

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 boarder 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 through our virtual YouTube school masses. 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 & Saturday 9:15 a.m. Friday 8 a.m. This is your Spiritual Home. All are Welcome.

St. Dominic’s Parish YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtkGt3YPoGIYEWwAS0SCZQ>

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Queen of Heaven Catholic School 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: Nurturing Hope / Cultiver l'espérance

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 2 – May 7, 2021 is Catholic Education Week.

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)
«Ceux qui mettent leur espérance dans le Seigneur trouvent des forces nouvelles.» (Isaïe 40,31)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:

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| Monday: | Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre |
| Tuesday: | Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude |
| Wednesday: | Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations |
| Thursday: | Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits |
| Friday: | Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller |

Throughout the week Queen of Heaven will be participating in a variety of activities that will continue to focus on the theme of Nurturing Hope. The school and community will be invited to participate in scheduled virtual activities that allow students to be leaders and share their talents and skills with the Queen of Heaven community.

- Morning Announcements
- School Liturgy
- Classroom activities
- Virtual 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.

Adult and Youth Faith Ambassadors (YFAs)

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 share morning prayers, gospel readings virtually and reflections
- Enhanced relationship with God and promote faith and inclusivity for all
- Regular virtual meetings to develop and implement an ongoing plan to build a strong faith community and promote global citizenship, through social justice outreach initiatives and environmental stewardship
- Opportunities to student and staff participation in faith development, through daily prayers, liturgies, virtues assemblies, school masses, ambassador gatherings and student/staff retreats at the School, Family and Board level. Currently all events will be held virtually through Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Prayer and Scripture

- Prayer is an essential component in experiencing God's presence and in developing a relationship with God, Mary and following in Jesus' footsteps. Various forms of prayer are used both in class and school wide through:
- Daily prayer on PA system, in class and Staff Weekly
- In class prayers, including Grace, end of day prayer and liturgies gathered virtually around sacred spaces
- Building Religious Literacy through, gestures as prayer such as; the sign of the Cross, appropriate responses and gestures during scripture and Gospel reading
- Encouraging students and staff to pray throughout the day.

Parish, Home and School Connection

Queen of Heaven is fortunate to belong to the Parish of St. Dominic's and have Father Terry Dias as our spiritual leader. He adds to the development and celebration of our faith.

Ongoing and effective communication between the home, school and parish is essential for supporting our students' faith formation and creating successful learning experiences.

Father Terry will be making visits to our school and interact with the children for specific purposes and to celebrate masses virtually. Every year school administration meets with parish clergy to plan, review, and discuss liturgical events and sacramental preparation.

Catechesis

The subject of Religion is taught for approximately 150 minutes per week. Religion is also taught and integrated into all subject areas. All teachers teach the Canadian catechism which is the official programme of the Canadian church and which includes:

- The Family Life, Fully Alive programme
- Grades two and seven sacramental preparations
- Grade four child sexual abuse prevention
- Divisional and classroom opportunities for virtual liturgies and other faith related 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
Parent Information Meeting on First Holy Communion	Meeting January 2021 Early November Online Registration	
Parent Information Meeting on Confirmation		Meeting TBD February 2021 Online Registration
Sacrament of Reconciliation	During Lent 2021	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	During the 2021 Easter Season	
Sacrament of Confirmation		During the 2021 Easter Season

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 16, 2020 (Virtual Mass)
Thanksgiving School Mass	October 16, 2020 (Virtual Mass)
Family Advent Mass	TBD
Advent School Mass	December 11, 2020 (Virtual Mass)
Ash Wednesday School Mass	TBD
Lenten School Mass	TBD
Easter School Mass	TBD
School Mass	TBD
Closing & Graduation Mass	TBD

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.

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and respond in practical ways to the needs of the larger community outreach programmes. These include:

- Gospel messages are incorporated into daily prayers over PA system, in class and through curricula.
- Our school participates in ShareLife through Spirit Weeks and ongoing activities throughout the year.
- Being welcoming and inclusive to all
- Following Jesus' example in daily activities
- Social Justice Activities: *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*
- Land Acknowledgment as a part of our morning prayer

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 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 virtual activities. Each month students from different classes lead a virtual 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. Students at Queen of Heaven, participate in ongoing activities that promote the OCSGE, to ensure that they become :

- Discerning believers formed in the Catholic tradition – we celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of God’s presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living. Some examples of ways to demonstrate this includes knowing the story of our faith, participating in the sacramental life, reflecting on God’s word, seeking to be in communion with God and others, respecting our faith traditions, integrating faith in our lives, and recognizing that we all have weaknesses and we have forgiveness to help us through them.
- Effective communicators – we speak, write, and listen honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel value. Examples of how we accomplish this include listening, understanding, using and reading oral and written materials effectively, presenting information and ideas clearly, and writing and speaking fluently in Canada’s official languages.
- Reflective and creative thinkers – we solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good. Examples of this includes creating, adapting, and evaluating news ideas, thinking reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems and making good decisions.
- Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners – we develop and demonstrate or full God-given potential. We can accomplish this through demonstrating flexibility and adaptability, setting appropriate and goals and priorities for our work and personal life, and participating in a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

- Collaborative contributors – we find meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contribute to the common good. Examples include working effectively as a team member, and respecting the rights, responsibilities and contributions of ourselves and others.
- Caring family members – we attend to our family, school, parish, and the wider community. This involves relating to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner in our school and home families.
- Responsible citizen – we give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life. Examples of achieving this includes accepting accountability for one's own actions, seeking and granting forgiveness, respecting and affirming diversity, respecting the environment and using its resources wisely and contributing to the common good.

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations have contributed in various ways to being a shining light for Catholic schools since 1998. These expectations guide the journey of learning for all students in Catholic schools, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but also in terms of values, attitudes and actions informed by reason and faith.

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 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.

Visual signs serve as impressions and reminders of our Catholic faith, beliefs and traditions to all who visit our school. These signs include:

- *Our icon statue of Queen of Heaven in the front foyer*
- *Crucifixes, bibles, stations of the cross, artwork and displays, banners, liturgical season, symbols, sacramental themes and banners*
- *Display cabinets reflecting religious themes according to the season or virtue,*
- *Devotions to Mary*
- *Evidence of Sacred Space in each classroom*

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 "Laudato Si'" - [Laudato Si'](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

Resource List for Schools:**Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” - [Laudato Si’](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2020 - [Catholic Education Week 2020](#)

School-Based

- **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.

Signature Page

Pastor Fr. Terry Dias

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s) MaryJo Evans

Chair of Catholic School Council Monica Cabral, Tara Cruz

Vice Principal(s)

Principal Kety Gizzi 

Superintendent 