

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

As a Catholic School Community, we are committed to nurturing and developing the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth of each student. We pledge to promote an effective partnership with the home, school and the parish in a safe, caring, inclusive and Catholic environment. Our mission is to provide many opportunities to further develop the faith of all our members and to recognize that God lives in all of us. We strive to promote academic excellence in a success-oriented environment. Through social outreach programs, we strive to help students develop healthy minds, bodies and spirits, instilling self-respect, respect for others as well as compassion and empathy as our school goals.

School Motto: Together we learn

Our Parish: St. Dominic

Pastor: Rev. Terence Dias

Parish website: <https://stdominicschurch.blogspot.com/>

Message from the Pastor: St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School is under the pastoral care of St. Dominic Parish. We invite and encourage families to register with the parish and join us for mass on:

- Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.
- Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Dominic Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school and parish community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents and guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith-filled environment. We would like to welcome all parents and guardians to participate in council meetings, for it is through active participation that our students' lives are further enriched.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Called to Love

L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer

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 sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**
 Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**
 Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**
 Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**
 Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

A variety of activities will be held during Catholic Education Week that highlight our students bringing their faith into action. Our Crowning of Mary Celebration, praying of the Rosary, and celebration of mass will bring our students and community together not only in prayer and reflection but also to our commitment to our own relationship with Christ.

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.

As a school community, we begin each day with morning prayer that centers on scripture. Scripture readings are explained in student friendly language and reflect upon a variety of ways that not only integrate the curriculum but are presented so that students can relate and make a connection to their own lives.

School wide masses are celebrated at St. Dominic's Parish in person with students from Queen of Heaven and St. Paul's Secondary School.

Every Wednesday, one of our classes and one class from Queen of Heaven will celebrate mass at St. Dominic's Parish. This is an opportunity for students to participate in the traditions and customs of a Catholic mass. It will also help students strengthen their own relationship with Jesus.

Grade 2 and Grade 7 students will prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation respectively this year. The school and parish will work in collaboration to prepare our students through catechism classes and retreats.

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors and school leaders at St. Dominic School will plan, organize and assist in food drives, gift card drives, Christmas outreach initiatives, eco-friendly and healthy lifestyle initiatives, building a strong sense of school community and putting their faith into action.

All meetings, staff, divisional, school council, IPRC meetings etc. begin with prayer, followed by our Land Acknowledgement. Liturgies and reflections focus on deepening our faith as educators and followers of Jesus.

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 Classes with St. Dominic Parish Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Parish	
Sacrament of First Communion	Preparation Classes with St. Dominic Parish Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Parish	
Sacrament of Confirmation		Weekly Sunday Mass as per St. Dominic Parish Retreat with St. Dominic Parish

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening / Thanksgiving Mass	October 11 th , 2023
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10 th , 2023
Advent Mass	December 6 th , 2023
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14 th , 2024
Easter Mass	April 10 th , 2024
Year End Mass	June 12 th , 2024
Graduation Mass	June 19 th , 2024

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.

Social justice is an integral part of the Church teachings. Social justice calls us to preserve everyone's human dignity and to work with one another to help and care for all living things in our world.

St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School participates in various outreach activities and supports organizations such as:

- The Terry Fox Foundation
- Food drives and gift card drives
- Angel on the Tree – Donation of gift cards for needy families at Christmas
- ShareLife is supported throughout the school year by a variety of activities such as dress down Friday for staff and school spirit weeks for students
- Our Eco School team is fundamental to all that we do in looking after and sustaining our environment here at St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School and within our community

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.

Showing respect for Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations (OCSGE) means infusing them into daily activities and curriculum.

A banner outlining the OCSGE are visibly displayed in the front foyer of the school. Grade 8 staff regularly incorporate the OCSGE in lessons and formally recognize students who emulate each of the OCSGE at the graduation ceremony with an award. Through social justice programs, student led liturgies, curriculum links and parent education, we highlight the OCSGEs as the central foundation for all our students.

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.

As a Catholic community, we embed the Virtues program in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically.

We incorporate Virtues into our daily prayers, lessons, classroom displays, and acknowledge the good actions of our students. Students are provided with examples of stories that display the virtues to assist in teaching, modelling and guiding students in making better decisions.

Our Youth Faith Ambassadors are promoting our virtues by “catching” moments when students display or put their faith into action. We will recognize these virtuous actions on a display board.

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.

Symbols of our faith are visible in each classroom and throughout the school. Liturgical cloths, crosses, Bibles, sacred spaces, Advent wreaths, candles and books that speak to our Catholic faith are clearly evident, especially during our virtual liturgies and celebrations.

The display case and entrance to the school welcomes all who enter through our doors and gives a strong message to our visitors that St. Dominic is a Catholic School in word, deed and action. Staff and students are committed to Catholic Education and living out our Faith daily through prayer, reflections and kind acts of charity and compassion.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- 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 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023
- [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 2024](#) – Catholic Education Week 2024
- [Synod on Synodality](#) – Synod 2021 - 2024

Signature Page

Pastor Rev. Terence Dias

Chair of Catholic School Council Natasha Kovar

Principal Laurie Mundy

Superintendent Dulcie Belchior