

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre

School Mission Statement:

We, the inclusive Catholic Community of St James, are called and committed to cultivate an environment where our students are inspired to grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and culturally.

We encourage our students to become compassionate life-long learners and active citizens of a diverse global community.

School Motto: Creative, Collaborative, Curious & Compassionate

Our Parish: St Mary Star of the Sea

Pastor: Rev. Michael Simoes

Parish website: <https://stmarystarofthesea.ca/>

Message from the Pastor:

Dear School Staff and Students,

I wish you many blessings in this school year. The last few years have been unsettling and uncertain causing us to ask many questions about life and about God. As we come out of the darkness of the last few years, we need to know where our parish family is going and why. We require a clear vision, a God-given picture of the future that produces hope and passion in us. This vision, inspired by God through the events of the covid measures invites you to know and receive the love and fullness of life that is offered by Jesus Christ and to share His love and life with others as His disciples.

Each day, with this vision to guide our life and navigate through the challenges of this world, we can take time to ask questions to enrich our faith. Have we encountered God, his life and love

today? We can also challenge our response to that encounter by asking how have I shared this love and life with my family, friends and coworkers.

Be assured of my prayers for the St. James' school community.

God Bless
Fr Michael Simoes
Parish Priest
St. Mary Star of the Sea

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. James 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. The council supports opportunities to celebrate our faith, recognizing the celebration of the new sacraments for students and collaborating in school wide charity work.

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**

As a school we will

- Share how students are learning and sharing in faith
- Highlight the significance of Catholic Education's presence and contribution in our church, school and in our society
- Reflect on Father Michael's classroom visits on the Feast Day of St James
- Reflect on Parish Youth Minister monthly classroom visits and Lay Pastoral Associate classroom visits to sacramental year classrooms
- Highlight our social justice actions, PYP Exhibition topics and MYP Social Justice Projects

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.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me ...for it is to such as there that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

- Learn about saints and leaders in the Catholic Church whose lives are role models for development of faith and pathway to living a holy life
- Learn about the seven levels in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and the role played in the teaching of Jesus Christ
- Understand the official church process for canonization
- Explore various saints and identify the virtuous qualities they exhibit
- Youth Ministry to discuss and understand the parts of the mass during class visits to grades 6 to 8
- Encourage students to participate in mass/liturgical responses
- Ensure that sacred spaces and visual signs of our faith are evident throughout the school and classrooms
- Provide students with leadership opportunities by having students lead morning prayers
- Support sacramental preparation at the parishes
- Highlight monthly virtues
- Welcome Rosary Apostolate classroom visits
- Encourage social justice action
- Support adult faith opportunities

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.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35"

Event		
Lay Pastoral associate classroom visits grade 2	September 27, February 7, April 24	
Youth Ministry classroom visits – grades 6 to 8	September 27, November 1, 29, December 14, January 24, February 28,	March 27, April 30, May 29, June 19
First Communion parent information meeting	September 30	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	February 10	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 28	
Confirmation parent information meeting		October 4
Confirmation Retreat		March 22
Confirmation Right of Enrolment		March 24
Sacrament of Confirmation		TBA

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

His disciplines said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." Luke 1:1

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving liturgy of the word	October 4, 2023
Rosary Apostolate visits	October 18, November 22, December 13, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 10,
Advent Family Mass – St Mary Star of the Sea	December 5 at 7 pm
Ash Wednesday	February 14
Easter Mass	April 17

Feast of St James	May 3
Crowning of Mary	TBA
Year End Mass	June 18
Graduation Mass	June 26

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.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Our school participates in a variety of activities that support members of our school. Community and the world:

- International Literacy Day–used book drive for Children’s Book Bank- September 11-15th
- Terry Fox Marathon of Hope – September 22
- Thanksgiving – October 2-5 - Food Drive for The Compass
- Halloween Candy Drive for Canadian Feed the Children
- Christmas Hampers, Hat and Mitten Tree
- ShareLife – Pancake Day, Lenten Pretzels
- MYP Community Projects

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.

All believers have received at least one special gift from God, and they are not to hoard these gifts but use them faithfully as stewards of God's grace. 1 Peter 4:10-11

To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community, challenge our students to be active members of the school, local and global communities through student voice and action as well as social justice activities. We encourage our intermediate students to minister to the family, school,

parish and wider community through service as part of their preparation of the sacrament of confirmation as well as their IB MYP Community Project Reflection. We are explicit in the connections between the IB Learner Attributes and the 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 God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:12-16

The notion of virtue is deeply rooted in Catholic Christian tradition. It is in a community of caring, committed partners that we find the space and time to become our best selves. Virtue formation contributes to a healthy positive learning environment by fostering a climate in which all members feel safe, confident, and hope-filled about themselves, their relationships and their futures.

By praying, we receive the grace of God to continue to concentrate on finding ways to follow Jesus' example in all that we say and do.

Each month we focus on and celebrate a particular virtue:

September -Faith	October -Empathy	November -Conscious	December -Hope
January -Self-Control	February -Respect	March -Kindness	April -Love
May -Acceptance	June -Fairness		

Monthly student led assemblies focus on world application of the virtue and recognize student action with the presentation of certificates. The virtue is highlighted during morning announcements, in monthly newsletters, and on the front foyer monitor.

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.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:19-20

- Visible signs of our faith include: crosses, bibles, Advent wreaths, prayer tables.
- Classroom prayer tables/corners reflect the liturgical calendar and colours.
- Prayer is experienced daily as a whole school community, as a class and as individuals.
- Classroom prayer is an integral part of the dismissal and lunch procedures.
- Gospel Readings of the day are shared during morning announcements.
- School masses and liturgies of the word take place in the school gymnasium and at the parish.
- A yearly mass for the families of the parish – St Luke and S. James – celebrated at the church with a social following mass.
- Lay pastoral associate visits grade 2 classrooms support sacramental preparation.
- Parish Youth Ministry visits grades 6-8 to support sacramental preparation and focus on discussion and understanding of the parts of the mass.
- Support Parish Youth Ministry faith retreat for grade 7s at the parish March 22.

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

- Children’s Daily Prayer for the School Year 2023-2024
- Fully Alive / Many Gifts / Growing in Christ programs
- Vacation Units
- History of the Dufferin-Peel Parishes – Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey
- Various library books/resources

Signature Page

Pastor Rev. *Michael Simoes*

Faith Ambassador(s) *J. Roy*

Chairs of Catholic School Council *Adam Patola & N. Popova*

Principal *M. Cloutier McCann*

Superintendent *D. Belchior*