

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Valentine Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

St. Valentine Catholic School is committed to honouring the diversity of individuals in a safe, nurturing environment where one can learn with dignity, live with self-respect, and grow in love and faith.

We are the unique creation of God in which members of this school community exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are centered on Christ and focused on students.

We believe in a shared responsibility of education that exists between the school, the family, the parish and the community.

We believe we are a school community anchored in the Catholic Faith where Christian values apply to life's opportunities, challenges and choices.

We believe in the provision of a variety of enriching and integrated opportunities for spiritual and social growth and providing a curriculum and learning environment that is dynamic, practical and relevant to enable our students to have the power and responsibility to create a future just society.

We respect the diversity of individuals, value self-esteem and place importance in creating a welcoming atmosphere of mutual respect that is safe, secure, co-operative and equal.

We believe we must actively fulfill the mission statement of St. Valentine School throughout our daily interactions.

We believe in the wholeness of a person and that we need to live, learn, love and pray to our best potential with mind, heart and soul.

School Motto: Learning , Loving, Praying

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier

Pastor: **Rev. James Cherickal**

Parish website: <https://stfrancisxavierchurch.blogspot.com/>

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from St. Francis Xavier Parish pastoral team, especially my associate Fr. Ed Lopez, Office Staff: Joanita Miranda and Katherine Gomez.

In the previous years we have been blessed with two associate pastors and the school visits and Masses were quite frequent. Even during the pandemic times Fr. Jim, Mauricio and Stephano were available to go to the schools in person or online based on the health guidelines. I thank them for their dedication and commitment. This year, as we are short in human resources, will try our best to make our presence more effective.

Albert Einstein stated: "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious". Catholic education has taken the responsibility of developing curiosity about spiritual and intellectual matters.

As the parents of the sacramental classes (Grade 2 & Grade 7) are already informed, we will do our sacramental preparation classes online. A team of teachers are getting trained under the leadership of Mrs. Caroline Athaide, who is the principal of St. Thomas Moore Catholic Elementary school in Mississauga. We look forward to the strong support of parents/guardians in this online sacramental preparation.

Please be aware that our Church is open for prayer from 7am to 8 pm. We have two Masses daily at 8am and 7pm. All details about our Sunday schedule, other faith formation programs, activities, please visit: www.stfrancisxaviermi@archtoronto.org

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Cherickal, Pastor.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

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

Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2023

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One
L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un

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.

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

*«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.»
(Romains 12, 5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

- Monday: **When we see / En voyant**
 Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**
 Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**
 Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**
 Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

- **Crowning of Mary (Rosary Apostolate)**
- **Prayers/ Liturgies over PA System**
- **Virtue Assembly**
- **Welcome To Kindergarten**
- **Volunteer Appreciation**
- **Classroom Visits**
- **French Café**

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.

- **Daily School wide prayers/ bible readings and reflections**
- **Student Youth Ambassadors (leaders in school events and social justice initiatives)**
- **Monthly staff liturgies**
- **Parish priest visits**
- **Virtue Assemblies**
- **Virtue recognitions**
- **Monthly acknowledgement and highlighting of the OCSGE**
- **Intermediate Film Festival event highlighting the OCSGE**
- **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation Medal program**
- **Grade 7 Confirmation retreat**
- **1st Communion Retreat**
- **Masses/ liturgies and religious celebrations throughout the school year**
- **Sacramental preparation**

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
Parent Information Meetings for 1st Communion	Oct. 11, 12 and 13, 2022	
Parent Information Meetings for Confirmation		Oct. 24, 25 and 27, 2022
Confirmation enrolment Ceremony		Oct. 29 and 30, 2022
Parish Confirmation retreat		March 25, 2022
1st reconciliation	March 22 and 23, 2022 @ 4pm	
Confirmation Confessions		March 30
1st Holy Communion	April 15; April 17; April 20, April 22 - 2023	
Confirmation		April 24; April 27; April 29; May 6 - 2023

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Advent Mass	Dec. 12, 2022
St. Valentine Feast Day Mass	Feb. 14, 2023
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 22, 2023
End of Year/ Graduation Mass	June 27, 2023

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 actively participates in a variety of Social Justice projects and Outreach Activities:

- **Share Life**
- **Terry Fox**
- **Food Drives**
- **Daffodils for Cancer**
- **Hat and Mitt Collections**
- **Donation Collections for Christmas (gift cards for St. Vincent De Paul)**
- **Sleeping Children**

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...

- **Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place**
- **Have visible signs/ posters of the OCSGE posted around the school and classrooms**
- **Celebrate masses/virtues as a school community**
- **Promote forgiveness, caring and respect when conflicts arise (use of WITS/ 4 step apology)**
- **Promote self-reflection in both staff and students**
- **Focus on Respecting the thoughts and opinion of others**
- **Celebrate our gifts given to us by God**
- **Promote a sense of authentic stewardship (caring of our school, parish, community, and the world around us)**
- **Film Festival – focusing on “shorts” on OCSGE**

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 monthly assemblies...

- **Student lead monthly assemblies**
- **Teachers use the virtues as the foundation of their teaching and learning experiences**
- **Daily prayers based on Virtues**
- **Monthly student virtue recognition**
- **Virtue wall with names of students**

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 ...

- Display case in front foyer (Virtue focus)
- Alcoves displaying Saints and Bible
- All classes have crosses and Bibles
- Prayer tables in all classrooms
- Visual displays of many Saints
- Stain Glass windows portraying scripture
- Hangings with spiritual sayings
- Wall display of OCSGE and the Virtues
- OCSGE medal program

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 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

Resource List for Schools:**Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)

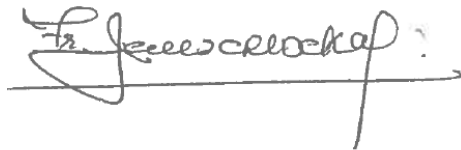
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

School-Based

- Growing in Faith
Growing in Christ
- Fully Alive Program

Signature Page

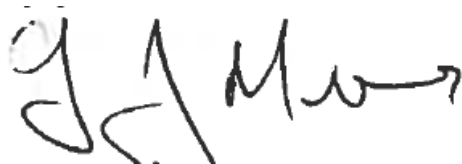
Pastor – Rev. James Cherickal

Handwritten signature of Rev. James Cherickal in cursive script.

Chair of Catholic School Council – Shawn MacFarlane

Handwritten signature of Shawn MacFarlane in cursive script.

Vice Principal(s) – Gerard Masse

Handwritten signature of Gerard Masse in cursive script.

Principal – Gina Pedroso

Handwritten signature of Gina Pedroso in cursive script.

Superintendent – Silvana Gos

Handwritten signature of Silvana Gos in cursive script.