

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Nicholas Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Anchored in faith, understanding and peace, we are called through Christ and his teachings to love one another. We, the community of St. Nicholas School, recognize, celebrate and nurture the unique gifts we offer and receive to and from one another.

School Motto: Faith. Understanding. Peace.

Our Parish: Holy Family

Pastor: *Rev. Andrew Cyruk*

Parish website: <https://holyfamilybo.archtoronto.org/>

Message from the Pastor:



Holy Family Parish recognizes how the School and Parish serve the family – the “Domestic Church”. In a sense the Family and the School are rooted in the soil we call “Parish”. Holy Family supports the faith formation of students and staff within the Holy Family School Community through liturgy, prayer, and the Sacraments. Holy Family School supports the work of evangelization in the parish through promotion of parish-wide Youth Ministries.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Nicholas Catholic School Council believes that our children are best served by a community in which faith, family, and learning are aligned. Our goal is to create opportunities for parents/guardians to be engaged in activities that support the development of our children and strengthen the connections between home, school and church.

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic School Boards.

Catholic Education Week 2022 is scheduled to take place during the week of May 1 – May 6, 2022.

It is a pleasure to announce the theme for Catholic Education Week 2022:

Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together

L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Rétablir, Renouveler Ensemble

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2022 was inspired by the following considerations:

- **In the face of the continuing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, and supported by feedback from the survey, the themes for Catholic**

Education Weeks 2020 and 2021, were Igniting Hope and Nurturing Hope, and all we know for certain is that there will be much to Rebuild, Restore and Renew together in 2022.

- **The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the**

concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, even more relevant.

- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality will continue to move us forward.
- The Ministry of Education's focus on Inclusion and Equity resonates with all educators and administrators as we desire to serve all of God's children and Pope Francis' encyclical entitled, *Fratelli Tutti*, will guide us in this good work.

SUB-THEMES

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are:

Monday: Rediscover / Redécouvrir

Tuesday: Rebuild / Rebâtir

Wednesday: Restore / Rétablir

Thursday: Renew / Renouveler

Friday: Rejoice / Se réjouir

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.



Faith formation at St. Nicholas occurs in ways that encourage both staff and students to nurture faith development by learning more about our faith and acting as living examples of the Gospel values. At St. Nicholas, staff work to create opportunities for spiritual reflection for our students in their classrooms through liturgies, shared stories, as well as through our Religious Education

and Family Life curricula. Faith formation is constant and relevant in all we do. We pray collectively at the beginning of each day, at virtual school liturgies and masses.

Sacramental Preparation:



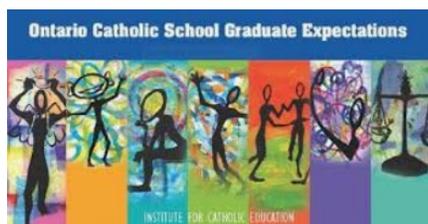
As Catholics, we understand sacraments to be "outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace." Together in partnership with our parish, we support the preparation of God's children in receiving the sacraments.

Event	Grade 2	Grade 7
Enrollment for First Communion	Last day for enrollment-Oct 31, 2021	Last day for enrollment-Oct 31, 2021
Parent Catechetical Meeting on the Eucharist	Dates will be forth coming	
Celebration of First Reconciliation	Dates will be forth coming	
First Communion	Dates will be forth coming	
Enrollment for Confirmation		Dates will be forth coming
Confirmation Catechetical Meetings		Dates will be forth coming
Confirmation		Dates will be forth coming

in past years at the school including: the Terry Fox Run, food drives for the local community and The Giving Tree in association with Holy Family Parish. St. Nicholas staff and students participate in a variety of activities during Black History month, Autism Awareness month, and Earth Day. Students are given many opportunities to learn and support the human dignity of each person, and to serve the most vulnerable in our society.

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.



St. Nicholas school is focused on creating Catholic conditions for well-being and a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic Schools Graduate Expectations. These expectations are specific to Catholic schools and are one way we are unique in our approach to help guide students to live as Jesus did. At St. Nicholas, we model and teach the

Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations. Students are supported to become effective, reflective, self-directed, collaborative, caring and responsible citizens through their elementary journey. We celebrate our graduates through a graduation mass and present awards that recognize achievement in behaviours that reflect the OCGEs such as Christian Leadership and Catholicity. These expectations are embedded in all we do at the school.

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations – A Vision of the Learner



2. AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively responding critically in light of gospel values.



3. A REFLECTIVE, CREATIVE AND HOLISTIC THINKER who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.



1. A DISCERNING BELIEVER formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through work, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.



4. A SELF-DIRECTED, RESPONSIBLE, LIFELONG LEARNER who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.



5. A COLLABORATIVE CONTRIBUTOR who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.



6. A CARING FAMILY MEMBER who attends to family, school, parish and wider community.



7. A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

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.

At St. Nicholas, we encompass Catholic social teachings through the Virtues. Teaching students about the Virtues reinforce our commitment to a high moral standard. Each month a different virtue becomes a focus in our classrooms. These virtues are shared monthly in our school newsletter, during morning announcements, in student agendas, and on the school and board websites. We participate in activities such as fundraising efforts and food drives that provide opportunities for students to learn about the virtues and practice them in their daily lives.

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 and symbols of our faith are evident at St. Nicholas school. The front foyer and main office of the school welcome students, staff, parents and visitors to a faith-filled community. The signs of our faith include the altar, statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and scenes of the life of St. Nicholas. These are visual reminders of our common beliefs and of the liturgical seasons. The crucifix of the Risen Lord, bible, prayer tables, and classroom rosary are displayed for students, visitors and staff as visual reminders of our Catholic faith and traditions. In our actions and words, staff continue to communicate to students the values and beliefs of our shared Catholic faith, providing various connections through learning opportunities. Students' artistic endeavors are reflective of the Liturgical seasons and are highlighted in the classrooms and throughout the school. At St Nicholas, our faith occurs during our day in our treatment and respect of others, as we all strive to be living icons of our Catholic Faith.

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](#)