

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Joseph Elem (Mississauga)**

## School Mission Statement:

St. Joseph Elementary School provides students with a Christ-centered environment that supports all members in the development of their full potential through spiritual and academic opportunities. St. Joseph Elementary School also provides a rich learning environment that recognizes the unique and close nature of our Catholic community and promotes acceptance, respect and academic excellence. We place students first.

**School Motto:** We C.A.R.E.: Catholic Community, Acceptance, Respect, Excellence

**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 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 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 preparation (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:**

Catholic School Councils are opportunities for faith formation and collaboration.

St. Joseph Elementary School Catholic School Council provides our school, parish and our parent community a forum to work alongside each other to provide effective engagement and communication to ensure our children have the opportunities and support for academic success, spiritual development and personal growth. This will be supported through the active participation of the parents/guardians by our mutual values of respect, faith, appreciation and commitment to improve pupil achievement, enhance accountability of the educational system and promote the vision, values and sacramental life of Catholic practices.

The St. Joseph Catholic School Council provides parents/guardians, students and extended team with an accountable system to which they can voice their suggestions for enhancing our faith, well-being and academic improvement of the school community.

St. Joseph Elementary School believes in continuously strengthening the bonds between home, school and church by facilitating the active and meaningful participation of parents/guardians and all members of the school community.

Thank you and God bless. ~ Tania Prsa

## Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2023

**Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One**  
**L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un**

*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.*

*"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)*

*«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.»  
 (Romains 12, 5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

Monday: **When we see / En voyant**  
 Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**  
 Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**  
 Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**  
 Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

During Catholic Education Week, St. Joseph Elementary School will be participating in daily prayers over the announcements, class liturgies, art presentations, and spirit week activities.

### **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.*

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors participate in various social justice events throughout the year including: Thanksgiving Food Drive, Socktober Sock Drive for @JordansSocks; Candy for Kids Donations for Dr. Simone's Canadian Food For Children, supporting ShareLife, the Angel Tree; Stations of the Cross presentation, which make a positive contribution to the community and as exemplified in the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Do small things with great love." In addition, at St. Joseph, we provide opportunities for faith formation through a variety of school activities:

- Staff meeting liturgies
- Virtue of the Month Class liturgies
- Feast Day School Liturgy
- School Blessings from St. Joseph Parish
- School masses in our school gym and St. Joseph Parish
- Sacramental Preparation for Gr. 2 and Gr. 7 students
- School-Wide Monthly Virtue Assemblies -Student-Led Celebrations
- Utilize the Adaptive Kit for Sacramental preparation for our students with differing abilities.

### 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 Reconciliation	April 18, 2023 from 5-8 p.m.	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion Rehearsal	April 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.	
Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion	May 6, 2023	
Confirmation Retreat		March 28, 2023 at 9 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation Rehearsal		April 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation		May 9, 2023 at 9 a.m.

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 3, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
Remembrance Day ParaLiturgy	November 11, 2022 at 10:45 a.m.
Advent Mass	December 1, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday	February 22, 2023
Lenten Mass	April 13, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Closing School Mass at St. Joseph Parish	June 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Grade 8 Graduation Mass at St. Joseph Parish	June 15, 2023 at 10 a.m.

### **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. Joseph supports Sharelife by raising funds on special dress down days for staff, Spirit Week events, special celebrations and games.

In addition, we provide community outreach by participating in our Annual Terry Fox Run, collecting food donations (Thanksgiving Food Drive, Christmas and Easter Food Drive), Candy's for Kids -Halloween Candy Donations (Canadian Food for Children), and Angel Tree donations (grocery gift cards). We collaborate with St. Vincent de Paul Society for St. Joseph Parish, Mississauga Food Bank, Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children, Human Family in Christ, and support families in need through St. Joseph Parish.

### **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.*

#### **We celebrate the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, as a school community through the following activities:**

- Child and Youth Worker and Social Worker Supports and liaise with secondary support staff
- Participation in our Grade 8 Exit Surveys
- Pathways and Transition Planning with St. Aloysius Gonzaga
- Support for our EGELT for Transition Planning, MyBluePrint

- CYCP support from Elementary to Secondary to support Health and Wellness
- Welcome to Kindergarten/Journey into Learning
- Parent Information Evening for Students with Differing Abilities Transitioning to Kindergarten
- Journey into Learning- Kindergarten Night!
- Student representation in our Equity Committee, Wellness Committee
- Eco-Schools Certification
- Virtue of the Month Liturgies and Certificates

### **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.*

Each month, classes will celebrate the virtue of the month during class liturgies each month. Our virtues are lived every day in our positive interactions with each other, shared in our weekly update, on our morning announcements and school newsletters. Each morning students lead our prayers for our daily announcements. We pray Virtue of the Month prayer along with the prayer for the month. Students who exemplify the virtue of the month receive a virtue special certificate from their teacher.

### **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 a variety of visible signs of our faith including:

- Daily Prayer for the Month, Virtue of the Month Prayer on the morning announcements, on our weekly update, posted in our classrooms
- Prayer table with St. Joseph statue, crosses, and bibles in classrooms with table covers reflecting the liturgical calendar
- Rosary Apostolate Virtual Program
- Floor cross, altar, and liturgical cloths in our Prayer room
- Virtue of the Month Display in our Front Foyer, Virtue Mural in our front hallway

**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 2023 – [Catholic Education Week 2023](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

**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 2023 – [Catholic Education Week 2023](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

**School-Based**

- Various books from our library about faith
- Monthly prayer package for classrooms (electronic and print)
- Adaptive First Holy Communion and Confirmation Preparation Kits
- Participation in School Masses and liturgies
- Daily Children Prayer book

**Signature Page**

**Pastor**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Dobsen".

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

*Tania Prsa*

**Principal**

*Angela Cavaliere*

**Superintendent**