

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:

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: Living as Joyful Disciples

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 5 – May 11 is Catholic Education Week.

September school focus on gospel stories of discipleship with culminating activity - creation of bulletin board in front foyer

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2019 are as follows:

Monday: **Rooted in Prayer / Enracinés dans la prière**

Tuesday: **Living in Community / Vivre au coeur de la communauté**

Wednesday: **Doing Justice and Creating Hope / Semer la justice et inspirer l'espérance**

School Mass at St. Dominic Church

Thursday: **Journeying Together in Faith / Cheminer ensemble dans la foi**

Friday: **Sharing the Good News / Partager la bonne nouvelle**

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 10th*
- *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*

Promote Social Teachings through action:

- *food drive*
- *clothing drive*
- *parish activities*

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 | October 28 or 30 | |
| Parent meeting | | |
| Preparation session 2 | November 11 or 13 | |
| Preparation session 3 | November 25 or 27 | |
| Enrolment & Presentation of Crosses | November 24 & 25 – Families choose a Mass to attend | |
| Reconciliation Celebration Masses | December 1 or 4 | |
| Sacrament of First Communion | February 24 or 26 | |
| Parent meeting | | |
| Preparation session 2 | March 24 or 26 | |
| Preparation session 3 | April 14 or 16 | |
| Preparation session 4 | April 28 or 30 | |
| First Communion Celebration Masses | May 11 or 12 – Families choose a Mass to attend | |
| Parish First Communion Party | May 14 | |
| Confirmation | | March 25 |
| Registration | | |
| Enrolment weekend | | April 6 / 7 – Families choose a Mass to attend |
| Preparation session 1 | | April 22 |
| Preparation session 2 | | April 29 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Preparation session 3 | | May 6 |
| Preparation session 4 | | May 13 |
| Letter of Intent Presentation | | May 25/26 – Families choose a Mass |
| Preparation session 5 | | May 27 |
| Retreat | | June 1 |
| Rehearsal | | June 6 |
| Confirmation Celebration Masses | | June 8 / 9 – Families choose a Mass to attend |

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 10, 2018 |
| School Mass | November 14, 2018 |
| Family Advent Mass | December 10, 2018 |
| School Advent Mass | December 12, 2018 |
| School Christmas Mass | January 16, 2019 |
| School Mass | February 13, 2019 |
| School Ash Wednesday Mass | March 6, 2019 |
| School Lenten Mass | April 3, 2019 |
| School Mass – Catholic Education Week | May 8, 2019 |
| Closing/Graduation Mass | June 25, 2019 |
| Wednesday weekly masses at St. Dominic Church attended by grade level partners from Queen of Heaven and St. Dominic Churches | Every Wednesday |

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 will focus on the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching as we support a variety of outreach activities:

- *ShareLife*
- *Autism Awareness*
- *Terry Fox*
- *Christmas Gift Cards*
- *Food Drives*
- *Clothing Drives*
- *Mitten, Hat & Sock Drive*
- *Dr. Simone – Canadian Feed the Children*

Students are encouraged to demonstrate a committed call to service that aligns with the Catholic social teaching recognizing the human dignity of all members of our school community and the world.

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. Intermediate students are encouraged to participate in the St Dominic Church Youth Group.

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:

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

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 and Gospel messages.

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](#)