs as the central foundation for all our students. Through our home school communication, we support the education of our community in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

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. We incorporate monthly Virtue Awards presented at the end of each month through PA announcements. The monthly Virtues Prayer is part of our faith reflection. Students are provided with examples of stories that display the virtues and the virtues assist us in teaching and guiding students who may be having difficulties throughout their school day.

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. Helen School has visible symbols of the Virtue of the Month. Our front entrance has the Holy Bible, the Cross and Saints' Statues adorning this sacred space for all visitors and members of the community. There is a prayer table within every classroom. The living sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each day. The St. Helen prayer room is a beautiful representation of our Catholic faith. The prayer room is used by staff and students for prayer, saying the rosary, and "chapel chats" when children need a quiet place to reflect and talk. The Rosary Apostolate program (once again held virtually this year) continues to be a part of St. Helen's spiritual journey. Our TV in the foyer runs continually highlighting events taking place at St. Helen School and includes a biography of the life of St. Helen.

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**

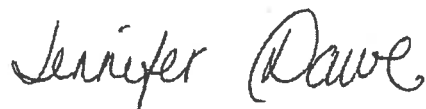
School-Based

- Information is on the School Website <http://www3.dpcdsb.org/HELEN>
- Staff Weekly updates “St. Helen Weekly”
- Twitter: @StHelenTweet

Signature Page

Pastor x 

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable) Jennifer Dawe 

Teacher(s) Jennifer Dawe 

Chair of Catholic School Council Colleen Derief 

Vice Principal(s) N/A

Principal Maria Bevacqua 

Superintendent 