

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Father Daniel Zanon**

School Mission Statement:

The mission of Father Daniel Zanon Catholic Elementary School is to ensure our children receive a Catholic Education that is rich in both academic excellence and Christian values. As educators, we must seek and create a secure, warm, welcoming and safe environment, which is conducive to developing the maximum potential of each child. Father Daniel Zanon Catholic School has established itself in this community as a center of learning, where our faith is practiced daily, and students are challenged to grow in the image of Christ. This is possible due to the collaborative effort of our staff, our students, our parents, our trustee, our parish community, and our board. It continues to be our goal to encourage our children to acquire the values, beliefs and knowledge that will allow them to grow in Christ as they journey from the early years to vocation.

School Motto: Let His Light Shine

Our Parish: St. Catherine of Siena

Pastor: Father Gabriel Forero

Parish website: www.stcatherine.ca

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents,

Please accept my greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of our parish community.

I would like to welcome you to this new Academic Year at Fr. Daniel Zanon Catholic School. As the pastor of St Catherine of Siena Church, I am very happy to say that we at the parish are eager to walk together with the school on "our journey of Faith". We are confident that the school staff are committed to educating your children in all areas of life: academic, spiritual, social, and physical. We want your children to grow as Jesus did "*increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour*" (cf. Luke 2.52).

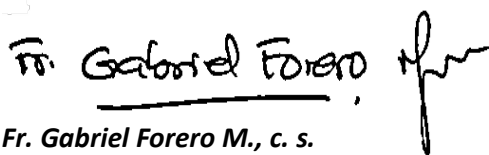
We trust and believe that the school, as a Catholic school, has and continues to strive to live out the commitment to instill in all students the lessons that will prepare them not only for academic and professional success, but also, and especially, for success in life.

I take this opportunity to remind you that our Catholic faith requires a personal relationship with Jesus whom we must know how to recognize in all those around us. The challenge is for us to work together for the good of "the least of these", as family, school, and parish so that with our witness they may grow in all areas cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus and a community sense of responsibility.

Thank you for considering Catholic formation for your children. I trust that all of you will discover and experience God's blessings by faithfully practicing your faith.

I take this opportunity to assure you of my prayers for you, and a warm welcome at St. Catherine of Siena Church, where we also offer opportunities as well as formation groups where we can grow and deepen our faith.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Gabriel Forero" followed by a stylized flourish.

Fr. Gabriel Forero M., c. s.
St. Catherine of Siena Church
Pastor

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Catholic School Councils are a gift to the Catholic school community. Our Catholic School Council has the opportunity to influence educational and faith formation experiences as children journey towards realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and ultimately, a vocation of Christ-like service in the world beyond school. The purpose of our Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of the parents, to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. Our meetings always begin with a prayer or reflection. The decisions we make are rooted in our faith to do what is best for the children and the families of Father Daniel Zanon. We try to live our faith through our actions and words as a Catholic School Council.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 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**

During Catholic Education Week, all Catholic School Boards in Ontario will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Our Catholic School Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education. *The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is 'We are Called to Love.'* During Catholic Education Week the students participate in special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities. 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 invite all members of our community, especially our parents/guardians, to participate in the celebrations and activities planned during this important 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.

Some of the activities that support both adult and student faith formation at Father Daniel Zanon Catholic Elementary School include:

- Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Eco Student Club
- Mental Health Champions
- Recognizing students for the demonstrating the Virtue of the Month
- Uplifting the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Morning Prayers, scripture readings, reflections, and announcements
- School masses and liturgical celebrations
- Liturgical calendar celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Adult Faith Ambassadors – liturgies for staff
- Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Connecting with our pastoral team at St. Catherine of Siena Parish
- Highlighting the Rosary
- Food/Clothing/Gift Card Drives
- Sharelife fundraising activities for staff and students
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life instruction
- Promoting Inclusivity, Social Justice Initiatives

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
Registration Deadline	October 15, 2023	
Retreat/Orientation	October 21, 2023	
First Reconciliation	April 30, 2024	
First Communion	May 11, 2024	
Registration Deadline		October 15, 2023
Confirmation		May 29, 2024

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening/Thanksgiving Mass	Thursday October 12, 2023
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Friday November 10, 2023
Advent Mass	Tuesday December 5, 2023
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday February 14, 2024
Lenten Confessions	Thursday February 29, 2024
Stations of the Cross	Thursday March 28, 2024
Easter Mass	Wednesday April 10, 2024
Catholic Education Week Mass	TBD
Crowning of Mary	TBD
End of Year/Graduation Mass	Thursday June 6, 2024

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.

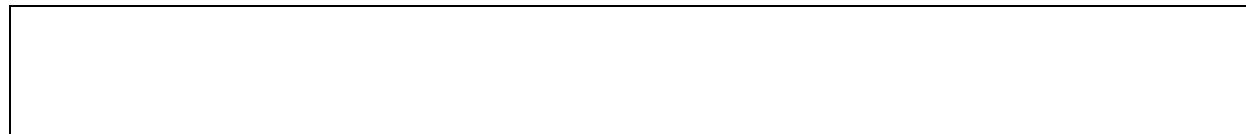
As a school community, we are committed to supporting those among us who are in greater need. Through our Youth and Adult Faith Ambassadors, Mental Health Champions, and our Eco Team we ensure community participation in social justice activities and programs, and a focus on the sustainability of our environment. Examples include participation in:

- Ongoing work of our Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Ongoing and continued support of ShareLife
- Support for Canadian Food for Children (Dr. Simone Warehouse), Terry Fox Foundation, St Vincent de Paul, etc.
- Autism Awareness
- Efforts to support Catholic digital citizenship
- Continued Diversity and Equity Lead Initiatives
- Support of Mental Health Champions
- Eco-School activities that support stewardship of our sacred environment

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.

At Father Daniel Zanon, The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are infused in all our actions as a school community. We strive to nurture an environment where students not only learn the curriculum but also how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life-Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. A continued goal is to ensure that the OCSGE are visible throughout the school and infused throughout our daily practices. Students engage in many leadership opportunities and live out our Catholic values through our Youth Faith Ambassador program, Eco Team, Mental Health Champions team and Tech team to name a few.



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 is 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. We will continue to 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: Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-Control, Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance and Fairness. Classroom activities, school-wide activities, and assemblies will all focus on the nurturing of a specific virtue. The entire school community works together to develop a safe and caring school environment that emphasizes student well-being, and strong physical, emotional, and intellectual growth throughout their school year.

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.

As you enter Father Daniel Zanon, the cross, the altar and the Holy Bible adorn the sacred space for all visitors and members of the community. A picture of Father Daniel Zanon and a plaque with the history of Father Daniel Zanon also greets visitors. We join together as a community of faith each and every day in prayer. Prayer is experienced daily as a school community, in the classroom and individually. The Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and the monthly Virtue are clearly evident as well. Within every classroom, the living sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day.

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

Signature Page

Pastor: Fr. Gabriel Forero

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council: Patricia Magnone and Patricia Checchia

Vice Principal(s)

Principal: Nancy Podobnik

Superintendent: Dulcie Belchior