

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Jerome Separate School**

## School Mission Statement:

*Motivated by a quest for knowledge and understanding, inspired by faith and impelled by God's call to love, students will discover their potential and utilize their God-given talents to work respectfully and co-operatively.*

*Empowered with a positive sense of self-esteem, our students will be encouraged to live fully and to use their talents in service to the community of God's people, thereby making the world a better place.*

*St. Jerome School, in partnership with family and church, provides a spiritual journey into Catholic education which fosters spiritual and intellectual growth rooted in the gospel teachings of Christ.*

School Motto: **Living and Learning in Faith**

Our Parish: St. Martin of Tours

Pastor: **Rev. Joyson Pottackal, O. Carm.**

Parish website: **<http://stmartinoftourschurch.ca>**

## Message from the Pastor:

By strengthening the bonds between families, school and parish, we strengthen our Catholic Christian values in our greater community.

## Message from the Catholic School Council:

Let us work together as a community to meet the spiritual needs of our entire community. With the grace of God, let us come together to make decisions that are in the best interest of our community. Let us strengthen relationships and come together as a community to share our gifts and talents.

## Catholic Education Week Theme: Renewing the Promise

*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 6 – May 12 is Catholic Education Week.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2018 is **Renewing the Promise**. Our teachers, students and parents will be involved in activities which will provide us all an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the privilege of Catholic Education. During Catholic Education Week there will be a variety of in-class activities throughout the school. Activities will be designed to highlight the unique role our faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum and scripture. We will invite families in to join us in renewing the promise by sharing what the students are doing in their classrooms. We will also be taking part in liturgies, virtue of the month celebrations and other special events that will be planned by our Youth Faith Ambassadors. At St. Jerome Catholic School we will be renewing the promise by inviting all members of our community to participate in the celebrations and activities with our staff and students which will be planned to mark 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.*

Staff and students at St. Jerome will continue to be involved in celebrating mass as a community four times a year. Prayer in various forms will be shared and practiced daily. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors will lead us in assemblies and special events. Part of our faith formation for staff and students includes looking at well-being. We will continue to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and take our example from Jesus.

School activities that support both adult and student faith formation include:

- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2 and 7
- Pastoral school wide visits from Father Joyson, Father Gijo, and the team from St. Martin of Tours Parish
- Connecting Scripture to the Sacraments and Catholic Social Teachings and for our students to begin to refer to them in their daily lives
- Stations of the Cross
- Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Social Justice Activities (food drives)
- Staff Liturgies/Reflections during Advent and Lent

- School wide Opening Mass, Advent Mass and Year End Mass
- School wide Remembrance Day Service
- Student-led daily prayers during opening exercises
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations
- Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings
- Staff PD opportunities, “When Faith Meets Pedagogy,” religion in-services
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Virtues Education
- School Liturgical Committee
- Spiritual Week for Christmas/Advent and Easter/Lent
- Mississauga South Youth Faith Rally for our Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Mississauga South Advent Retreat (Adult Faith Ambassadors)
- Creating a welcoming environment in the front foyer

### 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
Sacrament of First Communion – Parent Meeting	Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:30 PM <b>OR</b> Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:30 PM	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday, November 25, 2017	
Rite of Enrolment First Communion	Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 5:00 PM <b>OR</b> Sunday January 21, 2018 at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM <b>OR</b> Saturday January 27, 2018 at 5:00 PM <b>OR</b> Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM	
Sacrament of First Communion	Saturday April 14, 2018 at 10:30 AM <b>OR</b> Sunday April 15, 2018 at 2:00 PM <b>OR</b> Saturday April 21, 2018 at 10:30 AM	

Confirmation – Parent Meeting		Tuesday September 26, 2017 at 7:30 PM <b>OR</b> Tuesday October 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Rite of Enrolment Confirmation		Saturday October 21, 2017 <b>OR</b> Sunday October 22, 2017 <b>OR</b> Saturday October 28, 2017 <b>OR</b> Sunday October 29, 2017 <b>At Any Mass</b>
Grade 7 Confirmandi Meeting with Bishop Boissenault		Friday March 9, 2018 at 10:30 AM
Sacrament of Reconciliation and Confirmation Rehearsal		Tuesday April 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Sacrament of Confirmation		Thursday April 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**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 Mass/Feast of St. Jerome at St. Jerome School	Friday September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM
Remembrance Day Liturgy at St. Jerome School	Friday November 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM
Advent Mass at St. Jerome School	Wednesday December 6, 2017 at 1:30 PM
Ash Wednesday Liturgy at St. Jerome School	Wednesday February 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Lenten Mass at St. Jerome School	Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Stations of the Cross at St. Jerome School	Thursday March 29, 2018 at 1:30 PM
Crowning of Mary at St. Jerome School	Thursday May 10, 2018 at 1:30 PM
Year End Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish	Tuesday June 5, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Grade 8 Graduation Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish	Monday June 25, 2018 at 6:30 PM

**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.*

As a community we take part in numerous social justice initiatives, including: food drives at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Family Support, Christmas Mitten Tree, Sharelife, Jump Rope for Heart for The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Terry Fox Walk, Canadian Cancer Society, Dr. Simone, Sleeping Children Around the World Shoebox for School Supplies Campaign, and other initiatives that may occur throughout the year.

### **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.*

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors lead us in monthly events. Our prayer leaders incorporate the virtues in our daily prayers whereby our students, staff and community members 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 St. Jerome Catholic School, the cross, the altar, the Holy Bible, the Virtue banners, the OSCGE banner 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 St. Jerome Catholic School are the students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrator 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](#)

**Resource List for Schools:****Board**

- **Vocations Units**  
We have Vocations units as part of the Grades 2, 5, and 8 curriculum. The goal of these supplementary units is to deepen one's understanding of God's call – the "vocare" – to various forms of life within the Church.
- **History of the Parish**  
Through the resource book *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*, grade 7 students have the opportunity to learn about the history of our parish.
- [Enduring Gift Video](#)

**School-Based**

- **Many Gifts Resource**
- **Fully Alive Program**

- **Class Visits**

Father Joyson and Father Gijo are invited to visit our classes from Kindergarten to Grade 8 to discuss virtues and the importance of gospel values.

- **Rosary Club**

Students are invited to join the Rosary Club on Wednesday during lunch whereby they are taught about our Mother Mary, the rosary and then pray the rosary together.