

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. Terence Dias

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 - Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday & Saturdays 9:15 a.m. Friday 8 a.m.; First Friday of the month 6:15 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 7:15pm-Mass. Saturday 8:45 a.m. Rosary. Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:30 -4:00 p.m. This is your Spiritual Home. All are Welcome.

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: 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**

- Morning announcements
- School liturgy
- Classroom activities
- Journey Into Learning Evening

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 by our grade 8 students
- providing Adult Faith liturgies
- facilitating Family Advent Mass at St. Dominic Church on December 12th
- 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 Terry's homily messages from our school masses through:

- morning announcement reminders
- bulletin boards

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 Preparation Session 1	Parents only October 27 or 29	
Sacrament of Reconciliation Preparation Session 2	Parents and children November 10 or 12	
Sacrament of Reconciliation Preparation Session 3	Parents and children November 24 or 26	
Celebration of Reconciliation	November 30 or December 4	
Sacrament of First Communion Preparation Session 1	Parents only February 1 or 4	
Sacrament of First Communion Preparation Session 2	Parents and children March 1 or 3	
Sacrament of First Communion Preparation Session 3	Parents and children March 29 or 31	
Sacrament of First Communion Preparation Session 4	Parents and children April 26 or 28	
Celebration of First Eucharist	May 9 or 10 - Families choose a Mass to attend	
Sacrament of Confirmation Registration		March 23, 2020
Sacrament of Confirmation Session 1		April 13

Sacrament of Confirmation Session 2		April 20
Sacrament of Confirmation Session 3		April 22
Sacrament of Confirmation Session 4		May 11
Celebration of Confirmation		May 30 & 31 - 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
Opening Mass	September 25, 2019
Thanksgiving School Mass	October 16, 2019
School Mass	November 13, 2019
Family Advent Mass 7pm	December 12, 2019
Advent School Mass	December 18, 2019
School Mass	January 22, 2020
Ash Wednesday School Mass	February 26, 2020
Lenten School Mass	March 25, 2020
Easter School Mass	April 22, 2020
School Mass	May 13, 2020
Closing & Graduation Mass	June 23, 2020

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.

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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 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 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 gathers 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](#)