

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Good Shepherd Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

At Good Shepherd Catholic School, we believe:

That our school must provide a nurturing environment where every child may grow closer to Jesus and live the Gospel values:

- That our school exists as a learning institution based upon Gospel principles as handed down by our Catholic tradition;
- That the staff must be dedicated to Catholic ideals, and each member must be given the opportunity to fulfill these ideals;
- That student success can only be realized through a cooperative relationship between school and home;
- That we must provide opportunities for parental involvement in the religious and academic education of their children;
- That all students can learn and achieve to their highest potential;
- That children must be given the opportunity to be responsible and that this behavior must be modelled by the adults in their lives;
- That we provide each student with a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning.

School Motto: Growing together in faith and knowledge to serve one another.

Our Parish: St. Marguerite D'Youville

Pastor: *Rev. Robert Mignella*

Parish website: <http://stmargueritedyouville.archtoronto.org>

Message from the Pastor:

Having grown up in the TDCSB system, I can reflect back on the numerous collaborative efforts made between parish, school, and family home to provide as authentic a Christian faith experience as possible during my upbringing. Accordingly then, my pastoral plan is to continue to offer Jesus...through the preaching of His Word, the Sacraments where he is encountered, and the invitation to share in the mission of his Church of with which he entrusts us. Only Jesus keeps Catholic education vital and essential rather than redundant and irrelevant.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Good Shepherd School councils plays an important role in student success. We encourage a strong partnership between the school and the family and help parents become actively involved in the education of their children. We believe that School Councils are important partners in improving student achievement, enhancing communication between church, school and home. We aim to solve problems making the school a happy place where we can learn, play and pray. We like to lead by example showing respect to the whole school community and follow the steps of our faith in our everyday life.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope

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 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us**

Thursday: **Hope for the World**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope**

Good Shepherd will kick off Catholic Education Week on Sunday May 3rd at St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish as we celebrate the First Holy Communion of our grade 2 students. On May 6, we will hold our May Celebration of Mary planned in conjunction with the Rosary Apostolate. May 6 will also include a mini confirmation retreat in the morning. Our Catholic School Council will recognize this important week at our evening meeting on May 6 as well. At Good Shepherd School, we share daily reflections from the Gospel and explicitly teach the messages through class and school-wide activities. During Catholic Education Week, individual classroom/ grade level events will reflect on the theme for the day through daily activities. In addition, our Youth Faith Ambassadors will create daily announcements/prayers to be read over the P.A.

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. At Good Shepherd, staff members work collaboratively to create various opportunities for spiritual reflection for our students in their classrooms, through liturgies, shared stories, as well as during Religion and Family Life curriculum. Faith formation is ongoing in all we do. Collectively, we pray in the morning, before lunch, at school liturgies and school masses. Clubs such as Youth Faith Ambassadors, PALS, Eco Schools and our Mats for Haiti Club also give our students the opportunity to build on their faith in a variety of ways. We include other social justice campaigns such as collecting Halloween Candy for Dr. Simone's work with poor children, collecting hats, mittens and socks and Christmas time and our Helping Hands Campaign that supports families in our local community that are in need. Fundraising for Share Life, Autism Speaks and Terry Fox Cancer research are priority areas that teach our students the importance of supporting one another as a Catholic Community.

This year we are paying particular attention to developing our student's experience of the Eucharist through school masses by providing time in class to practice responses, understand the symbolism of mass and come together as a school for 'rehearsal' time where we can pause and reflect on our actions and words as teachable moments. Learning around scripture will be elevated through Student Council this year, where students will grow and develop as models to further support scripture with our student body.

Staff deepen their faith formation with the support of Adult Faith Ambassadors. They provide both staff and the school community support for spiritual development and Gospel Action. They are part of the larger Dufferin-Peel community of Adult Faith Ambassadors who gather

throughout the year in reflective retreats, Seder meals and liturgies to celebrate and promote our Catholic virtues and gospel teachings.

These leaders continue to encourage each other and support others in order to prepare celebrations, plan masses, provide opportunities for student and staff prayer and to organize community outreach activities.

Good Shepherd creates faith formation connections for well-being, learning and leading in a positive climate as demonstrated in our various virtue initiatives, as well as positive spirit and mindset building through school wide events and well-being activities in the classroom supported by the school CCCC team. In addition, creating a healthy school space that includes student voice where all learners feel safe, involved and supported is an area of focus.

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
<i>Retreat</i>	<i>January 10 (9:30am)</i>	<i>November 13 (9:30am)</i>
<i>Rite of Enrollment Ceremony</i>		<i>November 23 or 24 (any mass)</i>
<i>Confirmation Sponsor Weekend</i>		<i>March 7 or 8 (any mass)</i>
<i>Confessions</i>	<i>February 8 (10:30am)</i>	<i>March 25 (1:00pm)</i>
<i>Retreat/Rehearsal</i>	<i>April 30 (9:30am)</i>	<i>May 6 (9:30am)</i>
<i>Confirmation</i>		<i>May 13 (7:00pm)</i>
<i>Advent Promise Weekend</i>	<i>November 30 or Dec 1 (any mass)</i>	
<i>Lenten Promise Weekend</i>	<i>February 29 or March 1 (any mass)</i>	
<i>First Communion</i>	<i>May 3 (12:30pm)</i>	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	September 12 (10:00am)
Advent Mass	December 11 (1:00pm)
Lenten Mass	March 3 (1:00pm)
Year End Mass	June 23 (10:00am)
Graduation Mass	June 25 (7:00pm)

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.

Throughout the year, students, staff and parents support Catholic charities and needy families in our community and/or in our global community. Our focus for school-wide improvement in our Catholic Teachings of the Church root our actions in supporting each other and those less fortunate than us. Staff and students are given the opportunity to learn and support the human dignity of each person, and serve the most vulnerable in our society. Below are some examples of the activities that promote our vision of a caring and compassionate Catholic community:

- Youth Faith Ambassadors Program
- Adult Faith Ambassadors Program
- Milk Bag Mats for Haiti
- Grade 8 Confirmation Service Projects
- Student Council Outreach Projects to support local and global needs
- Virtue Assemblies, Anti-Bullying & Diversity Presentations
- Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Food drives (e.g. Helping Hands Project, Dr. Simone)

- Stewardship through recycling programs & Green Eco Projects
- Share Life, Autism Speaks and Terry Fox Campaign

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.

At Good Shepherd, we are working towards effective instruction that respectfully challenges all learners, within a caring Catholic community, to take risks, to experience success and to achieve the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Furthermore, with a focus on creating Catholic Conditions for well-being and a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic Schools Graduate Expectations we are able to support our students as they become effective, reflective, self-directed collaborative caring and responsible individuals. These qualities are modeled, taught and embedded in all we do at the school. The Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations are listed in student's agendas, on display in the front foyer and on the Board website for parents and student reference. In addition, staff were provided with the Adapted Version of the Ontario Catholic Schools Graduate Expectations for Elementary Students to support student development in the classroom. Our school goals in Catholicity are anchored in the OCSGE framework.

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 month-at-a-time format of our Virtues program provides vocabulary and milestones for a continuous school-wide conversation about how we can creatively maintain and strengthen a safe school community that reflects the values and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Virtues are shared with our parent community via email, school twitter feed, daily announcements, in our student agendas and posted on our website. In addition, students share the Virtues with their Virtue Buddies on a monthly basis and staff promote virtues through our front foyer monthly bulletin board displays.

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.

The front foyer, main office and each classroom at Good Shepherd School are inviting foci for our beliefs. The crucifix, open bible, prayer tables, bulletin boards and School Banners are displayed for students, visitors and staff as visual reminders of our Catholic beliefs, faith and traditions about how we can become closer to God through our words and actions. Students' artistic endeavors are reflective of the Liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc. and are highlighted in the classrooms and throughout the 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](#)