

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

We are a community of Catholic educators devoted to the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social development of each child in the image of Christ. We inspire, serve, and guide our children to become confident, capable, lifelong learners and productive citizens, who bear witness to Christ's teachings.

School Motto:

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

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 endeavor throughout the year.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. Gregory Catholic School Council is striving towards ensuring that each and every student's happiness and welfare is of the up most importance. Ongoing and effective communication between home, parish and school is essential in supporting our student's faith formation and creating a successful learning experience. As a Catholic School Council, we sponsor, support and host many events, such as coffee hour at St. Joseph Church, and graduation that help to engage parents in both our school and St. Joseph Parish. Parents and guardians are always welcome and encouraged to attend school liturgies and events showing their support of the students and community. St. Gregory also has many community outreach projects and charities that support stewardship in our faith. St. Gregory Catholic School Council wishes to welcome you to the 2023 – 2024 school year. It is our hope that you and your children have a wonderful and blessed school year. We look forward to working with and supporting the school community.

Catholic Education Week – May 4th – May 9th, 2025

Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance

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.

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

“Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l’espérance qui nous a été donnée.”

(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l’espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**

Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**

Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**

Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**

Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:

- French café
- Faith Based Retreat – School Wide
- Literacy Lessons/Assemblies per division
- YFA initiatives
- Liturgies
- Prayer Service Daily on Themes
- Parent engagement by division throughout the 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.

- *Monthly visits from the Rosary Apostolates*
- *School Masses (Opening, Lenten, Easter, Year End/Graduation)*
- *Advent/Lent Liturgies for Staff*
- *Stations of the Cross*
- *Visits from priests to school events*
- *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation (with St. Joseph’s)*
- *Sacramental Retreats*
- *Staff Liturgies*
- *Advent and Lenten retreats through MW Family of Schools*
- *Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors for students*

- ShareLife activities
- Various Outreach Projects (Food Drives and St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Campaign)
- Prayers to begin each day.
- Sacred spaces in all classrooms and throughout the school (ie. Chapel and front foyer)
- Values of our faith are infused throughout the curriculum.
- Students lead daily prayer, including scripture and reflection to develop their understanding of scripture and its connection to their daily life.

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
First Communion Rehearsal	April 15 th , 2025, at 6:30 pm	
Sacrament of Eucharist	May 25 th , 2025, at 2:00 pm	
Confirmation Retreat		April 10 th , 2025, at 9:00 am
Confirmation Rehearsal		April 24 th , 2025, at 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Confirmation		May 27 th , 2025, at 7:30 pm

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass Teachings	September 26 th , 2024
Truth and Reconciliation Liturgy	September 30 th , 2024
Thanksgiving Liturgy	October 9 th , 2024
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11 th , 2024
Advent Liturgy Week #1	December 2 nd , 2024
Advent Mass	December 12 th , 2024
Advent Liturgy Week #3	December 16 th , 2024
Ash Wednesday	March 5 th , 2025
Easter/Lenten Mass	April 15 th , 2025
Stations of the Cross	April 17 th , 2025
Crowning of Mary Liturgy	May 13 th , 2025
Year End Mass/Grad Blessing	June 4 th , 2025

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.

- Thanksgiving Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Halloween Candy Drive for Dr. Simone
- Christmas Hampers for St. Vincent de Paul
- Soap Drive
- Easter Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul
- ShareLife Spirit Days (\$2 donations)
- Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day

- Anti-bullying Week/Pink Shirt Day
- Mental Health and Well Being Committee
- PALS
- YFA
- Book donations

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.

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. To celebrate, we as a community recognize each child as an individual with strengths and unique abilities. The OCSGE are infused in daily programming such as: Clubs, Athletics, My Blue Print, Catholic Youth Faith Ambassadors, ECO Team, and preparation for sacramental life.

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.

We recognize our Catholic Virtues during our morning prayers and post reflections on our school TV located in the foyer. Classroom teachers teach the virtues as part of the FL and Religion program. Classes will organize assemblies every 2 months and recognize the two virtues and Catholic Graduate Expectations. The assemblies are a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together every two months to better understand the virtues and how we can live them every day. Additionally, the virtues are highlighted in the St. Gregory Grizzly newsletter at the beginning of each

month. By sharing the virtue in our newsletter, we are not only promoting the virtues to our students but to the greater community as well.

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.

We have ...Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables, community service

Visual signs of our faith serve to remind us of God's love for us and that Jesus is the primary focus of our school. We have:

- An altar and cross that are located in our foyer
- A sacred space that is located in our foyer
- Each classroom has a sacred space
- Symbols and colours of the liturgical year are displayed
- Our chapel is used on a continual basis for class liturgies
- Tablecloth and the symbols on the table changing to align with the liturgical colours, seasons and virtues.
- A portrait of our Holy Father, Pope Francis in the office

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- New Family Life Curriculum 2023 - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- [Encyclical Letters](#) : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)
- Jubilee Year 2025 – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- Renewing the Promise – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- **Encyclical Letters** : [‘Laudato Si’](#), [‘Laudato Deum’](#) and [‘Christus vivit’](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

Signature Page

Pastor

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

Principal

Superintendent