

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **ST. HERBERT CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

School Mission Statement:

At St. Herbert Catholic Elementary School, we are committed to the education of each child: As each grows in the image and likeness of Christ, and as each strives to fulfill their potential. We agree to work together: By making a commitment to our Catholic faith, and by respecting the inherent dignity and self-worth of each individual. We celebrate and communicate our accomplishments.

School Motto: Together We Are One

Our Parish:

Pastor: Fr. 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. Our pastoral team looks forward to collaborating with our schools in these endeavours throughout the year.

Pastor: *Fr. Paul Dobson*

Associate Pastor: *Fr. Anish Alex*

Deacon: *George Jurenas*

Parish Youth Minister: *Megan Domingues*

Sacramental Coordinator: *Zahra Wehbi*

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Our Catholic School Council (CSC) is an integral part of the school community at St. Herbert Elementary School, keeping connected parents/guardians to educators, staff and students. The CSC takes an active role in collaborative practices, supporting the faith-forming and community-building initiatives and events that help to develop the whole child and contribute to improved student achievement and well-being.

The CSC will work to ensure that each student reaches their full academic potential through a Catholic faith lens and continue the positive learning climate and sense of community of St. Herbert. The members of our CSC will work collaboratively with the staff of St. Herbert School to promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

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

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 provincial resources as well as our own school-based resources, we will prepare activities to highlight how our school is reflecting on the 2023-2024 theme: *'We Are Called to Love.'* Suggested faith-based activities include class visits and parish connections with the pastoral team, and Crowning of Mary celebration with our Rosary Apostolate Volunteer Ministry. We look forward to inviting the community to classes for some integrated student activities, and hosting our Kindergarten Journey Into Learning event. 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. Herbert Catholic Elementary School Community embraces the integrated nature of a faith-based education, acknowledging the partnerships between school, home, and Church. As aligned with the BELIEVE core value in our DPCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan, we look first to scripture, sacrament and Catholic social teachings for inspiration. Faith formation and its integration into curriculum and climate are foundational to the gift we have of Catholic education.

Using The Word as our inspiration, we are reminded daily of Virtues, Gospel Values, and life lessons derived from Bible teachings. This is evident in daily announcements, 'Herbert Hub' community updates, Trustee newsletters, Virtue celebrations, monthly Rosary Apostolate visits to all classes, classroom displays, common area sacred symbols and décor, our dedicated prayer room, sacramental preparation, student clubs, our school social justice and outreach initiatives, a focus during staff professional development, and of course, school-wide masses and liturgies. Parents, our Catholic School Trustee, and our St. Joseph's pastoral team are invited and encouraged to participate in school events, and our Catholic School Council proudly

supports faith-based activities. Our school community demonstrates its commitment to Catholic education, acceptance, and care for others and the environment through clubs such as our Youth Faith Ambassadors (YFA), celebrating God's gifts, and putting our faith into action as reflected in our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations throughout the liturgical calendar.

Intentional and explicit inclusion of a distinctive Catholic world-view across all subject areas, is rooted in our *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* Religion program, and in *Fully Alive*, our Family Life program.

"Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and in fact will do greater works than these." - John 14:12

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 Reconciliation & Communion	Grade 7 Confirmation
Registration & Parent Information Evening	<i>Tues. Sept. 26, 2023 at 7 PM</i>	<i>Fri. Sept. 29, 2023 at 7 PM</i>
Communion Catachesis (6 take-home series sessions + in church Capstone Day)	<i>Tuesdays – materials released: Nov. 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 20; Capstone Day: Fri.Dec.22,2024</i>	
First Reconciliation	<i>Thurs. April 11, 2024 at 5-8pm</i>	
First Communion Rehearsal	<i>Tues. April 16, 2024 at 6:30pm</i>	
First Holy Communion	<i>Sun. April 28, 2024 at 2:00pm</i>	
Confirmation Catachesis (6 sessions in parish hall)		<i>Session 1&2: Thurs. Dec. 7, 2023 Session 3&4: Thurs. Dec. 14, 2023 Session 5&6: Thurs. Dec. 21, 2023</i>
Confirmation Retreat		<i>Thurs. March 21, 2024 at 9am</i>
Confirmation Rehearsal		<i>Thurs. April 18, 2024 at 6:30pm</i>
Confirmation		<i>Thurs. April 25, 2024 at 7:30pm</i>

**Information and Dates were communicated to our St. Herbert Families
as provided by:
St. Joseph Church**

5440 Durie Road, Mississauga, ON L5M 2J5

Contact the Sacramental Coordinator, *Zhara Whebi*, by e-mail at
sacraments.stjosephmi@gmail.com or dial EXT 226 at 905-826-2766

Training for Eucharistic Ministers at St. Joseph Church
Monday, October 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Rosary Apostolate Ministry:

The Rosary Apostolate, Inc. is a group of local volunteers from the school parish whose mission is to teach children how to pray the rosary.

The elementary Religious Education Program, *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* continues to be the guiding source of our daily Religious Education lessons taught in our schools. The Rosary Apostolate can be a very useful supplement to the Religious Education program.

As a Catholic school board, Dufferin-Peel is grateful to welcome back the Rosary Apostolate into our schools again this year. Our goal is to work with The Rosary Apostolate group to help our students develop a deeper relationship with God, through prayer.

(K-8) Rosary Apostolate 2023-2024 monthly school visits on Tuesdays:

October 10; November 14; December 12; January 9; February 6; March 5; April 9.

Crowning of Mary Rehearsal: Wednesday, May 9, 2024 / Crowning of Mary: Friday, May 10, 2024

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration *at school – unless indicated otherwise)	Date
Opening School Teaching Mass	Monday, October 2, 2023 at 1:30 PM
Remembrance Day Liturgy (Intermediate classes)	Friday, November 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM
Advent Mass (non-classroom staff)	Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 1:30 PM
Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Principal and YFAs)	Wed. February 14, 2024 at 11:15 AM
St. Herbert Feast Day Liturgy (Grade 5/6 classes)	Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 1:45 PM
Stations of the Cross Liturgy (Junior classes)	Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:15 PM
Easter Season Mass (Primary classes)	Friday, April 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Crowning of Mary (Rosary Apostolate)	Friday, May 10, 2024 in the morning
Year-End & Graduation Mass * AT CHURCH *	Tuesday, June 11, 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.

St. Herbert School is committed to raising awareness and/or funds for the following throughout the year:

- ShareLife is our primary charity to support as part of the Archdiocese of Toronto
- ShareLife Poster Contest; Spirit Weeks and other activities for ShareLife donations
- 42nd Anniversary of Terry Fox Walk / Activities for Cancer
- Book of Remembrance for month of November
- Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Writing Contest / Donations for Poppies
- Thanksgiving & Lenten Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Joseph Church
- St. Joseph's Church Community Christmas Support Program (gift cards in lieu of baskets)
- Catholic Social Teachings as they relate to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, especially during Black History Month (February), Indigenous History Month (June), World Day of Peace (September 21), Orange Shirt Day (September 30), Wear Purple Day for Child Supports (October 27), Treaties Recognition Week (November 5-11), Bell Let's Talk Day for Mental Health (January 25), International Women's Day (March 8), Down Syndrome Awareness (March 21), World Autism Day (April 2), Earth Day (April 22), National Aboriginal Day (June 21), etc.
- Dr. Simone's Warehouse - (Canadian Food for Children – CFFC)
- Eco Team activities promote responsible stewardship of God's creation
- Bullying Awareness Initiatives (Bullying Awareness Week, Day of Pink, World Kindness Day, etc.)

Ongoing support (as appropriate) of student/staff families in need through school Social Worker and staff donations.

"In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you." ~Matthew 7:12

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 (OCSGE) in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. It is our endeavour to provide the best education to our students to support future success.

We encourage and promote elevating student voice and participation at St. Herbert Elementary School. Organization, rehearsal, presentations and messaging are student-led and delivered (e.g. Youth Faith Ambassadors). With teacher guidance, school spaces are transformed via visuals, media, and artistic expression. Students are also encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of faith-based themes through the use of technology. Students are involved in liturgies, emphasizing Christ's value and appreciation for the purity and liveliness of children and youth.

- Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place
- Post visible signs of the OCSGE around the school and classrooms (e.g. large door magnets which are also suitable for covering doors during lockdown)
- Engage in school-wide activities to further understand the OCSGE (e.g. morning announcements)
- Promote self-reflection in both students and staff
- Focus on respecting the thoughts and opinions of others
- Celebrate our God-given talents and gifts
- Promote a sense of authentic stewardship (e.g. caring of our school, parish, community, and the world around us)

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.

A Catholic faith community is rooted in a set of common beliefs about God's will for all people. The month-at-a-time format provides the whole school with a common language to move and celebrate through the school year. This program provides vocabulary and milestones for a continuous school-wide conversation and culture about how we can creatively maintain and strengthen a safe, caring school community that reflects the values and teachings of Jesus Christ. Assemblies, classroom liturgies and celebrations that highlight each month's virtue allow opportunities for students to explore and experience "What does the Virtue of _____ mean?" Announcements and daily prayers highlight the Virtue and remind students what each virtue looks like, feels like, and sounds like in the classroom and beyond. Scripture stories related to the virtues are integrated into the Religion and Family Life programs. Visit <http://www3.dpcdsb.org/catholic-community/virtue-of-the-month> for more information.

Our Virtue celebrations highlight student voice and experiences as we reflect on the virtue, and recognize students from every class each month in the areas of achievement, effort and leadership.

Virtues celebrated throughout Dufferin-Peel CDSB Schools:

MONTH	VIRTUE	MONTH	VIRTUE
September	FAITH	February	RESPECT
October	EMPATHY	March	KINDNESS
November	CONSCIENCE	April	LOVE
December	HOPE	May	ACCEPTANCE
January	SELF-CONTROL	June	FAIRNESS

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.

Signs of our faith are visible as soon as one enters the front doors of the school and are visible throughout the school hallways and classrooms (e.g. cross, Bible, banners, stained glass Stations of the Cross, etc.) The altar and the display cases in the school's atrium reflect the liturgical seasons of the Church year and the virtues. Each classroom has a sacred space and a cross, as the classroom prayer tables are an interactive focal point with the colour of the tablecloth and the symbols on the table changing to align with the liturgical colours, seasons and virtues. These visible reminders and opportunities to serve help us to focus our learning and interactions on the key tenets of our shared faith, and to ensure that our Catholic faith is lived out daily at St. Herbert School. Part of our upcoming school plans include having murals painted on our walls that reflect the virtues, OCSGEs, and our diversity. One of the school goals of our plan is to purchase a statue of St. Herbert for our atrium. At the start of this year, our outdoor classroom which has a cross-shaped centrepiece was blessed at our Opening Mass.

Another school goal as aligned with our Mississauga South Family of Schools initiative is to introduce, model and practice Christian Meditation with our students and staff.

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](#)

School-Based

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS:
 - K : *In God's Image*
 - Grades 1-8 : *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*
- FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM:
 - Grades 1-8: *Fully Alive*
- Curriculum Resources with faith-based integration
- Adaptive Kits for Sacraments of Reconciliation; First Communion & Confirmation
- Children’s Daily Prayer Book (guide for Morning Announcements) – supplied by S. Gos
- Christian Meditation Book (by Dr. Noel Keating) - supplied by Superintendent S. Gos
- Student Agendas
- School Library
- Catholic School Council
- Newsletters / Community Updates
- School / Board Websites

Signature Page

Pastor 

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable) 

Teacher(s) 

Chair of Catholic School Council 

Vice Principal(s)

Principal 

Superintendent *Silvana Gos*