

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Julia Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Our Community is rooted in faith, which ensures the development of Catholic values. As partners in Christ, we work together to nurture the values of family, faith and community. We respect the equality of all God's children, their talents and uniqueness. We are committed to the growth and development of the whole person within the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are shaping the minds, bodies and souls of God's children for today and tomorrow. We are St. Julia School.

School Motto: Like the sunflower follows the sun, always turn towards our Good God.

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 team, in particular, Fr. Neiman D'Souza, has been organizing and preparing over the summer to be able to deliver an excellent and informative faith experience. In addition to these encounters with select classes, we look forward to seeing all of the children in their

classroom environments to help strengthen the link between the school and the Church. Throughout the year, we will be visiting classrooms and teaching small lessons to the children (the importance of the Mass, how to pray, etc.). Additionally, we will be leaving time during our visits to answer any questions that arise regarding the faith, the Church, vocations, etc. These class visits are mutually beneficial and prove to be a great way to get to know the children on a more personal level.

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 two 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. We look forward to collaborating with our schools in this endeavour throughout the year.

Father Paul Dobson

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Julia Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of Parents/Guardians, Parish and School, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope

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 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us**

Thursday: **Hope for the World**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope**

- St. Julia highlights Catholic Education week through school wide prayers that reflect the five sub themes: **Our Hope in Christ, The Hope Within Us, The Hope Among Us, Hope for the World and A Future Full of Hope.**
- Teachers will address each of the sub themes in their classrooms through a variety of lessons/activities, class liturgies and prayer.
- School volunteers will be recognized for their contributions at our school Volunteer Appreciation Liturgy and Social.
- Parents are invited to join us for school wide presentation/events.

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.

Adult Faith Formation:

- St. Julia offers a variety of opportunities for adult faith formation throughout the liturgical year.
- Staff gather together before or after school to pray and participate in staff liturgies during Advent, Lent, Easter and other feast days.
- All staff are encouraged and invited to attend the MBC adult faith events such as our Advent Mass, Lenten Celebration, and our End of the Year Mass as a means of enhancing their own faith formation
- We begin each meeting and PA Day with a liturgy, reflecting on scripture and how it applies to our daily life as Catholic educators
- Staff are invited to attend the Catholic Conference When Faith Meets Pedagogy.
- Staff and students pray the Rosary together.
- Staff participate in various fundraising events throughout the year to support ShareLife.
- We collaborate with the St. Joseph Parish team to prepare students for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.
- Parents and Guardians are invited to attend all of our school masses and liturgies.

Student Faith Formation:

- Our YFA facilitate a wide variety of faith formation activities throughout the year.
- Students lead daily prayer, including scripture and reflection to develop their understanding of scripture and its connection to their daily life
- Student led liturgies take place throughout the year to allow students to learn about and reflect on important aspects of our faith such as the Liturgical calendar, the virtues, feast days, saints, and stewardship

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
First Holy Communion	Sun. May 10, 2020 (3pm)	
Confirmation Retreat		Dec. 16, 2019 (10am-1:30pm)
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 7, 2020 (7 pm)

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	Tues. Oct. 22 (Church)
Advent Mass	Wed. Dec. 18 (School)
Lenten Mass	Tues. Mar. 3 (Church)
End of School Year Mass	Wed. June 10 (School)
Grade 8 Graduation Mass	Wed. June 17 (Church)

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ShareLife Fundraising Events throughout the year • Food Drives to support our local SVDP Society • SVDP Christmas hampers to support St. Joseph Parish families in need • Hat and mitten collections for SVDP • Various collections throughout the year to support Dr. Simone's CFFC • Annual Terry Fox Run raises money for Terry Fox Foundation |
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- Our ECO Team's action plan promotes our commitment towards recognizing the sacredness of our earth and our global responsibility to be good stewards of the environment.
- Bullying Awareness Initiatives (Announcements during Bullying Awareness week, class presentations by Peel Regional Youth Education Officer, Various Speakers/presentations 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 St. Julia community uses the OCSGE as a framework to ensure that we are providing our students with the knowledge, skills and values they need to respond to God's call to go out into the world and live the Gospel values.

The OCSGE are an integral part of:

- Daily programing
- Creating Successful Pathways (All About Me Portfolios/My Blueprint)
- Leadership experiences such as our Student Council and Youth Faith Ambassadors, Eco Team Leaders

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.

At St. Julia the virtues shape our response to others and the world around us.

- Students learn about the virtues in their classes and through monthly school-wide student-led assemblies
- The virtue of the month is highlighted on the daily announcements through prayer and reflection
- Students are recognized by their teachers and peers at monthly virtues assemblies and students' names are displayed on our virtues vine

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.

- St. Julia Staff and students respond to the call to service through their active participation in a variety of outreach and social justice activities throughout the school year.
- St. Julia strives to be a welcoming and inclusive environment and all are welcomed and greeted with kindness.
- Through the use of liturgical colours and symbols of our faith we ensure that our foyer and classrooms reflect the liturgical year.
- Each school day, and all meetings begin with a prayer or liturgy of the word.
- The Virtue of the month is also displayed on the foyer screen and virtue leaves are posted in the hallway, highlighting students who have demonstrated the virtue.
- Photos of students reenacting the Stations of the Cross are visible in the hallway.
- All students play an active role in the faith life of the school

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 Resources**
- **Fully Alive Program**
- **Class Visits** - The Parish team from St. Joseph regularly visits classes to discuss the virtues and gospel values.
- **Rosary Apostolate** - Classes are visited monthly by volunteers from the Church who pray the rosary with the students.