



PASTORAL PLAN 2023 -2024

School: **St. Cecilia Elementary School**



School Mission Statement:

The mission of St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School is to provide a strong foundation in our children's Catholic educational journey by leading each child on a path of respect, tolerance and selflessness promoting intellectual, social and emotional growth.

Our efforts are rooted in increasing student knowledge, understanding, and application of scripture, sacramental life, and Catholic social teaching to daily life. (Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle. Core Principle – Catholicity)

School Motto: *A Vibrant, Caring, Faith Community*

Our Parish: **St. Anne**

Pastor: **Rev, Joel Pabilona, Jr.**

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

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents and Families,

The school year 2023-2024 is being met with great optimism as the schools of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board opened their doors once again. St. Anne's Parish will resume to serve all the seven Catholic Schools under its pastoral care open to new and creative ways as deemed necessary.

This year, all the usual liturgical and pastoral activities are in place:

- School Masses
- School Confessions
- Sacramental Preparations
- School Visitations

There is an urgent need for school visitations most importantly to make surveys on whether everyone has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Holy Confirmation) accordingly. I enjoin the parents to make sure that their children are taken care of in this regard, especially those preparing their children for the Sacraments of Initiation,

I also urge everyone to keep in mind the significance of their promise at the baptism of their children to bring them up in the practice of the faith that is to love God and love others as God loves us. Incidentally, the theme of this school year coming from DPCDSB is "the call to love".

May the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons bring us hope, peace, and joy! My prayers and best wishes to the families.

God's continued blessings upon you all!

Fr. Joel B. Pabilona Jr.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

At St. Cecilia we strive to build a strong sense of Catholic community within our school to benefit our children. Community building must become the heart of any school improvement effort. Whatever else is involved - improving teaching, relating new forms of governance, empowering teachers and parents, increasing professionalism, it must rest on a foundation of our faith and community building. Parents are important in our community and are an integral part of the Catholic Community at St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School.

Catholic Education Week – May 5 - 10, 2024

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards.



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

Our week will be marked by a school-wide liturgy, focused morning prayer / reflections, and a school-wide retreat day. Each division will be involved in a number of events, each highlighting the week's themes. Through prayer, music, reflection and meditation, drama and art, students will come to deepen their understanding of this year's theme: "We are Called to Love." We will also be raising funds and awareness to a charity of the community's choice.

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 Related Activities

- *Staff faith activities led by Faith Ambassadors*
- *Staff Liturgies/Reflections during Advent and Lent*
- *School wide Mass for opening school, Advent, Lent, and Year End*
- *School Wide Reconciliation*
- *School wide Remembrance Day Service*
- *Resumption of Virtues Assemblies and Student Recognition*
- *Celebrating the Virtues program daily with morning prayers and announcements*
- *Daily prayers during opening exercises*
- *Daily classroom prayer at the beginning of the day, at lunch and dismissal*
- *Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations*
- *Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education*
- *Informal living and teaching of our faith throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others*
- *Classroom teachers lead their students in the preparation for Liturgies and Masses*
- *Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings*
- *Brampton North East Family of Schools Faith Ambassador Meetings*
- *Close relationship with St. Anne's Parish fosters our community of faith*
- *Staff sponsored to attend 'When Faith Meets Pedagogy' Conference*
- *Promotion of Dufferin-Peel Adult Faith Series Events*

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. St Cecilia Catholic Elementary School is committed to assisting St Anne's Parish with facilitating and promoting Sacramental preparation activities offered at the Parish.

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Important Liturgical Dates 2023-2024:

Opening School Mass	Friday, October 20
Advent Mass	Monday, December 18
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 14
Lenten Mass	Monday, March 4
Holy Thursday	Thursday, March 28
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
Easter Sunday	Sunday, March 31
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1
End of Year Mass	Tuesday, June 4

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. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School Community actively supports:

- *Student led food drive for Dr. Simone*
- *St. Anne Parish Emergency Food Assistance Program*
- *St. Anne Parish St Vincent de Paul - Jackets for Families*
- *Charity Fundraisers*
- *United Way / Share Life*
- *St. Anne Parish "The Edge" Youth Group*
- *Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research*
- *Community Response Committee*
- *Community members in their time of need and joy*
- *Christmas Baskets*
- *ShareLife fundraisers*
- *Milk Bags Mats*

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 the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we as a school community make these expectations visible in our offices, hallways and classrooms. We also always use these expectations as tools to help children grow through progressive discipline practices. We celebrate when students exhibit themselves as Self-Directed Responsible Life Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens.

Further to this as an integral part of our Catholic School Learning Plan, we have purposely linked our goals of student Inquiry directly to our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

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.

A virtue is a habit or established capability to perform good actions according to a moral standard. In other words, a virtue is a habit that shows people and God that we are good people. Each month we will look at developing one of these virtues:

**•FAITH •EMPATHY •CONSCIENCE •HOPE •SELF-CONTROL •RESPECT •KINDNESS •LOVE
•ACCEPTANCE •FAIRNESS**

As a school, we challenge students to bring these virtues alive in our school, through living the Virtues. We'll pray about the virtues, we'll talk about them in the classroom and we'll practice them in the hallways and the schoolyard. Our front showcase always represents of our monthly virtue. We too have a house program where each of our school houses are named after a virtue. Through the house program all grades work together living and modeling the virtues. Most importantly, we will make the effort to treat other students and the adults in our school according to the demands of our virtues. We will celebrate the progress we make to be a more virtuous Catholic school – a place of safety, caring and inclusivity for all.

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. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School we have many visible signs of our faith in our classrooms, hallways and common school areas.

These visible signs include:

- Our chapel

- *Display case that brings our virtues & Social Justice Initiatives to life*
- *Scripture quotes on our school walls*
- *Many pictures that focus on our faith line our hallways*
- *In our main office we have our picture of Pope Francis and our statue of St. Cecilia*
- *Our classrooms all have crosses, prayer tables and visible representations of our faith on classroom walls*
- *The most important visible sign of our faith you will see when you come to St. Cecilia is teachers, parents and students working together sharing the light of Christ in all of their interactions and typifying what it means to let the light of Christ shine through our actions*

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

- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- **Renewing The Promise** - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- **Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”**- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2021** – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)