

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

*"Whatever we do for your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for God.
All we do, our prayers, our work, our suffering, we do for Jesus."*

School Mission Statement:

Teaching for The Father, Inspired by The Son, Guided by The Holy Spirit. We, the Community of Holy Spirit Catholic School, in partnership with the students, parents, and the Catholic Church, are dedicated to fostering the development of each child in the fullness and likeness of God. We offer each student the opportunity to develop individual talents in a welcoming and safe environment. We will prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future and empower them to help others.

School Motto: Teaching for The Father, Inspired by The Son, Guided by The Holy Spirit.

Our Parish: St. Patrick (Brampton)

Pastor: Monsignor Owen Keenan

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

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Holy Spirit Catholic School Community,

I pray all finds you well and enjoying the very best of the beautiful autumn and the new school year. On behalf of Fr Abraham, who regularly visits the schools, and our entire parish community, we look forward to seeing you both here at St Patrick's each weekend, and throughout the year at Holy Spirit. The best efforts of our fine teachers and our parish are meant to support you - the primary educators of your children in the Faith - but we cannot replace you. Each of us must do our part: we must "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all the rest will be given you as well!" (Mt 6:33). If we begin each week with some time together with God, asking for His blessing and guidance, we will reap an unexpectedly blessed and abundant reward. St Patrick's is here for you: come and be here with us. With the assurance of my prayers and with every good wish,

*Msgr Owen
Pastor*

St Patrick's Parish.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity. But a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline.” St. Timothy

The Catholic School Council at Holy Spirit Elementary School is made up of parents who firmly believe in leading by example, driven by our faith in the teachings of Christ and inspired by our School Motto, *Teaching for the Father, Inspired by the Son, Guided by the Holy Spirit*. Gospel values are infused in the day-to-day learning, reinforcing the importance of the Parish-School-Home partnership in all that we do for our community.

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)

Recognition of Catholic Education Week begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes. We invite all members of our community, to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2024 in our school. The theme chosen for the upcoming 2024 Catholic Education Week is “We are Called to Love”. The scriptural passage that guides our theme is: *“If we love one another, God lives in us.” (1 John 4:12)*. Throughout the year, it is a goal to provide more faith opportunities and opportunities for self-reflection for staff and students under the guiding themes of Catholic Education week. This is directly aligned to our school learning goal of integrating and modelling Jesus' values through daily prayer and ongoing curriculum connections to scripture.

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**

Catholic Education Week themes will be launched monthly, commencing in December. During Catholic Education Week, and in addition to our daily activities, we will celebrate with a *“We are Called to Love Arts Evening”* and welcome the newest members of our school community with our *“Journey into Learning Evening”*.

- ✚ Virtue assembly of “Acceptance”
- ✚ “We are Called to Love” Art Exhibition
- ✚ Journey Into Learning Parent/Student Evening

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.

Faith formation is a process of journeying into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Its primary points of reference are our own lives and the Bible. Through them we come to know Jesus most profoundly and we are shaped as a Biblical people. Within the community of Holy Spirit Catholic School, the mission of staff, students and parents is to respect and accept the uniqueness of each individual as a follower of Jesus. All members are encouraged to realize their full potential spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. The School Improvement Learning Cycle for Holy Spirit School focuses on faith formation through the lens of providing “connections to Scripture” for the sanctification and mental health of all community members. In addition, we strive to achieve a positive climate that is tempered by an “awareness of practices that support and honour the many cultures, needs and voices of our diverse groups”. Through this focus on faith formation, we aim to create a healthy social space that includes student voice, staff voice and community representation, a place where all learners feel safe, involved and supported. Students, staff and families are included in:

- ✚ Daily prayer at the beginning, at lunch and at the end of the day
- ✚ Organization of monthly liturgies and virtue assemblies for all students
- ✚ Students at Holy Spirit give witness to Catholic Social Teaching by promoting peace and justice whilst reaching out to others less fortunate through food drives and family sponsorship
- ✚ The cornerstone of our expectations here at Holy Spirit is Respect: respect of God, others and ourselves
- ✚ Sacramental life is honoured, taught, and practiced regularly in our Masses and preparations for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist
- ✚ Adult Faith Ambassadors organize liturgies for staff
- ✚ A peace garden outdoor prayer space graces the side of our school
- ✚ Journey Into Learning Parent/Student Evening

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	Date	Date
First Reconciliation	Week of April 22-26 (tentative)	
First Communion	Thursday, May 2, 2024	
Confessions for Confirmation Candidates		Week of May 6-10, 2024 (tentative)
Confirmation	Tuesday, May 7, 2024	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Monthly Virtues Assemblies	September through June
Staff Liturgical celebrations via Adult Faith Ambassadors	Monthly
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10, 2023
Advent Mass	December 8, 2023
Grade 3's to St. Patrick's Church for Mass	January 17, 2024
Ash Wednesday Service	February 14, 2024
Lenten Mass	February 27, 2024
Lenten Virtual Liturgies (for staff & students)	Weekly during Lent
End of Year Mass	June 17, 2024
Passing of the Faith Celebration	June 24, 2024

Social Justice / Outreach Activities / Charities:

“To live charitably means not looking out for our own interests, but carrying out the burdens of the weakest and the poorest among us.” Pope Francis

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 demonstrates compassion and generosity in giving to others in need. As a community of faith, we demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and to renewing our promise to serve by giving to those who need us most in this moment of their life and the lives of their family members. We do this with compassion and respect for the dignity of all those involved. Holy Spirit School will continue to demonstrate this level of care through the following initiatives:

1. Terry Fox
2. Sharelife
3. Food Drives throughout the year, to support Knight’s Table, or in partnership with St. Patrick’s Church
4. “Helping Hands” – supporting families in need in our community
5. Equity education initiatives – professional staff development, consideration for materials used to ensure all people are represented in a respectful manner

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 celebrate the Virtues in a prayer service each month, lead by students, that highlight the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations during these prayer services. In addition, our grade 8 Graduate awards are being aligned with the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

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.

Aligned with our Virtues Program, once a month, one grade level will coordinate a celebration of the virtue of the month. These monthly presentations highlight how students can positively interact with each other in the classroom, hallways and outside at recess. Morning announcements and visual displays of artwork representing the virtues serve as reminders of the need to look for the actions we are practicing.

- ✚ Newsletter Submissions
- ✚ Monthly assemblies are celebrated in order to highlight the virtues.
- ✚ Daily prayers over announcements carried out by students
- ✚ Respect is highlighted throughout our daily expectations, classroom activities, schoolyard, office
- ✚ Concentration throughout all activities on respect for God, others and self
- ✚ Visible signs such as posters and student work displayed throughout our school
- ✚ Progressive Discipline based on developing strategies to support growth as a virtuous person.

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.

- ✚ Altar: dressed in liturgical seasonal colours and themes
- ✚ Bible, Pascal Candle, and Crucifix are front and centre of Altar
- ✚ Religious Banner is displayed
- ✚ A Sacred Space in each room, including all offices and classrooms
- ✚ Crucifix in each classroom
- ✚ Scripture associations/quotations wherever student work is displayed, particularly in the hallways
- ✚ Daily announcements include Gospel and Scripture readings
- ✚ Catholic School Code of Conduct embedded in Progressive Discipline and rehabilitation
- ✚ Faith events highlighted in newsletters and website to keep community aware of our faith based activities
- ✚ Scripture quotations and Catholic inspirational devotions embedded within the newsletters
- ✚ TERT (Tragic Events Response Team) program and pastoral support for administration and staff to community
- ✚ Library displays based on liturgical season and representative of our diverse community

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

- Growing in Faith Growing in Christ Resource Material
- Many Gifts Social Studies Program
- Fully alive Family Life Program Resources
- Adaptive Kits for Sacraments of Reconciliation; First Communion & Confirmation

Signature Page