

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Raymond Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

As a Catholic community of St. Raymond, we are called to foster a safe, caring, and inclusive Catholic learning environment. Our faith is embedded in all we do. In collaboration with the home, school, and parish, we model the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, allowing our students to live the gospel values. Our goal is to meet the diverse needs of our students through effective instruction while promoting inclusion, equity, student achievement and well-being.

School Motto: *Be Kind to One Another.*

Our Parish: St. Joseph

Pastor: Rev. Paul Dobson

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

Message from the Pastor:

St. Joseph Parish's involvement in the faith formation of our schools and its children has four key dimensions: sacramental preparation, school Masses, classroom visits and offering the sacraments.

We offer sacramental preparation for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion (Grade 2 students) and share the work with the schools in preparing the Grade 7 students to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our primary role is to help foster an encounter with the Lord, and to teach the children the importance of recognizing God in their lives. School Masses are a great opportunity to do this, both through the beauty of the Liturgy and the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. By doing this, we introduce the children to communal prayer and lay the groundwork for them so that they can build their own strong relationship with God through personal prayer. We also want to have the young people experience the

Mass in their parish Church, and for this reason, we have requested that at least one of the four yearly school Masses take place at St. Joseph's parish.

The Parish's final and perhaps most important role is to make the sacraments readily available to the children. We do this by pointing out to them the days and times of our sacramental celebrations (Masses, Reconciliation, etc.). Hopefully, this will prepare them to take ownership of their spiritual lives and to live a sacramental life where they may truly grow and flourish. We look forward to collaborating with our schools in this endeavour throughout the year.

Father Paul Dobson

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Raymond 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 – 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**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

- School-wide liturgical celebration based on the Catholic Education Week Theme
- Class/Grade level liturgies in the school chapel devoted to the theme of Monthly Virtues
- Crowning of Mary Celebration in May
- Classroom activities will be designed in all classrooms to highlight the unique role our Faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum.

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.

School activities that support both the adult and student faith formation include:

- School wide Opening Teaching mass, Advent Mass, Lenten Mass and End-of-Year Mass
- Virtue Assemblies
- Virtue Awards and Wall of Celebration
- OSCGE Announcements, Medallion Program, Wall of Celebration
- Student directed prayers on daily announcements.
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations.
- Social Justice Initiatives (Food drives/Christmas Baskets) organized by Student Council
- Student-led class liturgies in the St. Raymond School Chapel
- Grade 7/8 Liturgy & Banquet Celebrations (Thanksgiving)
- Breakfast Program (Tuesdays & Thursday)
- Staff focus on Faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings.
- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2 & 7 in collaboration with St. Joseph Parish pastoral team
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Christmas Baskets
- Stations of the Cross
- Crowning of May Celebration in May
- Invitations to the Parent Community to join in school liturgical celebrations with the Parish.
- Consistent modeling of Gospel Values and Faith practice.

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	Thursday April 11 th @ 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	
First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Thursday April 18 th @ 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
First Holy Communion	Saturday May 11 th @ 10:00 a.m.	
Confirmation Retreat		Wednesday March 27 th @ 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation Rehearsal		Thursday April 18 th @ 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Confirmation Date		Thursday April 16 th @ 6:00 p.m.

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	Monday October 2 nd 2023
Advent Mass	Tuesday December 5 th 2023
Easter Season Mass	Wednesday April 10 th , 2024
Closing School Mass	Tuesday June 18 th 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.

Our school participates in...

- ShareLife Activities and fundraising
- Terry Fox Marathon of Hope for cancer research
- Truth and Reconciliation: Orange Shirt Day
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Breakfast Club Program for students
- Christmas Basket Collection for gifts/gift cards for families in need (Angel Tree)
- Eco Club activities to promote responsible stewardship of God's creation

- Bullying Awareness initiative (bullying awareness week: Day of Pink, in-school presentations, virtue assembly)

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....

- OCSGE Medallion Program – to create a better understanding amongst staff and students of the distinctive expectations for Catholic School Graduates, every month we will focus on a specific OCSGE. At the end of the month one child from each class will receive an OCSGE Medal. The program will be part of daily announcements, infused into virtue assemblies, included in the weekly Staff memo, posted in every classroom and pictures are put on OCSGE Wall.
- Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place.
- Post visible signs of the OCSGE around the school and classrooms.
- Engage in school wide activities to further understand the OCSGE (morning announcements/medallion program/recognition wall)
- Celebrate mass/liturgy of the word and virtues as a school community
- Promote forgiveness, empathy, compassion, caring, and respect when conflicts arise
- Listen to the Word of God (Mass/Liturgies)
- Promote self-reflection in both students and staff
- Focus on respecting the thoughts and opinions 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).

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.

The virtues of faith, respect, empathy, kindness, conscience, love, hope, acceptance, self-control and fairness are always visible within our school. We draw upon the virtues to celebrate successes and as a tool during progressive discipline.

At St. Raymond, the virtues are present in all our actions as a school community. They are referenced daily, whether it is through prayer or a curriculum connection.

St. Raymond school masses and liturgies are two areas where our virtues come to life within our school community. We also provide opportunities for each class to prepare a virtue presentation on the onset of each month to set the tone of the virtue of the month.

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.

At St. Raymond we have many visible signs of our faith in our classrooms, hallways and common areas.

These visible signs include:

- Display in front foyer (virtue focus)
- "Talk About It Sign" – we change the sign out front with a new scripture reading every month.
- Alcoves displaying Saints and Bible
- All classes have Crosses and Bibles
- Prayer tables in all classrooms
- Visual displays around the school/Front Foyer wall painted with Virtues & Scripture
- Wooden altar and cross in the front foyer, which is clearly visible and reflects the Liturgical Seasons of the Year.
- Inspirational Signage in Stairwells

Our call to discipleship and service are evident throughout St. Raymond School. Each classroom has a clearly identifiable Sacred Space in a prominent place which can serve as a focus for classroom prayer and reflection. The season of the liturgical year are represented in these sacred spaces.

As visitors are welcomed to St. Raymond School, the Catholic identity of our community is evident upon entry through the altar and sacred space present in the foyer of the building.

As well, St. Raymond School Chapel is a sacred space where students and staff can regularly gather for the purposes of liturgies, reflections, restorative mediations, and prayer.

Staff and students answer the call to service in many ways as well, including the collection of donations of food, money, clothing, and personal needs items, for various campaigns throughout the year. These include the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drive, Dr. Simone Food and Materials Collections, Angel Tree, ShareLife initiatives.

These visible reminders and opportunities to serve help us focus our learning and interactions on the key tenets of our shared faith, and to ensure that our Catholic Faith is lived out daily at St. Raymond School.

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

- *Many Gifts Resources*
- *Fully Alive Program*
- *Class Visits & Youth Outreach Program from St. Joseph Parish*

Signature Page

Pastor



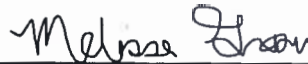
Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)



Teacher(s)



Chair of Catholic School Council



Vice Principal(s) N/A

Principal



Superintendent

