

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Raphael Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

St. Raphael School provides an environment which fosters the gospel values, enabling our students to maximize their potential to love, learn, work and serve as Jesus did.

School Motto: Working Together in Harmony

Our Parish: Our Lady of the Airways

Pastor: *Rev. Thomas Lim*

Parish website: www.ourladyoftheairways.com

Message from the Pastor:

The pastoral team at Our Lady of the Airways Parish assists the students, parents and staff members of St. Raphael School to live their fundamental call of holiness through their preaching, teaching, catechesis, and personal encounters in the classrooms. We hope to inspire the members of our parish community to live the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ more faithfully and to share their spiritual gifts more generously. We encourage you to attend Sunday Eucharist with your family and we invite you to join the liturgies and the masses celebrated at St. Raphael's School community and Our Lady of the Airways Parish.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

It is with great joy that all members of our Catholic School Council extend our continued support to all students at St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School.

Our goal is for every student to strengthen their faith in the Christian worldview while achieving their academic goals. Continuously providing an environment to expand individual learning where shared values and strong roots are practiced is our mission.

We promise to always convey the message of love, faith, and unity through a safe and welcoming learning space where we are able embrace our Catholic faith as one.

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**

We celebrate Catholic Education Week:

Liturgies on the P.A.

Hope for the World whole school liturgy in the gym

A Future Full of Hope Letter/Picture Gallery Walk

Journey into Learning evening for new Kindergarten students and their families

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.

- Daily prayer on the P.A. Participation in school masses, liturgies, and assemblies
- Advent and Lent Reconciliation for staff and students at school
- Daily Religion Instruction in classes
- Youth Faith Ambassador commissioning and activities
- Religion instruction woven through all areas of the curriculum
- Professional Development days start with a faith focus and faith is intertwined throughout the day
- Rosary Apostolates once a month
- Crowning of Mary Celebration in May with Rosary Apostolates
- Sacred Spaces in every classroom
- All staff invited to BECDM Family of Schools' Advent and Lenten Liturgies

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	February 13, 2020	
Sacrament of Reconciliation for Confirmandi		April 30, 2020
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 28, 2020

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	October 3, 2019
Advent Mass	December 17, 2019
Lenten Mass	March 31, 2020
Year-end Mass	June 11, 2020

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.

*Our school participates in the Pretzels for Lent and a pancake breakfast to support ShareLife;
 The whole school goes on the Terry Fox Walk;
 We skip for the Heart and Stroke Jump Rope for Heart event;
 We collect food for the church through Food Drives;
 Youth Faith Ambassadors visit the elderly;
 We collect socks for a shelter or the homeless during our Sock Drive;
 We decorate a Mitten and Hat Tree for Christmas, and;
 We support our Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament by sponsoring a golf hole*

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.

To celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community promote the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through our newsletters, and incorporate the Graduate Expectations in our Virtues Assemblies. All teachers were given a student-friendly version of the Graduate Expectations to post in the classroom.

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.

We have monthly assemblies where classes present a liturgy to the rest of the school with messages about the virtues. We also have a virtues display case that classes are assigned to decorate with student work.

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 Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables in each class and in the staffroom. We have a large statue of Mary in our front foyer and a beautiful wooden altar. We have 2 stained glass windows at the front of the school depicting our patron Saint. Our hallways are lined with religious pictures. The Stations of the Cross are displayed upstairs outside the library. We have a new statue of St. Raphael, that we had Father Thomas bless at our opening mass, in the front display case.

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](#)