

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Sacred Heart Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Sacred Heart Catholic School Mission Statement

We, the Community of Sacred Heart School, aspire to nurture and develop a faith-filled, co-operative learning environment that embraces the many cultures of our community that will empower each child on their life-long journey towards knowledge, self-esteem, and fulfillment of their Christian values.

School Motto: The School With Heart

Our Parish: St. Leonard

Pastor: **Rev. Paul John Nosan**

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

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of *St. Leonard Parish*. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for Sunday masses on Saturday at 5:00 PM or Sunday at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM or 12:00 noon.

Jesus told His disciples, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3-4).

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us how we need to be like children. On October 15, 2023, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation in which he puts before us her example. He begins the letter with her words: "C'est la confiance et rien que la confiance qui doit nous conduire à l'Amour". "It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love".

In points 14-16, He wrote: "One of the most important insights of Therese for the benefit of the entire People of God is her "little way", the path of trust and love, also known as the way of spiritual childhood. Everyone can follow this way, whatever their age or state of life.

It is the way that the heavenly Father reveals to the little ones (cf. Mt 11:25). In the Story of a Soul, Therese tells how she discovered the little way: “I can, then, in spite of my littleness, aspire to holiness. It is impossible for me to grow up, and so I must bear with myself such as I am, with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new”. To describe that way, she uses the image of an elevator: “the elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, O Jesus! And for this, I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more”. Little, incapable of being confident in herself, and yet firmly secure in the loving power of the Lord’s arms.”

He finishes the Exhortation with a prayer, we can make our own:
 “Dear Saint Therese, the Church needs to radiate the brightness, the fragrance and the joy of the Gospel. Send us your roses! Help us to be, like yourself, ever confident in God’s immense love for us, so that we may imitate each day your “little way” of holiness. Amen.”

May Our Lady help us in walking along the path of spiritual childhood as we follow her Son, led by the Spirit, full of confidence and trust in our heavenly Father.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The Sacred Heart Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of our parents and guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential (academically and spiritually) in a faith-centered environment.

Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 2024

Catholic Education: We Are Called to Love

“If we love one another, God lives in us.”

(1 John 4:12)

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 sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are:

Monday: As people of hope

Tuesday: As people of faith

Wednesday:	As people of mercy
Thursday:	As people of justice
Friday:	As people of joy / Dans la joie

- PA Liturgies, Class/Division Liturgies and/or Pre-Recorded PPT liturgies for use in classes
- In class, students will participate in a variety of Catholic Education Week activity. Each of these activities will connect to the five subthemes of Catholic Education Week. These activities will offer opportunities to develop the whole child within community, i.e., spiritually, artistically, and kinesthetically.

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.

Students: Increase, among all learner groups, student application of scripture, sacramental life, and Catholic social teachings to daily life, by increasing opportunities for student spiritual engagement in their faith formation.

STAFF: Enhance positive staff perceptions regarding DPCDSB Catholic Community, Culture and Caring.

School activities that support both adult and student faith formation and that provide faith opportunities and resources:

- Celebrate liturgical events
- Linking monthly virtues to our Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Morning prayer reflections and liturgies throughout the year
- Students participate in classroom prayer at many times throughout the day
- Classrooms have a sacred space for individual prayer opportunities, focus for class celebrations
- Sacred Space in each classroom and throughout the school in common areas
- Daily Religion and Family Life instruction in each classroom
- Relationships, conflict resolution and discipline all occur within the context of Gospel values
- Eco initiatives to teach and practice good stewardship

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 First Reconciliation	February 21, 2024	N/A
Confirmation Rehearsal	N/A	TBA
Sacrament of Confirmation	N/A	May 16, 2024
Sacrament of First Communion	May 25, 2023	N/A

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date	
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Friday, November 11 @ 10:45 am	Sacred Heart C.E.S.
Advent Mass	Tuesday, December 5 @ 10:45 am	Sacred Heart C.E.S.
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday, February 14 @ 2:00 pm	Sacred Heart C.E.S.
Stations of the Cross	Thursday, March 28 @ 2:00 pm	Sacred Heart C.E.S.
Lenten Mass	Monday, March 26 @ 10:45 am	Sacred Heart C.E.S.
Year End Mass	Wednesday, June 19 @ 1:00 pm	Sacred Heart C.E.S.

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:

- Terry Fox Cancer Research Walk & Run
- ShareLife Fundraising Spirit Days for Students
- ShareLife Staff Dress Down Friday
- Winter Clothing Drive
- Knights' Table Food Drives

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....

- We as a school community explicitly teach the meaning of the OCSGE.
- We celebrate our learning in our monthly student-led “Villages Retreat Days”
- WITS Program (Walk Away, Ignore, talk it out and Seek Help) for conflict resolution
- Active encouragement of student voice and leadership to actualize OCSGE

Discerning Believers:

- Place our faith at the center of all learning
- Implementation of Safe Schools Policies, Bullying Prevention and Character Building & Leadership Programs: Student CCCC group to support Anti-bullying, self-regulation and conflict resolution
- Implementation of Youth Faith Ambassadors for student-led faith activities

Lifelong Learners and Reflective Thinkers:

- Shared activities to know our learners through academic growth, well-being and faith formation
- Engage in staff professional development and planning to integrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in the teaching of curriculum, knowing the learner, faith formation and student well-being
- Establish safe, faith-filled, and equitable classrooms that support student learning and well-being
- Support transitions among students based on individual needs, particularly attending to students with exceptional learning needs

Responsible Citizens and Caring Family Members:

- Work to increase DPCDSB’s goal to increase student engagement (i.e., academic, social, and intellectual) and reduce bullying and aggressive behaviours, among all students.
- Eco-Team supports student understanding of the sacredness of life and the environment
- Education with students to promote student awareness and development of Catholic digital citizenship

- Work with Peel Police Student Resource officers to promote healthy decision making through various programs, e.g., Digital Citizenship, Healthy Relationships, Youth & Law.

Collaborative Contributors and Effective Communicators:

- Participate in a variety of co-curricular activities that support student participation, leadership, service and well-being

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.

- Daily prayers and Newsletters
- Virtue posters in the hallway
- Display case showcasing the Virtues

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 many visible signs and symbols of our faith displayed throughout the school as reminders of our Catholic beliefs and traditions. Throughout the school, there are crosses, Bibles, and a dedicated sacred prayer space in each classroom. We have signs and symbols of our faith in the front foyer and hallways of the school, such as crosses and scripture passages. With great intention, we ensure that the liturgical season of the church is recognized through signs and symbols, e.g., advent wreath, nativity scene, crown of thorns, etc. As well as a classroom crucifix and a prayer space in each classroom, displays of student work often serve as visible signs of our faith embedded throughout the curriculum. Common areas also reflect our faith commitment including our altar space in our foyer, our Faces of Christ display at our entry and various artifacts in meeting places, including our staffroom. Our virtues bulletin board, in our main hallway, displays our lived experience of the Gospel. Additionally, they are "road signs" (e.g., "Empathy Drive") in our hallways as visual reminders of virtuous behaviour.

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](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing the Promise](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

School-Based

- Family Life Program
- Religious Education Program
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- OCSTA Catholic Education Week materials
- Many Gifts
- Resources in school library promoting Virtues and Faith Formation

Signature Page

Melissa Peroff - signed November 1, 2023

Chair of Catholic School Council

Principal

Michael Araman - signed November 3, 2022

Superintendent