

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Veronica Elementary School**



School Mission Statement:

## St. Veronica School Pledge

*At St. Veronica, we will seek, honour and follow the path Jesus laid out for us in our thoughts and in our actions. We will see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet. We will Take a Stand and Be the Change. We will think, What Would Jesus Do?*

*The mission of the St. Veronica Catholic School Community is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic Education which develops the various capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching our community. We are dedicated and committed to the building of a strong partnership between the home, school and parish to help our children grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, morally, socially in the image of Christ.*

School Motto: Enter to Learn, Prepare to Serve

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier

Pastor: **Rev. James Cherickal**

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

**Message from the Pastor:**

Catholic Education aims at forming students into faithful disciples of Jesus. Its three-fold objectives are: a) to provide an environment in which students are enabled to build and deepen their relationship with God; b) to foster an academic culture aimed at the pursuit of truth; c) to actively promote growth in virtue.

Parents are the primary educators of their children through words and exemplary actions, and the school is but an active, yet essential, extension of parental education. I am very happy with the relationship and cooperation among the parish, the school and the parents. However, we should not be contented with what we are all doing now. Let's do more to realize the three-fold objectives of the Catholic Education.

Fr. James Cherickal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. James Cherickal", written over a horizontal line.

Pastor.

**Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The St. Veronica Catholic School Council strives to fulfill its obligation to "promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the school and Board". The Council provides advice to the school principal on a number of items including goals and procedures for supporting the best interest of the Catholic school community. A Parish Representative is appointed to the Council annually to serve as a communication link between the parish and Council with respect to parish information and to provide guidance and support on initiatives and faith formation in the school community.

**Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope**

*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:**

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us**

Thursday: **Hope for the World**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope**

St. Veronica highlights Catholic Education week through school wide prayers that reflect the five sub themes: **Our Hope in Christ, The Hope Within Us, The Hope Among Us, Hope for the World and A Future Full of Hope.**

Teachers will address each of the sub themes in their classrooms through a variety of lessons/activities, class liturgies and prayer. We will celebrate a school wide retreat day and each division will be involved in events that highlight the week's themes. Parents are always welcome to join us for all the school wide presentation/events that will take place during Catholic Education Week.

**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.*

Dufferin-Peel has had a long supported Adult Faith Formation. Teachers are encouraged to develop their faith through a number of Board-Wide initiatives and professional development opportunities such as When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference. At the MBC Family level, teachers are gather for Advent and Lenten Celebrations. In our school, the Adult Faith Team invites colleagues to prayer services held on the First Friday of every month.

Our morning announcements will include scripture that students can discuss in class and reflect upon that is relevant to the day/event/season.

The Youth Faith Ambassadors is a program that invites students from grades 7-8 to become faith leaders in our school. From social justice initiatives such as planning food drives and our Angels on the Tree hat-mitten-scarf and gift drive to faith formation of the school by leading retreats, the YFAs play a vital role in the faith development of our school. Together teachers and students will break bread and discuss current issues facing our youth, our country and our world through the eyes of our faith. The MBC Family of Schools also organizes a Youth Faith Ambassador Retreat Day to celebrate the contributions these young adults have made in our schools.

**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>PARENT INFORMATION EVENING</i>	<i>September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm</i>	<i>September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm</i>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	February 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	
<b>First Communion</b>	April 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am	
<b>Confirmation</b>		April 28 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

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

Celebration	Date
<b>Opening Mass</b>	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00 am (School Gym)
<b>Advent Mass</b>	December 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am (School Gym)
<b>Lenten Mass</b>	March 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am (School Gym)
<b>End of Year Mass</b>	June 17 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am (School Gym)
<b>School Wide Reconciliation</b>	March 31 <sup>st</sup> @ 9:00 am (School Gym)

### **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.*

In support of our Catholic Social Teachings, we are involved in a number of charities and organizations. As the need arises, we are quick to lend our financial support. Here are a list of events that are annual events in our school: Food Drives, Annual Terry Fox Walk, Candy Drive for Dr. Simone, other collections for CFFC, Angel Tree and various school wide events such as Spirit Days, a Charity Volleyball Game with our NPU officers and other fundraising initiatives to support ShareLife, Bullying Awareness Initiatives.

### **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 St. Veronica community uses the OCSGE as a framework to ensure that we are providing our students with the knowledge, skills and values they need to respond to God's call to go out into the world and live the Gospel values.

The OCSGE are an integral part of daily programming, the work we do around creating successful pathways through our All About Me Portfolios/My Blueprint, and various leadership experiences we provide through our Youth Faith Ambassadors Program, and Eco Team.

### **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.*

Students are involved in Classroom liturgies and activities that highlight each month's virtue. We recognize 2-3 students in each class who have demonstrated the virtue of the month. Announcements highlight the Virtues and remind students of what they look like, feel like and sound like in the classroom and in the schoolyard.

**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.*

St. Veronica staff and students respond to the call to service, through active participation in a variety of outreach and social justice activities. St. Veronica strives to be a welcoming and inclusive environment and all are welcomed and greeted with kindness. We ensure that our foyer and classrooms reflect the liturgical year with liturgical colours and symbols of our faith. Hallways have posters and pictures of faith, virtues and student created paintings that represent the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Each school day, and all meetings begin with a prayer or liturgy of the word. All students play an active role in the faith life of the school.

**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](#)

**Resource List for Schools:****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](#)