



School: **St. Rita Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

The mission of the St. Rita school community is to build and foster a Catholic partnership within the school where we as parents, parish, students and support staff create a harmonious, cohesive environment that allows students to learn Catholic values as well as the required curriculum. Our intent is to assist the school community and support parents in raising well-rounded faith-filled children.

School Motto: Putting our Faith into Action.

Our Parish: St. Leonard

Pastor: *Rev. Paul John Nosan*

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

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of St. Leonard Parish. We encourage our families to register with the Parish and to join us for Sunday Mass, Saturday at 5:00 pm, and Sunday at 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12:00 noon.

In St. John Paul II's Letter for the Third Millennium, we find a sevenfold pastoral plan for the Church:

1. We are called to holiness
2. Importance of daily prayer
3. Importance of the Sunday Eucharist
4. Making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
5. Primacy of grace in our life

6. Listening to the Word of God (may it form us)
7. Proclaiming the Word of God (especially by our life)

Message from the Catholic School Council:

As members of the Council, we seek to enhance and enrich the overall experience of Catholic education for our students, school representatives, and parents working together as members of the St. Rita School community. We encourage the relationship between curriculum, Faith, and family by working together through faith-based involvement in community and Parish initiatives. In this way, we nurture the development of conscientious, responsible, collaborative students who demonstrate their God-given talents as lifelong learners.

Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together
L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Restaurer, Renouveler Ensemble

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.

***"Behold, I make all things new."* (Revelation 21:5)**
***«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.»* (Apocalypse 21,5)**

The sub-themes for [Catholic Education Week 2022](#) are:

Monday: **Rediscover / Redécouvrir**
Tuesday: **Rebuild / Rebâtir**
Wednesday: **Restore / Restaurer**
Thursday: **Renew / Renouveler**
Friday: **Rejoice / Se réjouir**

Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together... we will:

1. Offer a brochure invitation sent home outlining the events for the week
2. Offer individual classroom/grade level events reflecting the theme for the day: events encourage parent engagement in their child's learning as well as peer sharing
3. Facilitate division planned activities
4. Coordinate a multi-disciplinary Arts exhibition of reflections on the theme Nurturing Hope
5. Support a Social Justice Initiative led virtually/ recordings by Youth Faith Ambassadors

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.

Throughout the year we will support:

Students with:

- Morning prayer
- Seasonal liturgies
- Classroom prayer and liturgy
- Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Rosary Club
- Youth Faith Ambassadors

Staff with:

- Prayer materials
- Catholic teaching integration materials
- Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Seasonal prayer gatherings (virtual)

Families with:

- Newsletter prayer materials
- Weblinks on school FAITH page
- Invitations to all school 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 3	Grade 7	Grade 8
First Reconciliation		Tues. Oct. 12 – 3:30 – 6:00pm Thurs. Oct. 14 – 3:30 – 5:00pm		
First Communion retreat	Due to COVID Restrictions TBA			
First Communion	Due to COVID Restrictions TBA Spring 2022			
Confirmation Retreat			Due to COVID Restrictions TBA	
Confirmation			Due to COVID Restrictions TBA Spring 2022	Wed. Oct. 27 – 6:30 & 8:00pm Fri. Oct. 30 - 6:30 & 8:00pm Mon. Nov. 1 – 7:00pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
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All Saints /All Souls Observances	November 1 & 2
Remembrance Day: A Prayer for Peace/ Classroom Liturgy	November 11
Advent Liturgies	November 28; December 5; December 12; December 19
Ash Wednesday	March 2
Lent Class Liturgies	TBA February 17 - March 27
Holy Thursday	April 14
Crowning of Mary / Living Rosary	May 2
Catholic Education Week liturgies	May 1-6
Feast of St. Rita liturgies	May 22
Graduation celebration	June TBA
End of Year Liturgy	June TBA

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"> ● Terry Fox ● ShareLife ● Seasonal charitable drives to support St. Leonard Parish, Knight’s Table, Dr. Simone, St. Louise Outreach, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christmas Project Gift collection ○ Lenten food and clothing ● Eco-School promotions ● Pope Francis Encyclical (Laudito Si: Care for Our Common Home) ● Staff Ecological awareness and nature appreciation experiences |
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- We note that staff members are sensitive to local family and community needs; as such, they will initiate additional drives to support needs as they arise (Christmas and Easter).

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.

- Student Faith Ambassador Events
- Play Buddies, Pals, Friendship Group Leaders
- Eco-Schools / Student Green Team
- Student Retreats where the focus is sharing, building, growing and communicating in Faith (Sacramental Preparation)
- Anti-Bullying initiatives
- Equity Conference

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.

- Monthly PA promotions
- Newsletters Submissions
- Visible signs via posters and student work throughout the school
- Rosary Club
- Youth Faith Ambassadors

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.

- Visible signs of our Faith: prayer tables, altars, front foyer displays, posters and wall displays, Bibles, Crosses, Rosaries, Statue of Mary, pictures of the Holy Family, Statue of St. Rita
- Faith events and activities highlighted on classroom calendars and school newsletters
- Saint Feast days promoted through Social Media
- Student-produced Saint Profile posters in hallways
- Daily announcements include Gospel and Bible readings
- Catholic Code of Conduct embedded in discipline and restitution

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](#)
- **Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"** - [Fratelli Tutti](#)

- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

School-Based

- Children’s Bible and Daily Readings
- Novalis Advent and Lent resources
- Prayer cards and links provided by Father John
- Teacher Faith-based personal resources
- Family Faith web links on FAITH tab of the school webpage
- Faith Kits for each classroom for each Liturgical Season

Signature Page

Pastor

J. Nosan

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Emily H, Frankie D, Abbey G, Brandon F, Rachelle R, Jade D, Tommy B, Maggie P, Hailey V, Taylor T, Isabella S, Veronica F, Alyssa F, Julia S, Jackson V, Kathryn O, Chloe G, Anthony L, Talia A, Olivia F, Amelina J, Debbie B, Elisa C

Teacher(s)

Denise Sandiland, Mary Gallant, Evangelina DeMedeiros, Annalisa Parenti, Tina Cacciola, Sandi Waller, Sandra Murray, Rosanna Sist, Maria Richardson, Lee Ann Sheppard, Mary Castrucci, Tracy Forgette, Lisa Street, Maria Bonello, Ray Knowles, Lesley McGougan, Mike Ariganello, Michelle Wajnblum, Rita Vavala, Kelly Oliveira, Donna Mehta, Donna Iannuzzi, Lisa Del Core, Christina Anton, Jackie Calabrese, Ann Currie, Rocky Zammit, Christina Tedesco, Jennifer Selvaggi, Sandra Lane, Jason Kotsopoulos, Lea DeLaat, Ashley Wingell, Frankie Franzoni, Jennifer Geerts, Kirsten Salmon, Joanne Ferlisi, Krista Gabrielse, Megan McLay, Al Brinkert

Chair of Catholic School Council

N. Cedrone

Vice Principal(s)

S. Quartarone

Principal

P. Gastaldin

Superintendent

T-L. Peel