

PASTORAL PLAN

School: Queen of Heaven Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

We believe in developing and modeling respect for self and others, and living the gospel values taught to us by Jesus Christ. We believe in providing students with the opportunity to develop academic, personal and social skills necessary to work in a co-operative environment that transcends the boundaries of age, culture and social differences. We believe in fostering an environment that instills a co-operative spirit within the family, the church, the school, and the broader community. We believe in communicating, supporting, sharing, interacting, caring and working in harmony so that goals of excellence can be pursued with vigor and confidence.

School Motto: Together in Faith and Learning

Our Parish: St. Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Philip D. Jones

Parish website: www.stdominicschurch.ca

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of St. Dominic's Parish. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for mass. Weekend masses – Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Weekday masses - Monday and Friday 8 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday 9:15 a.m.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Queen of Heaven 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. We would like to welcome all parents/guardians to the council. It is through active participation that our students' lives will be enriched.

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.

St. Dominic and Queen of Heaven School Mass at St. Dominic Church May 9

May 7 theme: Remembering the Promise

May 8 theme: The Promise is Within You

May 9 theme: Praying the Promise

May 10 theme: Living the Promise

May 11 theme: Proclaiming the Promise

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.

Improve student application of scripture, sacramental life and Catholic social teachings by:

- *ensuring that Sacred Spaces and visual signs of our faith are evident throughout the school*
- *providing students with leadership opportunities to led morning prayers, gospel reading, reflections from Children's Daily Prayer resource*
- *attendance at monthly school masses celebrated at St. Dominic Church*
- *attendance at weekly masses – classes rotate and celebrate with grade level partners from St. Dominic School*
- *attendance at St. Paul School Masses (February & May) for our grade 8 students*
- *providing Adult Faith liturgies*
- *facilitating Family Advent Mass at St. Dominic Church on December 14th*
- *supporting sacramental preparation of grade 2 and 7 students*
- *highlighting Virtue Program through monthly school assemblies*
- *encouraging Youth Faith Ambassador outreach activities*

Develop students' understanding of the scriptures by promoting Father Phil's homily messages from our school masses through:

- *morning announcement reminders*
- *bulletin boards*
- *class discussions*

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- parent meeting	October 1 or 3	
Sacrament of Reconciliation – preparation session 1	Oct 22 or 24	
Sacrament of Reconciliation – preparation session 2	November 12 or 14	
Sacrament of Reconciliation – preparation session 3	November 26 or 28	
Enrolment & Presentation of Crosses	All masses December 2 & 3	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	December 5 or 9	
Sacrament of First Communion – preparation session 1	February 4 or 6	
Sacrament of First Communion – preparation session 2	February 2 or 20	
Sacrament of First Communion – preparation session 3	March 18 or 20	
Sacrament of First Communion – preparation session 4	April 15 or 17	
Sacrament of First Communion	April 21 or 22	
First Communion Party	April 24	
Confirmation preparation sessions and celebration of sacrament		To Be Announced

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
School Opening Mass	October 18, 2017
School Mass	November 15, 2017

School Advent Mass	December 6, 2017
Family Advent Mass	December 14, 2017
School Christmas Mass	January 17, 2018
School Ash Wednesday Mass	February 14, 2018
School Lenten Mass	March 21, 2018
School Easter Mass	April 11, 2018
School Mass – Catholic Education Week	May 9, 2018
Closing/Graduation Mass	June 27, 2018
Wednesday weekly masses at St. Dominic Church attended by grade level partners from Queen of Heaven and St. Dominic Churches	

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 a variety of activities that support members of our school, community and the world:

- *ShareLife*
- *Autism Awareness*
- *Terry Fox*
- *Christmas Hampers*
- *Food Drives*
- *Dr. Simone – Canadian Feed the Children*
- *Special Olympics*

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 challenge our students to be active members by joining various clubs and sport teams. Each month students from different classes lead a virtue assembly. We encourage our intermediate students to minister to the family, school, parish and wider community through service as part of their preparation and support of the sacrament of confirmation.

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 notion of virtue is deeply rooted in Catholic Christian tradition. It is in a community of caring, committed partners that we find the space and time to become our best selves.

By practicing the virtues, we develop habits of goodness that help us to resist the temptation of vice. Practicing virtue also gets us ready to contribute to the good of all people. In our school community, virtue formation contributes to a healthy positive learning environment by fostering a climate in which all members feel safe, confident and hope-filled about themselves, their relationships and their futures.

By praying, we receive the grace of God to continue to concentrate on finding ways to follow Jesus' example in all that we say and do.

Each month we focus and celebrate on a particular virtue:

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

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.

Visible signs of our Faith include: Crosses, bibles, advent wreaths, prayer tables.

Prayer is experienced daily as a whole school community, as a class and as an individual. Gospel Readings are shared with the whole school during morning announcements and lead by our student leaders. Classroom prayer is also an integral part of the dismissal and lunch procedures.

Song The school choir includes students from Grades 3 -8. The choir gather together to practice and sing at every mass and liturgy. The choir also contributes to monthly virtue assemblies.

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](#)