



PASTORAL PLAN

School: **San Lorenzo Ruiz Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

San Lorenzo Ruiz is a community of learners committed to the development of the whole person. We are gifts of God, working together to serve the Lord Jesus and each other. With family and parish, we strive for excellence and a commitment to life-long learning.

School Motto: A Community Growing in Faith

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier

Pastor: **Rev. James Cherickal**

Parish website: <https://stfrancisxaviermi.archtoronto.org/>

Message from the Pastor:

Catholic Education aims at forming students into faithful disciples of Jesus. Its three-fold objectives are: a) to provide an environment in which students are enabled to build and deepen their relationship with God; b) to foster an academic culture aimed at the pursuit of truth; c) to actively promote growth in virtue. Parents are the primary educators of their children through words and exemplary actions, and the school is but an active, yet essential, extension of parental education. I am very happy with the relationship and cooperation among the parish, the school and the parents. However, we should not be contented with what we are all doing now. Let's do more to realize the three-fold objectives of the Catholic Education.

Fr. James Cherickal

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School Council strives to fulfill its obligation to "promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the school and Board". The Council provides advice to the school principal on a number of items including goals and procedures for supporting the best interest of the Catholic school community. A Parish Representative is appointed to the Council annually to serve as a communication link between the parish and Council with respect to parish information and to provide guidance and support on initiatives and faith formation in the school community.

**Catholic Education Week Theme**

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2023, *We Are Many, We Are One*

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.

April 30 – May 1, 2023, is Catholic Education Week.

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

Catholic Education Week begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes. 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 invite all members of our community, to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week in our school.

We will continue to reflect upon this year's theme and the following sub-themes:

Monday: **When we see**

Tuesday: **When we listen**

Wednesday: **When we reflect**

Thursday: **When we learn**

Friday: **When we act**

Catholic Education Week Prayer

We are many, we are one; we all form one body in Christ.
Lord, when we see the one before us, let us reverence your presence within;
when we listen to one another, let us hear with our hearts;
when we reflect on each encounter, may we discern to understand;
when we learn from those around us, let us respect our differences with joy;
and when we act, may we be kind and generous to all,
for each person is a member of your body, with all that they are.
We are many, we are one.
Amen.

A school-wide liturgy, focused morning prayer / reflections, and a school-wide retreat day will highlight our week. Each division will be involved in a number of events, each emphasizing the week's themes. Through prayer, music, reflection, drama and art, students will come to deepen their understanding of this year's theme: *We Are Many, We Are One*. We will also raise funds and awareness for a charity of the community's choice. Our celebrations will culminate with the Crowning of Mary - our annual celebration made possible by our partnership with the Rosary Apostolate. Each year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources as well as our own developed activities, we will prepare activities. Information will be shared with the community closer to 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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School promotes faith by having a vibrant Youth Faith Ambassadors program as well as Adult Faith Leaders who provide guidance, support, liturgical opportunities to support our staff at the school and our MBC Family of Schools. Our school community continues to promote and empower our students to become discerning believers, effective communicators, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner, collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Through liturgy, word and action, we embrace and practice our Catholic responsibility and Gospel values.

- Faith Ambassador gatherings for staff
- Stations of the Cross
- School Wide Liturgical celebrations and gatherings
- Staff Liturgies and Reflections
- Student led morning prayers
- Daily classroom prayer: beginning of the day, lunch and dismissal
- Daily Religious/Family Life Education
- Staff PD opportunities, “When Faith Meets Pedagogy,” religion in-services
- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others
- Sacramental retreats

At the MBC Family level, teachers gather for Advent and Lenten Celebrations. In our school, the Adult Faith Team invites colleagues to prayer services held after school over the course of the year. The Youth Faith Ambassadors is a program that invites students to become faith leaders in our school. From social justice initiatives such as planning food drives and our Angel Tree gift drive, to faith formation of the school by leading retreats for our primary grades, the YFAs play a vital role in the faith development of our school. The MBC Family of Schools also organizes a YFA retreat for all students to celebrate as a group their efforts at the school level as well as share ideas with other schools.

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	March 22, 2023 March 23, 2023	N/A
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 15, 2023 April 17, 2023 April 20, 2023 April 22, 2023	N/A
Sacrament of Confirmation	N/A	April 24, 2023 April 27, 2023 April 29, 2023 May 6, 2023

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening/Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass	September 28, 2022
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11, 2022
Advent Mass	December 7, 2022
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 22, 2023
Lenten Mass	March 8, 2023
Stations of the Cross	April 6, 2023
Year End/Graduation Mass	June 14, 2023

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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz students are encouraged to look beyond themselves to the needs of others. Students are involved in local, regional, national and international outreach. As a faith community, we may be called to be involved in outreach that is not listed below.

September: Terry Fox Run, Wilf Hartzberg Walk / Run Event

October: Thanksgiving Food Drive

November: Candy Drive for Dr. Simone

December: Angel Tree

February: ShareLife student/Peel Police event

March: 'Cram the Cruiser' Canned Food Drive,

Youth Faith Ambassadors visiting Dr. Simone's Warehouse

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.

Catholic School Graduate Expectations are incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. The Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations are listed in students' agendas and are displayed in the front foyer for parents' and students' reference. Staff have been provided the OCSGE in student friendly language to support student development in the classroom. As well, there are many opportunities throughout the school for students to display their spiritual leadership: i.e., Youth Faith Ambassadors, Diversity Team, Eco Team, library helpers, athletics, clubs, PALs, etc.

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 San Lorenzo Ruiz, we say a daily prayer for the Virtue of the Month on the morning announcements to highlight the Virtue and remind students what the virtue looks like, feels like and sounds like in the classroom and in the schoolyard. As a school community, we will gather monthly to celebrate the virtues together and recognize those who have been instrumental in demonstrating the virtue for that month. We will continue to infuse the virtues in our daily teachings to promote greater awareness of living out the virtues in our lives. This year, we will connect our Virtues to digital citizenship. This allows students to demonstrate the virtues of self-control, respect and acceptance in a digital age.

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.

At San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School, visual signs of our faith serve to remind us of God's love for us. They let all who enter know that we are a Catholic school community, and that Jesus is the primary focus of our school. Visual signs of our faith are evident immediately as one walks into our school. In the front foyer, our altar, bible and cross are prominently displayed. Each classroom has a crucifix, a prayer table with the liturgical colors of the season, a bible and class rosary. Seasonal symbols such as Advent Wreaths and Stations of the Cross are also displayed. Posters and murals throughout the school highlight our Catholic faith and virtues.

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**
- **Library resources**
- **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ digital resource**