

PASTORAL PLAN

School: St. Therese of the Child Jesus

School Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the staff of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Elementary School, to model Gospel Values through celebrating the distinct nature of our Catholic Schools in partnership with families and our Parish church to provide a safe, caring, inclusive and diverse learning environment for every student. As a staff, we strive to create conditions that support life-long learners, creative self-directed and responsible students through technology and social outreach projects. We continue to use effective pedagogies that support the learner in the 21st century, ever responsive to our student needs.

School Motto: The spirit of St. Therese lives in each of us and every time we imitate her “little way”, we grow closer to God

Our Parish: St. John of the Cross

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

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

Message from the Pastor:

As pastor of a Carmelite parish, we are blessed to have a special relationship with our schools, all named in the Carmelite tradition. We have the opportunity to gather and celebrate our faith together whilst forming our children in the Catholic tradition and the particular uniqueness of our Carmelite heritage.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment.

Catholic Education Week Theme:**Igniting Hope / Allumer la flamme de l'espérance**

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.

May 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:**Each day of Catholic Education Week, we will also be reflecting on the subthemes:**

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ / Notre espérance, c'est le Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us / L'espérance en nous**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us / L'espérance au milieu de nous**

Thursday: **Hope for the World / L'espérance pour le monde**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope / Un avenir rempli d'espérance**

Catholic Education Week Prayer:

Loving God,

You sent your Son, Jesus, to be our hope. We feel his promised Spirit at work within us; We recognize his risen presence among us as we gather in his name in prayer, and celebrate the Eucharist. He is the hope which inspires us to share as members of the Catholic educational community, in your church's mission to announce the Good News to the whole world. We thank you for the gift of Catholic education. May it continue to be a place where Christ ignites within us, an abiding confidence, in a future filled with hope.

We make this prayer through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

Dieu d'amour et de bonté,

Tu as envoyé ton Fils Jésus pour qu'il soit notre espérance. Nous sentons l'Esprit qu'il nous a promis à l'œuvre en nous. Nous reconnaissons sa présence vivante parmi nous lorsque nous prions en son nom et célébrons l'eucharistie. Il est l'espérance qui nous rassemble en tant que communauté scolaire catholique pour prendre part à la mission de l'Église d'annoncer la Bonne Nouvelle au monde. Nous te remercions pour ce cadeau qu'est l'éducation catholique. Qu'à travers elle, le Christ allume en nous l'espérance en l'avenir dont il est le maître.

Lui qui vit et règne pour les siècles des siècles.
Amen.

We look forward to welcoming our families throughout the week. There are many activities taking place during this week at St. Therese of the Child Jesus to which you are all invited. A pamphlet of our activities will be sent home in April.

**For more information on Catholic Education Week, please check out the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association (OCSTA) website:*

<http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>

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.

Ongoing and effective communication between home and school is essential for supporting our students' faith formation and creating successful learning experiences. We celebrate communal prayer as a school community that reflects the Liturgical calendar including: our Feast Day Mass, Advent Family Mass, Reconciliation, Catholic Education Week Mass and End of Year Mass. Parents are welcome to attend our school liturgies, sacramental preparations, and to support our efforts in creating a strong sense of stewardship among our students by supporting school outreach projects and community charities.

Some of the activities at school include:

Adult Faith Formation:

- Staff prayer services during Advent and Lent
- Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Liturgies at the beginning of staff meetings
- When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference

Student Faith Formation:

- Daily prayers over the announcements that focus on one prayer per month in order to solidify the Catholic foundations of our faith
- Daily classroom prayers and reflections
- Religious Education and Family Life Education Programs are taught as required
- Liturgical celebrations

- Community Advent Mass
- Rosary Apostolate
- Classroom visits by our pastor
- Sacramental preparation for our Grade 2 and 7 Students

Youth Faith Ambassadors provide leadership in our Virtue Assemblies, social outreach initiatives and community projects

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	Nov. 11, 2019-Nov. 15, 2019	
First Communion	April 25, 26 & May 2, & 3 2020	
Confirmation Retreat		March 28, 2020
Confirmation		April 21, 23, & 28, 2020

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
St. Therese Feast Day Mass	October 1, 2019 10:00am
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2019
Advent/Family Mass	December 12, 2019 7:00pm
Ash Wednesday	February 26, 2020 (Time: TBD)
Reconciliation	March 26, 2020 10:00am

Catholic Education Week Mass	May 5, 2020 1:30pm
Marian Celebration with Rosary Apostolates	TBD
End of the Year Mass	June 5, 2020 10:00am
Graduation	June 16, 2020 (Time: 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.

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, Dr. Simone’s Candy Drive and Eden Food For Change. We will also be organizing food drives for Thanksgiving for Eden Food for Change, Easter Drive for Mississauga Food Bank and Christmas Baskets for St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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.

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. Along with highlighting a virtue each month, we also highlight a Catholic Graduate Expectation each month. Our Ontario Graduate Expectations are displayed in each classroom. To facilitate the integration of the Graduate Expectations, we have shared the Catholic Curriculum units, “Engaging the Soul Through the Arts and the OCGE” and “Robust Thinking Tasks and the OCGE” with teachers.

September: I Am a Believer!

March: I Care!

October: I Have a Voice!

April: I Care!

November: I Have Ideas!

May: I Am a Team Player!

December: I Care!

June: I Have Responsibilities!

January: I am a Learner for Life!

February: 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.

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. Therese of the Child Jesus 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.

Faith Assembly/I Am a Believer! Liturgy- September 2019 (Grade 8s)
 Empathy Assembly/I Have a Voice! Liturgy- October 2019 (Grade 3s)
 Conscience Assembly/I Have Ideas! Liturgy- November 2019 (Grade 5s)
 Hope Assembly/I Care! Liturgy – December 2019 (Grade 6s)
 Respect Assembly/I Have Responsibilities! Liturgy – February 2020 (FDKs)
 Kindness Assembly/I Care! Liturgy – March 2020 (Grade 1s and 2s)
 Acceptance Assembly/I Am a Team Player! Liturgy – May 2020 (Grade 4s)
 May Celebration of Mary – Grade 7s
 Fairness Assembly/I Have Responsibilities! Liturgy –June 2020 (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.

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. We have a permanent hallway display of the Stations of the Cross. Our front foyer displays the visible signs of our faith upon entering our Catholic School Community: our cross, altar with the colours of the reflecting the liturgical calendar; and our display cabinet which highlight the Monthly Virtues and St. Therese of the Child Jesus, our Patron Saint.

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](#)

Board

- **Vocations Units**

We have Vocations units as part of the Grades 2, 5, and 8 curriculum. The goal of these supplementary units is to deepen one's understanding of God's call – the “*vocare*” – to various forms of life within the Church.

- **History of the Parish**

Through the resource book *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*, grade 7 students have the opportunity to learn about the history of our parish.

- [Enduring Gift Video](#)

School-Based

- **Auditing Our Catholic Schools** by John Bradley Kostoff
- **Brother Francis Series Resources**- The combination of sound Catholic teaching and high quality animation makes Brother Francis an excellent resource for developing faith in our school
- **Living with Christ**- monthly subscription
- **Children's Daily Prayer**- yearly subscription
- **Words for the Journey**- Ten minute Prayer services for teachers and administrators by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller