

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name:** St. Monica

**School Mission Statement:**

We, the Catholic community of St. Monica School,  
are dedicated partners in the lifelong education of our students.  
Guided by the Spirit to grow as a family, we will continue to foster  
spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional development  
to ensure that future generations are well prepared  
for all challenges on their journey.

**School Motto:** Growing Together In Christ

**Our Parish:** St. Jerome

**Pastor:** Rev. James Cherickal

**Parish website:** <https://stjerome.archtoronto.org>

**Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Students, Parents & Teachers,

Greetings from St. Jerome's Parish pastoral team. We are happy to assist our students and families in their faith formation during this academic year. The First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation programs have started. Kindly visit our parish website for more information. We will be providing Masses and confessions for some important occasions.

Education helps us to develop our imagination and ignite our intellectual curiosity. As the great scientist, Albert Einstein suggests: "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries

merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day. Never lose a holy curiosity." "Old Man's Advice to Youth: 'Never Lose a Holy Curiosity.'" LIFE Magazine (2 May 1955) p. 64"

May this year be a year of great learning, joyful spirit and a deepening of our faith

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

A new school year promises new faces, new challenges and new opportunities to grow in the love of God. Catholic religious instruction across the spectrum of the curriculum is highly evident at our school due to the relationship building as well as dedication of staff and parents. Daily prayers and scripture readings are coupled with the Character/Virtues Education program and The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations that supports the identity of St. Monica Catholic Elementary School as a faith and ethics based community, while enhancing the experience of Catholicity in our school. At St. Monica, we notice and appreciate the visible and non-visible signs relating to our Catholic Mission Statement, and are proud to support and assist in continuing to further promote and enhance all signs. Catholicity and Spiritual leadership is happening at our school, and we trust it will continue. "Together we aspire, together we achieve!"

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

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

***"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12***

***Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)***

The five sub themes for Catholic Education week explore ways to live out Pope Francis' call for each one of us to be Pilgrims of Hope...

- by honouring human dignity / honorent la dignité humaine (Monday)
- by caring for creation / prennent soin de la création (Tuesday)
- by responding to the poverties in our world / luttent contre les pauvretés (Wednesday)
- by serving in solidarity / servent en solidarité (Thursday)
- by living as peacemakers / vivent en artisans de paix (Friday)

*Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:*

- May 7 – School wide liturgy
- Pilgrims of Hope Art Work displayed throughout the school
- Staff liturgy
  - Visit the local Seniors home to sing and spend time with the residents

**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.*

- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others
- Classrooms have a prayer table/corner for individual prayer opportunities/focus for class celebrations
- Morning prayers and announcements on the P.A.
- Daily religious/family life education formal teaching
- Holy Week Activities-entire school participation
- Monthly Masses
- Youth Faith Ambassadors (G leaders)
- Virtual Liturgical/Virtues Celebrations
- Liturgies at the beginning of Staff Meetings
- Adult Faith Ambassadors

### 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
<i>Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation</i>	<i>Parents to Register their son/daughter Online at St. Jerome's Parish – Deadline September 30, 2024.</i>	

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	Thursday October 10
Confessions	December 10
Lent Mass	March 21, 2025
End of School Mass	June 23, 2025

### 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.*

**St. Monica Catholic School Community participates in numerous social justice and outreach activities, some of the highlights include;**

- Share Life/United Way, Dress Down Days
- Terry Fox Walk for cancer research, Run for the Cure Support
- School Refugee Families
- Christmas Food Drives
- Mitten Tree of Warmth-new winter clothing
- St. Monica School Christmas Outreach
- Community Response Committee – for community members in their time of need or joy

- Inclusive initiatives/awareness for special needs; i.e. Autism, Cancer, Bullying, Diabetes, M.S.

## 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 Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE), at St. Monica Catholic School, with St. Monica as our model, we journey together - students, staff, parish, parents and others. We emphasize a Catholic environment, the nurturing of self-worth, self-discipline and respect for others. As a Catholic educational community, we are committed to the constant deepening of our vision and mission in reflection of the OCSGE. We are proud to say we are implementing strategies in our own unique style so 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. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are prominently displayed in our foyer, and smaller versions in some classrooms. Our monthly newsletter and P.A. announcements are reflective of the OCSGE.

## 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.*

- Reviewing monthly virtues on the P.A., in the classrooms, in the school yard, through monthly virtues assemblies, and in the community.

Our monthly Virtue Awards for our students....

- 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. Monica Catholic School, "Growing Together In Christ" we are highly reflective of visible signs of our faith, with St. Monica as our model, we journey together - students, staff, parish, parents and others. We emphasize a Catholic environment, the nurturing of self-worth, self-discipline, and respect for others.

Students' artistic creations are reflective of the Liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc. and are highlighted in the classrooms and throughout the school. The front foyer and main office of St. Monica School are inviting foci for our beliefs. The altar, altar Liturgical cloths, crucifix, open bible, prints of our Saviour, St. John Paul II, Pope Francis, Statue of our Blessed Mother, Statue of Jesus, St. Monica print, Ontario Catholic School Graduate Banners, school banners, painted murals etc., are displayed for students, visitors and staff as visual reminders of our Catholic faith, beliefs, and traditions.

### **Resource List for Parents/Guardians:**

- **General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar** - <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-2025.pdf>
- **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 “Fratelli Tutti”** - [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2024** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

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

#### **Board**

- **General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar** - <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-2025.pdf>
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - <https://www.dpcdsb.org/Documents/2023-2027%20MYSP%20Original.pdf>
- **Renewing the Promise** – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”** - [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2025** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

**School-Based**

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**Signature Page**

**Pastor**

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

**Teacher(s)**

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

**Vice Principal(s)**

**Principal**

**Superintendent**