

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Elizabeth Seton School**

## School Mission Statement:

At St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School, we aim to be like Jesus. We are proud of ourselves and are committed to helping each other grow to be the best we can be. Together with our families, school, church and the whole community, we learn skills and values that we use to make our world a better place in which to live.

**School Motto:** Let Our Light Shine

**Our Parish:** St. John of the Cross

**Pastor:** George Joyson

**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:

The St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School Council is an important part of our school community. Through the participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we seek to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment.

**Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

At St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School, Catholic Education Week will focus on; As people of hope, faith, mercy and joy: **We are called to Love.** Using daily themes (itemized above), as outlined by the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association (OCSTA). We routinely encourage members of our school community, including our Catholic School Trustee and Superintendent of Schools to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark Catholic Education Week 2024. During this week, we plan to celebrate a school-wide liturgy, engage in various Share Life activities and participate in the annual Crowning of Mary presentation, hosted by visitors from the Rosary Apostolate who seek to lead students to Jesus, through Mary.

**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.*

The impact of our rich traditions and faith experiences is the focus of our Pastoral Plan. Centered on the faith formation of the students that we serve, our goal is to guide our students on their faith journey from the moment they enter our school until their graduation as young Catholic adults, prepared to become positive contributing members of our society. The multiple celebrations of the ‘Liturgy of The Word’ for classes and staff throughout the school year, and the continued prayerful experience of the holy rosary are some of the many spiritual events planned for this school year. At St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School, we support both adult and student faith formation (Youth Faith Ambassadors & Adult Faith Ambassadors) through many social justice initiatives as well as our strong relationship with St. John of the Cross Parish and “Eden Food For Change!” (Community Food Bank). We continually look to St. Elizabeth Seton for guidance, support, love and understanding.

**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>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>Date/Activity</i>	
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Monday, November 20/23 7:00 p.m. @ church Tuesday, November 21/23 7:00 p.m. @ church	
<b>Enrolment Ceremony</b>	January 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> , February 3 <sup>rd</sup> & February 4 <sup>th</sup> All masses	
<b>First Holy Communion</b>	Saturday, April 13/24- 10:30 a.m. @ church Sunday, April 14/24- 2:00 p.m. @ church Saturday, April 20/24 10:30 a.m. @ church Sunday, April 21/24- 2:00 p.m. @ church	
<b>Rite of Enrollment</b>		October 21 & 22, October 23, Saturday October 28 & 29 at St John of the Cross Church
<b>Decision Point Sessions</b>		November 11, 25, December 9, January 20, February 10

		(Candidates must attend all sessions) 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon-Saturdays Only
<b>Reconciliation &amp; Retreat</b>		Saturday February 24 <sup>th</sup> or March 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9:00 am to 12 Noon at St John of the Cross Church
<b>Confirmation</b>		Tuesday April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 @ 7pm Thursday April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024 @7 pm Tuesday April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 @ 7pm At St John of the Cross Church.

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
School Opening Mass	Wednesday September 27, 2023, at School
Advent Mass	Monday, December 11, 2023, at School
School Feast Day Mass	Thursday January 25, 2025, at Church
School Reconciliation	Wednesday March 6, 2024, at School
Graduation Mass	Monday June 24, 2024, at St. John of the Cross Church
<b>***Additional boxes can be added as needed.</b>	

**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 various outreach activities to support organizations such as ShareLife, food drives (Eden Food for Change!), St. Vincent de Paul Society, Christmas Family Support. We support families in our community during Christmas and the year as needed. We also participate, as a school faith community, in Archdiocese of Toronto disaster relief efforts when needed.

**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 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School demonstrate a commitment to delivering and living out the Catholic Graduate Expectations at our school. Our focus is to introduce each expectation to our students through our daily announcements and prayers, linking them with our virtues program, assemblies, Holy Mass and liturgies. Catholic Graduate Expectations are woven to our progressive discipline policies at school as well, in order to draw students' attention to the Catholic background and nature of our interactions with one another.

### **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 honor and demonstrate the virtue program through daily announcements, prayer and practice. Teachers embed the virtues through guided instruction and modelling. We celebrate the virtues through assemblies, liturgies and mass throughout the school year. Morning prayers over the PA has a focus on the Virtue of the month. Students are awarded Virtue Certificates during assemblies.

### **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 many visible signs and symbols of our faith throughout St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School. We display and decorate sacred spaces (following the liturgical calendar) with crosses, bibles, art frames, decorated by the students from FDK to Grade 8. In collaboration with our Child and Youth Worker, the school takes part in Bullying Awareness/Prevention Week activities. We also engage in Safe School initiatives throughout the school year (e.g. Bully B.R.A.V.E. [Bully Resistance Anti-Violence Education] program.) Students at St Elizabeth Seton have a voice through the monthly Newsletter insert. Cultural diversity is recognized by the many activities and initiative through the Equity leads and student body. A sacred space, crosses and pictures representing our faith are visible in all

classrooms. Virtue of the Month is displayed on the bulletin board. Faith events and activities are highlighted in classroom calendars and school newsletters.

### **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**

- Many Gifts Resource
- Fully Alive Program
- Class Visits: Father Joyson, and Father Felix visit classes for sacramental preparation and to discuss the importance of living the gospel values.
- Rosary Apostolate: Classes are visited monthly by volunteers who pray the rosary with the students.
- Children's Bible and Daily Readings
- Novalis Advent and Lent resources
- Weekly staff reflections during Lent and Advent
- Teacher Faith Based personal resources
- Staff & Student books from 'The Different Booklist'

**Signature Page**

**Pastor**



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

**Teacher(s)**

**Chair of Catholic School Council**



**Vice Principal(s)**

**Principal**



**Superintendent**