

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Edith Stein Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

Together with the families of St. Edith Stein School and St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, we are responsible for building a community that expresses the joy and hope of our Catholic faith and visibly symbolizes a deep commitment to academic excellence, life-long learning and faith development.

**School Motto:** To Have A Friend, You Must Be A Friend

**Our Parish:** St. Josephine Bakhita

**Pastor:** *Rev. Mark Villanueva*

**Parish website:** [www.stjosephinebakhita.ca](http://www.stjosephinebakhita.ca)

## Message from the Pastor:

Greetings in the Lord! St. Josephine Bakhita Parish recognizes that strong parish-home-school connections are foundational to supporting the development of students in the Ontario Catholic School system. We will continue to guide and support the work of schools in Sacramental preparation. Through the continuation of sharing best practices with our elementary schools, students will affirm their Catholic faith in word and action through a variety of initiatives. We wish the students of St. Edith Stein School a blessed and fruitful school year and moving forward, look forward to the success of all students.

## Message from the Catholic School Council:

Together with the families and staff at St. Edith Stein School, the Catholic School Advisory Council has the opportunity to influence the educational experiences as students continue in their faith journeys. We hope to provide valuable insight to the Board and administrator as they cultivate a truly authentic Catholic education for our children. Through fundraising initiatives, we hope to support the goals of the

Catholic School Learning Plan of St. Edith Stein School. We are eager to promote a sense of community where both students and parents are engaged in school initiatives.

### **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**

During Catholic Education Week, daily prayers will reflect the themes outlined above. We will also celebrate Catholic Education with daily liturgies of the Word and participate in a virtual mass with Cardinal Collins if one becomes available.

#### **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.*

- Staff and students will deepen their understanding of Catholic virtues through monthly virtues assemblies created by students and teachers (held virtually)

- Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues of each month are highlighted through daily announcements and classroom discussions.
- The school community will actively develop an appreciation, understanding, and knowledge of the Mass.
- Students at all grade levels will improve their knowledge and enhance their understanding of our Christian Faith Story as told in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.
- The school community will continue to expand initiatives in stewardship and social justice, which meet individual, local and global community needs, always being mindful of a Catholic perspective.
- The school will continue to expand our goal to have students more frequently and authentically reflect on how they can contribute to the common good.
- The school will continue to enhance its relationship with the St. Josephine Bakhita Church by using the Rosary videos created by the Rosary Apostolate and, when restrictions allow, welcoming the Rosary Apostolate members to our classrooms once more

**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 & 3 (who did not receive it last year)	Grade 7 & 8s (who did not receive it last year)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	TBD	
First Communion	TBD	
Reconciliation		TBD
Sacrament of Confirmation		TBD

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 7 @ 9:30 a.m.
Remembrance Day Assembly (virtual)	November 11 @ 10:50 a.m.
Advent Mass	December 14, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.
Stations of the Cross	Wednesday, April 13, 2022 @ 10:45 a.m.

Lenten/Easter Mass	TBD
Celebrating Catholic Education Week	May 1-6, 2022
Crowning of Mary	TBD
Year End Mass	TBD

### **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 community works together as one family as we support one another and respond to the needs of the larger community through activities such as Food Drives, Recycling Program, Share Life, etc. This year, all activities will be guided by the Covid-19 Pandemic Regulations resulting in virtual presentations and limitations to outreach programs.

September – Terry Fox run/Orange Shirt Day  
 October – WITS Anti-bullying program begins/ virtual assembly  
 November – Litterless lunch days/ Eco Source presentations/Share Life/Brave Bullying, Confidence and Conflict program/WITS swearing-in ceremony  
 December – Christmas outreach/ St. Josephine Bakhita Church Family Gift Baskets/ Staff Liturgical Advent Celebrations/Virtual Community Advent Mass  
 January - Peel Waste virtual presentations/ virtual assembly/Brave Bystander program  
 February – Share Life Spirit Days / Winter Walk to School Days, virtual assembly  
 March – Share Life/ St. Josephine Bakhita fundraiser – Easter Food Drive/Textile drive (Covid-19 Regulations-permitting)/ virtual assembly  
 April – Sponsor a family at Easter/ Youth Faith Ambassador Retreat (Covid-19 Regulations-permitting)/ virtual assembly  
 May – Share Life/virtual assembly  
 June – virtual assembly

### **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.*

As a Catholic community of learners including and involving students, home, school, and parish, we are committed to the principles inherent in the following:

**We live and grow in our faith by modeling ourselves after our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

- We appreciate our own uniqueness and the uniqueness of others by treating each other with courtesy, consideration, kindness, and respect.
- We build and foster school spirit by sharing, cooperating and learning from each other, recognizing that people are our greatest resource.
- We realize learning is a lifelong process in an ever-changing world and that we must take personal responsibility for our own learning and education.
- We provide a nurturing environment, in order that students may empower themselves, resulting in confident, creative risk takers and problem solvers in academic and social experiences.
- We foster a work ethic that includes pride and satisfaction in the quality of work through collaboration and communication among all members of our school community.
- We are informed and involved citizens who identify and respond respectfully to the human and environmental needs and issues of our global community.
- We strive for excellence in everything that we do in order to achieve our personal best academically, spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

We value and encourage the contribution and cooperation of all the St. Edith Stein community members in the achievement of all our goals.

We highlight different Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations each month (using the ones described in words elementary students can understand and make connections to):

September – I Am a Believer

October – I Have a Voice

November – I Have Responsibilities

December – I am a Discerning Believer

January – I Have Ideas

February – I Am a Team Player

March – I Am a Learner for Life

April – I am a Believer

May – I Care

June – I Have Responsibilities

**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.*

Each month, the school population celebrates the Virtue of the month. The Catholic Virtues program incorporates a variety of activities related to the virtue. Our daily announcements and prayers include prayers for the virtues. The virtues celebrated each month are:

September – FAITH

October – EMPATHY

November – CONSCIENCE

December – HOPE

January – SELF CONTROL

February – RESPECT

March – KINDNESS

April – LOVE

May – ACCEPTANCE

June – FAIRNESS

Ability to have assemblies will be guided

by Covid-19 Pandemic Guidelines – assemblies will be virtual until the restrictions allow otherwise.

### **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.*

- Adult Faith Ambassadors gatherings for staff
- School-wide liturgical celebrations and gatherings, student-led by classes and Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Youth Faith Ambassadors as faith leaders in our school
- Staff liturgies and reflections
- Daily prayers, readings, and reflections on the announcements
- The foyer of the school welcomes students, staff, parents, and visitors in a faith-filled community. The signs of our Faith, including the altar, seasonal altar displays, virtues program posters and scenes of the life of St. Edith Stein are visual reminders of our common heritage and the liturgical seasons.
- Classrooms have prayer tables/corner for individual prayer opportunities/focus for classroom celebrations
- Missionary presentations to students (Rosary Apostolate monthly visits enhance our connection with St. Josephine Bakhita Church).

- Resources provided to parents supporting a better understanding of the Family Life Education curriculum
- The Prayer Room provides a quiet place for staff and students to be closer to Our Lord, use of the Prayer Room will be guided by Covid-19 Pandemic Regulations

### **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**

- Religious Education Program
- Fully Alive (Family Life) Program
- “Where to find it in the Bible” by Ken Anderson

- A Canadian Prayer Book: “Northern Light” by Les Miller
- “On Earth as it is in Heaven” by Josephine Lombardi
- Children’s Daily Prayer Book 2021-2022
- “Words for the Journey: 10-Minute Prayer Services for Teachers and Administrators” by Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller



**Signature Page**

**Pastor**

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

**Teacher(s)**

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

**Vice Principal(s)**

**Principal**

**Superintendent**