

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name: St Joseph Catholic Elementary School Mississauga**

## **School Mission Statement:**

St. Joseph Catholic 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 Catholic 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 and Excellence.

**Our Parish: St. Joseph Parish Mississauga**

**Pastor: Rev. Paul Dobson**

**Parish website: <https://stjosephmi.archtoronto.org/>**

## **Message from the Pastor:**

St. Joseph's parish involvement in 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 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 our 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 Catholic Elementary 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 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, academic improvement of the school community.

St. Joseph Catholic 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.

**Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

During Catholic Education Week, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School will be participating in daily prayers over the announcements, class liturgies, Scientists in the School Presentations, as well as a Sacramental luncheon and Beading Buddies Rosary Making for Grades 2 and 7.

### **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.*

At St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, we participate in a variety of Catholic faith formation activities to help each of us understand and live in the example of Christ.

- Our YFAs coordinate various social justice events this year including our Thanksgiving Food Drive, Candy for Kids donations for Dr. Simone's C.F.F.C., Socktober - Sock drive for @JordanSocks; Angel Tree gift card donations for Christmas, Stations of the Cross
- Adult Faith Formation: Sharelife Spirit Weeks, monthly staff liturgies, Advent and Lenten Retreats, morning liturgies during Adven and Lent
- Schoolwide Events: Virtue of the month liturgies & presentations of certificates, school masses, sacramental preparation; Feast Day School Liturgy; monthly visits from the Rosary Apostolate and Crowning of Mary in May; collaboration and class visits from our Youth Ministers and Pastoral team from St. Joseph Parish Mississauga

These faith formation activities help to make a positive contribution to the community and as exemplified in our school motto at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, "We C.A.R.E.!"

**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
Parent Meeting for First Holy Communion	September 26, 2023	
Parent Meeting for Confirmation		September 29, 2023
Confirmation Retreat		March 22, 2024 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the parish)
First Reconciliation	April 11, 2024, at 5-8 p.m.	
Reconciliation for Confirmation		Saturdays at 3:15 p.m. prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation
First Holy Communion Rehearsal	April 17, 2024, at 6:30 -7:30 p.m.	
Confirmation Rehearsal		April 16, 2024, at 6:30 -8 p.m.
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	May 4, 2024, at 10 a.m.	
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 9, 2024, at 6 p.m.

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Elementary Teaching Mass	October 10, 2023, at 1 p.m.
Advent Mass at school	November 27, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
Easter Mass at school	April 17, 2024, at 10 a.m.
Crowning of Mary	May 14, 2024, at 10 a.m.
Year End/Grad Mass at St. Joseph Parish	June 3, 2024, 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 Catholic Elementary School 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 Marathon of Hope, collecting canned/non-perishable food donations for Thanksgiving and Easter, gift card donations for Christmas for neighbours in need. We collaborate with St. Vincent de Paul Society for St. Joseph Parish, Mississauga Food Bank, Dr. Simone’s Canadian Food for Children Halloween Candy Drive, Human Family in Christ (parish donation), and support neighbours in need through our Social Work Department.

**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, Social Work, Mental Health Social Work supports
- Liaise with secondary staff to support transitions.
- Grade 8 student participation in Exit Surveys.
- Pathways and transition planning with St. Alyosius Gonzaga.
- Information nights for Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Information.
- Highlighting secondary open house nights.

- Class visits from our secondary school representatives to highlight programs and support.
- Transition meetings for students with diverse needs.
- Parent/Guardian information evening to support students with differing abilities.
- Support and collaboration with our EGELT for transition planning and My Blueprint.
- CYCP support from elementary to secondary to support health and wellness.
- Eco-School Certification
- Student Mental Health Champions
- Student Equity and Inclusive Education Leads
- Virtue of the Month Liturgies and Certificates
- Co-curricular activities to promote well-being and student engagement (i.e., volleyball, basketball, flag football, cross country, chess team, eco-team, games/coding club, soccer, co-ed baseball, etc.)
- Reading Buddies with our primary students
- PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools)

### **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 and school wide assemblies. Our virtues are lived daily in our positive interactions with each other, shared in our weekly update, prayed daily on the morning announcements, and shared with the community in our monthly newsletters. Students who exemplify the virtue of the month receive a 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:

- **General Roman 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

- 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

*Rev. Mr. GP*

Chair of Catholic School Council

*Tania Prsa*

Principal

*A. Cavaliere*

Superintendent

