

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **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 that 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 student achievement and well-being.

## School Motto:

COMPASSION•FAITH•LOVE•HOPE•JUSTICE•EQUITY•DIGNITY•PEACE

Our Parish: St. Joseph

Pastor: **Rev. Marc-Andre Campbell**

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 4 key dimensions: sacramental preparation, school Masses, classroom visits and offering ongoing access to 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 program of choice is Ascension Press' "Chosen"). Our team has been organizing and preparing over the summer to be able to deliver an excellent and informative faith experience. In addition to these encounters with select classes, we look forward to seeing all of the kids

in their classroom environments to help strengthen the link between the school and the Church. Throughout the year, we will be visiting each classroom multiple times and teaching small lessons to the children (importance of the Mass, how to pray, etc.). Additionally, we will be leaving time during our visits to answer any questions that they may have in regards to the faith, the Church, vocations, etc. These class visits are mutually beneficial and prove to be a great way to get to know the kids on a more personal level.

Our primary role is to help foster an encounter with the Lord and to teach the children the importance of having God be a part of 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. For some, these may be their only experiences of Mass and we are there to make it as positive an experience as possible while celebrating the liturgy with fidelity and obedience to the teachings of the Church. By doing this, we introduce the kids 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 help acclimate students with the Mass as it happens in the Church, for this reason we have requested that at least two of the four yearly school Masses take place at St. Joseph's parish.

Our 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 (Mass, Reconciliation, etc.). Hopefully, this will prepare them to take ownership of their spiritual lives and to live a sacramental life so that they may truly grow and flourish. We look forward to collaborating with our schools in this endeavor throughout the year.

### **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 Theme: Renewing the Promise**

*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 6 – May 12 is Catholic Education Week.

This year, during Catholic Education Week, St. Raymond Catholic School will showcase the precious gift of Catholic Education through a number of activities which will include:

- School-wide liturgical celebration based on the theme “Renewing the Promise”
- Class/grade level liturgies in the school chapel devoted to the theme of Renewing the Promise.
- Career Day
- Junior/Intermediate Spring Showcase
- Grandparents’ Day
- Joe Sax Activity Day (Mississauga South Family of Schools)
- Additional activities will be communicated with the community as they are confirmed

### **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.*

Adult Faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Adult faith ambassadors gather with the Mississauga South Family of Schools
- Staff gather every Monday morning for staff liturgy with special intentions
- Weekly staff liturgies in the school chapel during the seasons of Advent and Lent
- Invitations to the parent community to join in school liturgical celebrations

Student faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Provide faith opportunities and resources to develop student understanding of scripture and its connection to sacrament, Catholic social teaching, and daily life.
- Daily, student-led, school-wide prayer
- Celebration of the monthly virtues through student-led liturgies
- Student-led liturgies to celebrate relevant feast days and seasons of the liturgical calendar (i.e. Advent, Lent)
- Monthly Rosary Apostolate volunteer visits to pray the rosary with all students (October 21, November 25, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21, Crowning of Mary in May)

- Student-led presentations and school-wide announcements, teaching students of all ages about important aspects of our Faith (i.e. the liturgical calendar, virtues, saints, tenets of our faith, Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, stewardship)
- Student-led class liturgies in the school Chapel
- School staff work in collaboration with the St. Joseph Parish pastoral team in faith formation and preparation for sacraments
- Consistent modelling of Gospel-values and faith practice
- Intentional and explicit inclusion of a distinctive Catholic world-view across all subject areas

### 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
Confirmation Registration Dates		Saturday September 16, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Tuesday September 26, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Mandatory Date		Thursday February 1, 2018, 7:00 p.m. OR Saturday February 3, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Mandatory Sponsor Meeting		Thursday February 1, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Saturday February 3, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Program Sessions		<b>Option 1</b> 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. St. Joseph Parish Hall Thursday October 12, Thursday October 26, Thursday November 23, Thursday November 30, Thursday December 7, Thursday January 11, Thursday January 25, Thursday February 15, Thursday March 22, Thursday April 5

		<b><u>Option 2</u></b> 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. St. Joseph Parish Hall Saturday October 21, Saturday October 28, Saturday November 25, Saturday December 2, Saturday December 9, Saturday January 13, Saturday January 27, Saturday February 17, Saturday March 24, Saturday April 7
Confirmation Retreat		Monday March 19, 2018
Confirmation Rehearsal and Confession		Monday April 30, 2018, 10 a.m.
Confirmation Ceremony		Tuesday May 1, 2018, 7 p.m.
First Reconciliation	<b><u>Option 1</u></b> Monday November 20, 2017, 7 p.m. (Session 1) Monday January 22, 2018, 7 p.m. Monday (First Reconciliation) Monday February 5, 2018, 7 p.m. (Session 2) <b><u>Option 2</u></b> Tuesday November 28, 2017, 7 p.m. (Session 1) Tuesday January 30, 2018, 7 p.m. (First Reconciliation) Tuesday February 20, 2018, 7 p.m. (Session 2) <b><u>Option 3</u></b> Saturday November 18, 2017, 10 a.m. (Session 1) Saturday January 20, 2018, 10 a.m. (First Reconciliation) Saturday February 10, 2018, 10 a.m. (Session 2)	
First Holy Communion Registration Dates	Saturday September 30, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Tuesday October 10, 2017, 7:00 p.m.	

First Communion Classes Registration Deadline:	Friday October 13, 2017	
First Communion Classes	<u><b>Option 1</b></u> Monday November 20, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Monday January 22, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Monday February 5, 2018, 7:00 p.m. <u><b>Option 2</b></u> Tuesday November 28, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday January 30, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday February 20, 2018, 7:00 p.m. <u><b>Option 3</b></u> Saturday November 18, 7:00 p.m. Saturday January 20, 2018, 10 a.m. Saturday February 10, 2018, 10 a.m.	
First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Friday May 11, 2018, 1 p.m.	
First Holy Communion Ceremony	Sunday May 13, 2018, 3 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 Mass	Wednesday October 25, 2017, 10 a.m. (at school)
Advent Mass	Wednesday December 6, 2017, 10 a.m. (at church)
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday February 14, 2018, 8:45 a.m.
Lenten Mass	Tuesday February 20, 2018, 10 a.m. (at church)
Stations of the Cross	Thursday March 29, 2018
End of Year Mass	Wednesday June 6, 2018, 10 am (at church)
Grade 8 Graduation Mass	Tuesday June 19, 2018, 10 a.m. (at church)

### 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.*

St. Raymond students and staff engage in the following outreach activities:

- Share Life and United Way Activities and Fundraising
- Terry Fox Walk for Cancer Research
- Freedom Day (FSWC)
- Christmas Food Drive
- St. Raymond Breakfast for Kids (Breakfast Club)
- Dr. Simone Food for Children (visits, collections, etc.)
- Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)
- Christmas hampers for St. Joseph Parish families in need
- Angel Tree Christmas outreach project to support Parish and School Families
- Eco Club activities promote responsible stewardship of God's creation
- Daffodil Collection for Cancer Research
- Bullying Awareness Initiatives (Bullying Awareness Week, Day of Pink, Peel Police Youth Education Officer presentations)
- "Hats off 2 Kidz" Walk for Leukemia

### **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.*

St. Raymond staff use the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations as a framework to support the intentional and explicit inclusion of a distinctive Catholic world-view across all subject areas. Teachers use the OCSGE in their curriculum planning and to post the OCSGE along with their Learning Goals and Success Criteria. Our students integrate the OCSGE into student-led liturgies. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations ensure that St. Raymond graduates gain more than just knowledge and skills; they gain values and attitudes that help them respond to God's call to help make the world a better place

### **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.*

At St. Raymond School, the Catholic Virtues shape our approach to the world and are integrated into the learning students do in the various subject disciplines. In addition, the Virtues are celebrated through school-wide, student-led Virtues assemblies at which students are publicly recognized for their demonstration of the virtue of the month. The Virtues celebrated each month are:

- September – **Faith**
- October – **Empathy**
- November – **Conscience**
- December – **Hope**
- January – **Self-Control**
- February – **Respect**
- March – **Kindness**
- April – **Love**
- May – **Acceptance**
- June – **Fairness**

### **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.*

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 seasons 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 immediately upon entry through the altar and sacred space present in the foyer of the building. As well, St. Raymond School has a sacred space where students and staff regularly gather for the purposes of liturgies, reflections, 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. (i.e., Christmas Food Drive, Dr. Simone Candy Collection, Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree, ShareLife/United Way).

These visible reminders and opportunities to serve help us to 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:**

- **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](#)

#### **School-Based**

#### **Many Gifts Resources**

### **Fully Alive Program**

#### **Class Visits**

The Parish team from St. Joseph regularly visits classes to discuss the virtues and gospel values.

#### **Rosary Apostolate**

Classes are visited monthly by volunteers from the Church who pray the rosary with the students.