

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Sebastian Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

“As soldiers of Christ, the students and staff of St. Sebastian Catholic Elementary School, in unity with our families and church community, are dedicated to fostering Catholic values in all spiritual, intellectual and social learning experiences. Our commitment to respect and cooperation encourages the development of faithful, caring and responsible citizens. We strive to reach our full potential, while facing the challenges of life.

School Motto: Soldiers of Faith, Endurance and Freedom.

Our Parish: Merciful Redeemer

Pastor: Rev. James Hogan

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

Message from the Pastor:

On behalf of the Priests and Staff of Merciful Redeemer Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our prayers for you and all your loved ones as we prepare for a full pastoral program this fall. A year has passed since I was appointed as Pastor of Merciful Redeemer Parish. It has been a blessed year with so much happening in the community. You have all made me feel very welcome, and I am truly blessed to serve you and your families. I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to all of you and invite you to return to fully participating in the life of our parish, with its passion for liturgy, especially the celebration of Sunday Mass. Please know that we, the priests and staff of Merciful Redeemer, are here to serve your needs and to help you deepen your encounter with Jesus Christ through His Church. We are happy to work with our parish schools, long term care homes and others to reach out to as many people as possible with a message of hope.

In a special way, I thank our many volunteers for their dedication to the parish and to you. Once again, I am pleased to assure you and your families of a remembrance in my prayers, along with those of Fr. Suresh, Fr. Iguintz, Deacon Bruno and our staff. Kindly, remember us also in yours. With prayers and best wishes,
In Christ,
Fr. Séamus Hogan,
Pastor

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The mission of the St. Sebastian Catholic School Advisory Council is to be a Catholic, multicultural community of faith called to strengthen and enhance the triad of home, school, and church. We will achieve our mission through various community events with the focus of building a strong Catholic faith community where parents, guardians, students, administrators, teachers, and support staff all feel welcome and celebrated. St. Sebastian CSAC will endeavour to participate at school faith events and to be ambassadors for the community parish church of Merciful Redeemer.

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**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

St. Sebastian Catholic School introduced the theme of Catholic Education Week in September and will continue to weave our calling to love throughout the school year. St. Sebastian CES will mark the beginning of Catholic Education Week with an opening school wide liturgy. Our morning announcements will include a prayer reflecting Catholic Education Week. Teachers will highlight each sub-theme through lessons in their classrooms using the resources provided by OCSTA. Our school wide *Gratitude Wellness Moments and principal led prayerful reflections* will highlight the significance of Catholic Education. During this week, we will be hosting the *Celebration of Mary* inviting our community to attend. We will conclude the week with a school wide faith-centered outdoor activity.

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 and student faith formation is supported through:

- the celebration of liturgies on a monthly basis: weekly throughout Advent and Lent, to celebrate secular and religious holidays (i.e., Beginning of the School Year, All Souls Day, St. Sebastian's feast day, End of the School Year), and as needed to support members of our school community (i.e. to pray for our loved ones who are ill);
- food drives
- visits from Father Suresh and Danielle Lape (Youth Minister)
- sacred spaces in all learning spaces
- virtual Virtues Assemblies and front foyer displays
- student-lead classroom presentations and school-wide announcements, teaching students of all ages about important aspects of our faith (i.e. the liturgical calendar, saints, tenets of our faith, Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, Mother Mary, stewardship)
- artworks illustrating what has been taught and/or celebrated in the classroom, adorning the walls of our school.
- student photos capturing the Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations
- staff and student Faith Wellness Team and monthly faith-based wellness days

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 28, 2024 @ 7pm	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	June 16, 2024 @ 3 pm	
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 10, 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	September 22, 2023 @ 11:00 am
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10, 2023 @ 10:45 am
School Confessions (Grades 3-8)	TBD
Advent Mass	December 13, 2023 @ 11:00 am
Ash Wednesday Mass	February 14, 2024 @ 11:00 am

Stations of the Cross	March 28, 2024 @ 11:00 am
Celebration of Mary	May 8, 2024 @ 1:30 pm
Year End Mass	June 25, 2024 @ 11:00 am

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 ShareLife....

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and generosity by giving to those in need. We will continue to look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and His ministry through community service projects. By reaching out to others, students are encouraged to become thoughtful and caring members of the community and to appreciate the importance of social justice and stewardship. We will be supporting ShareLife and Society of St. Vincent de Paul through the

Christmas Angel Tree, staff luncheons, food drives, fundraiser initiatives (i.e. dances) and Intermediate MediBall Game.

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....

The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations are anchors for well-being in the promotion of our Christ-centered approach to education. We align our assessment and evaluation of the Learning Skills and Work Habits with the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Our Ontario Graduate Expectations are displayed in each classroom and are captured in the student photos displayed throughout our school hallways.

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 virtual monthly assemblies....

A Catholic faith community 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. St. Sebastian School will 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. Classroom activities, school-wide activities, and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. Each month virtue recipients will receive a certificate and a personalized engraved pencil with their name and virtue of the month.

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, community service

In all of our classrooms, students have access to a sacred space to help their faith development; this space is maintained following the liturgical calendar. Bulletin Boards in the classrooms and hallways display faith-based activities. In our foyer you will see, a cross, gathering space, and a display cabinet (which highlight the Monthly Virtues and special days in our liturgical calendar) which supports keeping our faith central to all that we do. Every learning space has a framed DPCDSB *All Are Welcome* image. Our classroom book bags have a variety of age-appropriate books that highlight the importance of inclusion and diversity.

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](#)

- [Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

School-Based

Signature Page

Pastor 

Faith Ambassador(s) *(as applicable)*

Teacher(s) 

Chair of Catholic School Council N/A

Vice Principal(s) N/A

Principal 

Superintendent