

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Richard Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

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School Motto: Love - Faith - Kindness - Hope

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross

Pastor: *Rev. Joyson George, O. Carm*

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

Message from the Pastor:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” Proverbs 9:10

We are grateful for the faith-based education in our Catholic schools and the great cooperation we experience between the schools and the church here at St. John of the Cross faith community. May the Carmelite saints continue to be our role models and may their spirituality inspire the Catholic formation of our younger generation.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Catholic School Councils are a gift to the Catholic school community. Our Catholic School Council has the opportunity to influence educational and faith formation experiences as children journey towards realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and ultimately, a vocation of Christ-like service in the world beyond school. The purpose of our Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of the parents, to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. In addition, the mission of Catholic School Councils in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is to promote the vision, values and sacramental life of Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, the Catholic community it serves, and advise the principal and board. We also promote and maintain a positive, faith-infused school environment for all students and staff. We facilitate active and meaningful participation of parents, and all members of the school community, and provide staff, parents, and students with an accountable system to which they can voice their concerns, comments and suggestions for the well-being and academic improvement of the school community.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 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, all Catholic School Boards in Ontario will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic School Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education. The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is '***We are Called to Love***' During Catholic Education Week the students participate in special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities including the Crowning of Mary celebration. 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, especially our parents/guardians, to participate in the celebrations and activities planned during this important 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.

Some of the activities that support both adult and student faith formation at St. Richard Catholic Elementary School include:

- Active Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Recognizing students for demonstrating the Virtue of the Month
- Morning Prayers, scripture readings, reflections and announcements
- Highlighting and praying daily the St. Richard Prayer
- School masses and liturgical celebrations
- Liturgical calendar celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Adult Faith Ambassadors – liturgies for staff
- Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Connecting with Father Joyson and Father Felix from St. John of the Cross Parish
- Highlighting the Rosary
- Rosary Apostolate Monthly
- Food/Clothing/Gift Card Drives
- Christmas gift card campaign in conjunction with St. John of the Cross Parish
- Sharelife fundraising activities for staff and students
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life instruction

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
<i>First Communion Registration Meeting</i>	Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:00pm @ Church Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:00pm @ Church	
Reconcilliation	Monday, November, 20, 2023 7:00pm @ Church Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:00pm @ Church	
Enrolment Ceremony (All Masses)	Saturday, January 27, 2024 Sunday , January 28, 2024 Saturday, February 3, 2024 Sunday, February 4, 2024	
First Communion Masses	Saturday April 13, 2024 10:30am @ Church Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:00pm @ Church Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:30am @ Church Sunday, April 21, 2024 2:00pm @ Church	
Confirmation Parent Meetings		Sunday, September 24, 2023 6:00pm @ Church Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:00pm @ Church

Rite of Enrollment		October 21st, October 22nd, October 28th, and October 29th
Confirmation Retreat		Confirmation Retreat Saturday 9am-12:00 February 24, 2024 and March 2, 2024
Confirmation Masses		Tuesday, April 9th 2024 @ 7pm Thursday, April 11th 2024 @ 7pm Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 @7pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	Monday, September 25 th 10:30 at School
Advent Mass	Monday, December 11 th 6:00 at Church
Lenten Reconciliation	Tuesday, March 5 th 1:00-3:00 School
Year End Mass	Tuesday, June 11 th 1:00 at School
Graduation Mass	Monday, June 17 th 6:00 at 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.

As a school community, we are committed to supporting Social Justice Activities through our Youth and Adult Faith Ambassadors and our Eco Team we ensure community participation in social justice

activities and programs, and a focus on the sustainability of our environment. Examples include participation in:

- Ongoing work of our Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Ongoing and continued support of ShareLife
- Support for Canadian Food for Children (Dr. Simone Warehouse), Terry Fox Foundation, St Vincent de Paul, Eden Food for Change
- Autism Awareness, Rock Your Socks in support of Down Syndrome
- Efforts to support Catholic digital citizenship
- Continued Diversity and Equity Lead Initiatives
- Eco-School activities that support stewardship of our sacred environment

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.

At St. Richard, The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are infused in all our actions as a school community. We strive to nurture an environment where students not only learn the curriculum but also how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life-Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. A continued goal is to ensure that the OCSGE are visible throughout the school and infused throughout our daily practices.

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.

A Catholic faith community is rooted in a set of common beliefs which are inspired by the life, mission and teaching of Jesus. As a Catholic community, we are called to learn, to grow, and to become more like Jesus in the way we see and treat others. Our Catholic faith plays an important role in helping us shape schools that are safe, caring and inclusive. Catholic school education provides us the opportunity to integrate virtue formation into all areas of our school life within the context of our faith. At St. Richard School we will continue to focus our attention on the Catholic Virtues. This program is designed to help us nurture virtue and character development in the lives of our students. Each month, the entire school will focus on a different virtue; Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-Control, Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance and Fairness. Classroom activities, school-wide activities, and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. The entire school community works together to develop a safe and caring school environment that emphasizes student well-being, and strong physical, emotional, and intellectual growth throughout their school year.

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.

As you enter St Richard, our virtue wall, our school banner, the cross, the altar and the Holy Bible adorn the sacred space for all visitors and members of the community on a daily basis. The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and the monthly Virtue are clearly evident as well. Within every classroom, the living sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [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:

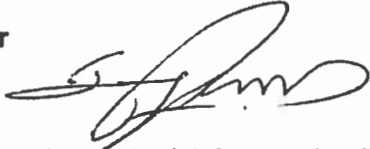
Board

- 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](#)
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School-Based

Signature Page

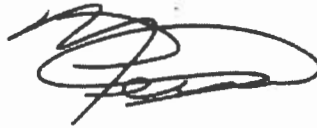
Pastor



Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable) *All Staff*

Teacher(s) *All Staff*

Chair of Catholic School Council



Vice Principal(s) N/A

Principal *Tanya Brancalton*

Superintendent