

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name:** St. Jerome

**School Mission Statement:**

*Motivated by a quest for knowledge and understanding, inspired by faith and impelled by God's call to love, students will discover their potential and utilize their God-given talents to work respectfully and co-operatively.*

*Empowered with a positive sense of self-esteem, our students will be encouraged to live fully and to use their talents in service to the community of God's people, thereby making the world a better place.*

*St. Jerome School, in partnership with family and church, provides a spiritual journey into Catholic education which fosters spiritual and intellectual growth rooted in the gospel teachings of Christ.*

**School Motto:** Living and Learning in Faith

**Our Parish:** St. Martin Of Tours

**Pastor:** Rev. Biju (Felix) Antony O.Carm

**Parish website:** <https://stmartinoftoursmi.archtoronto.org/en>

**Message from the Pastor:**

Catholic schools are an integral part of the Catholic Church's mission. The relationship that exists between home, school and parish is of vital importance to Catholic education today. This is an important partnership because it helps St Martin of Tours parish to connect with families, not only for sacramental preparation, but more importantly, for Sunday worship. Through the school, there are also other opportunities to draw parents and families into the life of the parish.

The goal of Catholic education is to prepare hearts using the language of love, dialogue, and service. Pope Francis reminds us that the essence of our vocation is to love. This means that as partners in Catholic education it is not about the great things we do; it is about doing little

things with great love. This is the heart of joyful discipleship; it is the foundation of Catholic education.

May the Lord continue to guide us and bless our school to be a loving caring community where all feel loved, accepted, and empowered to grow.

### **Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The St. Jerome Catholic School Council values the importance of the relationship between school, home, and church. Let us work together to meet the spiritual needs of our entire community. We promote community involvement through a variety of fundraising, charitable, and educational initiatives and strive to ensure a caring and responsible partnership with all members. We are dedicated and committed to putting children first by bringing out the best in each other and by building a welcoming and supportive community.

### **Catholic Education Week – May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

#### ***Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de 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.*

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

***"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."***  
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

***"Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée."***  
(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l'espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**

Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**

Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**

Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**

Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

In 2025, Catholic Education Week will unfold under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," inviting our school community to reflect on their journeys of faith and the transformative power of hope in their lives. Daily activities will include themed lessons that emphasize the significance of hope in Scripture and in the lives of saints. Catholic Education Week will be a week full of activities, prayers, reflections, and celebrations of the gift of Catholic Education that we are blessed to have here at St. Jerome. Our students along with staff will be involved in activities which will provide an opportunity for all to reflect upon and celebrate the privilege of Catholic Education.

During this week we will: gather for a school-wide liturgy, take part in daily Christian meditation, listen to Christian music during morning announcements and school wide retreat and/or activities.

Many activities from this week will be taken from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association website (OCSTA) which provides our Catholic schools with a Resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. We will use these resources as well as develop our own to help the students understand what it means to understand We are called to Love.

## 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.*

Forming ourselves in our Catholic faith is a foundational element in helping each of us understand and live in the example of Christ. All staff and students participate in all the Liturgical celebrations that occur throughout the year. Prayer in various forms will be shared and practiced daily. Part of our faith formation for staff and students continues to include looking at well-being. We will continue to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and take our example from Jesus. School activities that support both adult and student faith formation include:

- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2 and 7

- Pastoral school wide visits from Father Felix, and the team from St. Martin of Tours Parish
- Connecting Scripture to the Sacraments and Catholic Social Teachings and for our students to begin to refer to them in their daily lives
- Stations of the Cross
- Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Social Justice Activities (food drives)
- Staff Liturgies/Reflections during Advent and Lent
- School wide Opening Mass / Thanksgiving Mass, Advent Mass, Lent / Easter Mass and Year End Mass
- School wide Remembrance Day Service
- Student-led daily prayers during morning announcements
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations
- Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings
- Rosary Apostolates
- Daily Land Acknowledgement with the opportunity to be created by classes.
- Staff PD opportunities, “When Faith Meets Pedagogy,” religion in-services
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education
- Virtues Education/assemblies/sharing certificates for virtue class winners
- School Liturgical Committee
- ECO initiatives

**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	Saturday, March 22, 2025.	
Church Visit and Rehearsal	Tuesday, April 22 2025.	
Confessions and Rehearsals		Thursday, April 24 2025.
First Holy Communion	Sunday, May 4 2025.	
Confirmation		Tuesday, April 29 2025.

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass & Thanksgiving Mass	Thursday, October 3 2024.
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11 2024.
Advent Mass	Thursday, December 12 2024.
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday, March 5 2025.
Lenten Confessions	Thursday, March 20 2025.
Stations of the Cross	Thursday, April 17 2025.
Crowning of Mary	TBD
End of Year Mass	Thursday, June 19 2025.
Graduation	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.*

Our school community contributes to a variety of social justice causes, and charitable outreach programs. Our contributions range from monetary donations as well as awareness and informational campaigns. These programs include: food drives at Christmas and Easter, for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Family Support, Christmas Collections, Hard Candy and Toiletry Collection for CFFC, Poppy Donation, ShareLife Campaigns through spirit weeks and special days, Geronimo's Dream, Terry Fox Walk, Canadian Cancer Society, CFFC volunteering for the Grade 8's, Dr. Simone – Blessings in a box and Jump Rope for Heart. In consultation with our Peel Public Health Nurse, Our Eco-Team focuses on those initiatives that support stewardship such as: "The Big Gulp", waste audits, battery recycling and planting gardens.

## 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.*

**A Discerning Believer:** Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, Christian Meditation, school masses and sacramental preparation, daily prayers, visible signs of our faith (sacred spaces and crucifixes) are found throughout school.

**An Effective Communicator:** Students have the opportunity to participate in Eco School, OPHEA Healthy Schools Certification, PALS, Choir, the Arts, Sports, Wellness Ambassadors, YFAs to promote a caring, inclusive school that celebrates diversity, embraces social justice initiatives and evangelizes the teachings of Jesus.

**A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker:** Student learning is celebrated throughout school and showcased during Open House, Christmas Concert or School Play, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and Grade 2 & 7 Sacramental preparation, Crowning of Mary in May/Rosary Apostolates' Program. Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe

and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

**A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner :** All diverse learners are encouraged to work to their full potential and be reminded of their God-given talents, which are showcased throughout the year during Bullying Awareness Week, Black History Month, Open House, Christmas Concert or School Play, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and Sacramental preparation, as well as opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities.

**A Collaborative Contributor:** PALS, YFAs, WITS, and Virtues assemblies and liturgies, and are vehicles, which support our safe school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

**A Caring Family Member:** Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, food drives, school masses and sacramental preparation, and daily prayers/Christian Meditation. PALS, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies, fundraising for Terry Fox and ShareLife provide students with opportunities to apply Jesus' teachings to a wider community and witness the connection between School-Home and Parish.

**A Responsible Citizen:** Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, CCCCAT, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

## 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.*

Each month we highlight the Virtue of the month in a school wide liturgy and virtue assembly where we celebrate the classroom virtue winners with certificates. Each morning during our morning virtual announcements we share the virtue of the month and give connections and advice to reflect on our own lives and how to live the virtue in relation to others around us.. Our altar is used to display artifacts and information about each virtue and we use our morning prayers, the school weekly, the school website to highlight the virtue that we are

focusing on to the greater school community. School Masses and Liturgies are two areas where our virtues come to life within our school community.

Parents/Guardians and family members are invited to celebrate the Virtue of the month as recipients from each class receive recognition for demonstrating the Virtue in their daily actions.

September – Faith                      October - Empathy

November – Conscience      December - Hope

January - Self Control February - Respect

March – Kindness April - Love

May – Acceptance June – Fairness

### 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.*

At St. Jerome, we welcome the community with a faith filled foyer displaying a sacred space/altar, which reflects the liturgical season cloth, the month's virtue, a large cross and the Holy Bible and the We All Belong and OSCGE banners. Each classroom has a sacred space which reflects the liturgical calendar and a cross. Daily prayers are read by students during our morning announcements. Our students and staff live our faith in their actions. We remind students to follow the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) mantra.

### Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- New Family Life Curriculum 2023 - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- [Encyclical Letters : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)



- Jubilee Year 2025 – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

### **Resource List for Schools:**

#### **Board**

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- Renewing the Promise – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letters](#) : ‘Laudato Si’, ‘Laudato Deum’ and ‘Christus vivit’
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

#### **School-Based**

**Signature Page**

**Pastor**

**Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)**

**Teacher(s)**

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

**Vice Principal(s)**

**Principal**

**Superintendent**