

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

Peace, Love, Service, Excellence

These words have risen from the actions taken by our namesake, St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Like our patron saint, we hope to create an environment of peace, as we become peacemakers within our school community, and sending that message of peace out to others. Like our patron saint, we hope to love unconditionally the way Jesus taught us. To love others regardless of the differences knowing that we are all made in the image of God. Like our patron saint, we hope to demonstrate the importance of service to others, as we work to reach out to make this world a better place following Jesus' examples of servant leadership. Like our patron saint, we hope to strive for excellence and work to build and enhance our skills to reach our true potential striving to build on the gifts given to us by our Lord.

School Motto: Peace, Love, Service, Excellence

Our Parish: St. Josephine Bakhita

Pastor: Rev. Mark Villanueva

Parish website: www.stjosephinebakhita.ca

Message from the Pastor:

The Mission of the Parish is to be a Catholic, multicultural community of faith, called to witness and proclaim, to celebrate and share the Hope and Charity we have in Jesus Christ as exemplified by St. Josephine Bakhita, our "Universal Sister" (John Paul II) and "Model of Hope" (Benedict XVI).

We are a people who weave together this neighbourhood as:

- A community of faith, committed to live the Greatest Love of Jesus Christ, and Mary, Mother of Charity at the foot of the Cross.

- A community of prayer, nourished by the Word of God, the Eucharist, and the traditions of the Church, reflected in the way we live and celebrate.
- A community that welcomes every woman and man, child, and youth, of all cultures, to equal discipleship in Jesus Christ.
- A community that ministers to the needs of the world, committed to the promotion of justice, peace, and the stewardship of creation.
- A community that is not afraid to face its pain and yet deeply trust “in the hope that saves.”

We believe that each one of us is called to be the strand that God will use to weave a tapestry in this place; a tapestry that will be intricate and exquisite.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Elementary School works closely with both Administration and staff to continue to ensure all CSAC initiatives consistently reflect the virtues of our Catholic faith. We recognize the value in Catholic education, and the importance of parent involvement in the spiritual and academic development of our students to help them achieve their respective goals.

Kim Romany, Council Chair

Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 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**

Catholic Education Week is supported in the following ways:

- School Wide Retreat
- Use CEC selected books/Lessons
- Crowning of Mary/Living Rosary
- Rosary Buds
- Additional activities will be communicated with the community as they are confirmed.
- Eco Team led yard clean up

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.

Adult Faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Adult faith ambassadors gather with the Mississauga North Family of Schools.
- Advent and Easter Celebration with Mississauga North Family of Schools.
- Watch Msgr. Shields Monthly Message
- Invitations to the parent community to join in school liturgical celebrations.

Student Faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Virtue Awards and Virtue Award Display
- OSCGE announcements / medallion program / medallion display
- Whole School Religious Retreat Day (during CEW)
- Community Building Events (Fridays – January/February)
- Monthly virtue assemblies
- Morning prayers and announcements
- School masses and liturgical celebrations (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- Participation in the Rosary Apostolate
- Youth Faith Ambassadors, also known as 'The Bear Squad' – food and clothing drives, etc.
- Rosary Club
- Catholic Community Culture and Caring Action Team activities

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
First Reconciliation	Feb. 19-23 (4-6 p.m.)	
First Holy Communion	Saturday, April 20 @ 10:30 a.m. (w/St. Faustina)	
Confessions prior to Confirmation		April 15-19 (4-6 p.m.)
Confirmation		Tuesday, April 23 @ 6 p.m. (w/St. Faustina)

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Remembrance Day Ceremony & Liturgy	Thursday, November 9, 2023
Advent Mass	Friday, December 15, 2023
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday, February 14.
Stations of the Cross	Thursday, March 24, 2024
Lenten/Easter Mass	Thursday, April 11, 2024
End of Year/Graduation Mass	Thursday, June 6, 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.

Our school participates in ShareLife, social justice, outreach, and charity activities for staff, students, and families. Examples include:

- Staff potlucks, lunches (throughout the year) with donations made to ShareLife
- Food drives (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter...)
- Terry Fox Run
- Hard candy collection for the Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children
- Jordan's Sock (sock collection and donations)
- Hat, Scarf, and Mitten Tree for families within the City of Mississauga
- Catholic School Council's Angel Fund for families in need in our school community
- Eco-school initiatives that focus on stewardship of our sacred environment
- ELL Student Ambassadors – to support students who are new to Canada
- ShareLife fundraisers – cookie sales at Halloween, Christmas, Easter
- ShareLife fundraisers – dances at Halloween, Christmas, etc.
- Staff donations to ShareLife through Employee Campaign
- Land acknowledgement

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.

- **OCSGE Medallion Program** - To create a better understanding amongst staff and students of the distinctive expectations for Catholic school graduates, every month we will focus on a specific OCSGE. At the end of the month one child from each class will receive an OCSGE Medal. The program will be part of daily announcements, infused into virtue assemblies, included in weekly Staff memo, posted in every classroom (Poster for Every Homeroom Class) and pictures are put on OCSGE Wall.
- Embed the OCSGE into all the learning that takes place.
- Post visible signs of the OCSGE around the school and classrooms.
- Engage in school wide activities to further understand the OCSGE (morning announcements/medallion program/recognition wall)
- Celebrate mass/virtues as a school community.
- Promote forgiveness, caring and respect when conflicts arise.
- Listen to the Word of God (Mass / Liturgies).

- Promote self-reflection in both students and staff.
- Focus on respecting the thoughts and opinions of others.
- Celebrate our gifts given to us by God.

A discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living. **(I am a believer!)**

- Virtue assemblies and morning prayers
- School-wide masses and liturgical celebrations (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Grade 2 First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, and Grade 7 Confirmation sacramental preparations
- Youth Faith Ambassadors – known as the 'BEAR' Squad
- Adult Faith Ambassadors (initiatives and events)
- Liturgical committee
- Rosary Club
- Daily Religious education/Family Life instruction
- Visits from the parish priest

An effective communicator who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values. **I have a voice!**

- Bullying awareness and prevention week activities (as well as on-going)
- Virtues program
- Student participation in Equity and Diversity committee
- Classroom pledges designed by students
- Daily prayers and announcements created and run by students
- Clubs and extra-curricular activities including sports
- Zones of Regulation (taught by CYW to a variety of classes)
- Eco team
- Recognition/activities for Treaty Recognition Week
- Welcome sign – multiple languages (front foyer)
- ELL social cafes

A reflective, creative and holistic thinker who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good. **I have ideas!**

- Eco Team
- Equity and Diversity club

- Co-planning, marking
- Encourage teachers to participate in in-services, professional development developed by the board (through system weekly update emails)
- Student-led initiatives (kindergarten helpers, rainbow bracelet fundraiser, etc.)

A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential. **I am a learner for life!**

- Reading buddies
- Kindergarten helpers
- Scholastic book fair
- Extra-curricular clubs and sports
- Hosting of student teacher candidates
- Hosting of co-op students from high schools
- Participation in PLCs and Principal Learning Teams (all staff)
- Staff book studies (Equity)
- Variety of excursions connected to curriculum
- Bulletin boards sharing information on the virtue of the month, eco initiatives, diversity and equity initiatives

A collaborative contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good. **I am a team player!**

- Living the Catholic Code of Conduct
- Classroom contracts
- Virtues program
- Extra-curricular sports
- Volunteers (students and parents/guardians)
- Participation in Roots of Empathy
- Grade 8 leadership initiatives
- Go Girls! Game On! partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel

A caring family member who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.

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.

- School assemblies of the monthly virtues
- Virtues display in display case in front of school and in the hallway.
- Teachers use the virtues as the foundation of their teaching and learning experiences
- Daily prayers based on Virtues and prayers created by students
- Monthly virtue awards given to two students in every class
- The virtues are always visible within our school. We draw upon the virtues to celebrate successes and as a tool for reflection when conflict or discipline issues arise.
- At St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the virtues are infused in all our actions as a school community. They are referenced daily, whether it is through prayer, reflection, or through a curriculum connection.
- We celebrate the virtues regularly through school-wide celebrations, which are led by our students. We focus on the virtue of the month through song, skits, prayer, litanies, liturgies, video, recognition of students who exemplify and/or model the virtues.

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 of our faith are found everywhere at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Elementary School, and they include:

- Crosses of the risen Christ in every classroom
- Prayer tables or sacred spaces in every classroom, workroom, and office; they include appropriate coloured cloths based on the liturgical season, Bibles, candles, rosaries, and other symbols which represent our faith
- Community service, social justice, and faith activities
- Altar in our school foyer – decorated to reflect the liturgical season
- Morning prayers and reflections
- Daily Prayers: morning, dismissal, clubs, sports, group activities, meetings, Grace before meals

- Announcements of special liturgical days or seasons (e.g., feast days)
- Virtue Bulletin Boards
- Faith Display cases in front of school
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations posters and curriculum focus
- Resources, artifacts, books, posters that are windows and mirrors for our students
- Daily positive interactions between students, staff, and families
- Welcome sign in several languages – front foyer
- Land acknowledgement posted in office
- The Fabric of our Being Quilt – displayed in front foyer

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](#)

School-Based

- Many Gifts resource (online and print)
- Fully Alive program
- Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ resource
- The World I Know – Virtues in Action video series
- Gather Comprehensive hymnal
- Rosary Apostolate
- Religious Education and Faith Formation SharePoint resources
- THRIVE newsletters
- Deepening our Faith Videos
- Look and Learn: Words for Catholic Kids
- Equitable and Inclusive Education SharePoint
- Pastoral Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Canada to Young People

MEMORARE OF ST. BERNARD

“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, and sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,

I fly unto thee O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother, to thee I come,
before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate!
Despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.”

This prayer was composed after the writings of St. Bernard, the first to give Mary her title of Notre Dame.

Signature Page:

Pastor:



Chair of Catholic School Council:



Vice Principal(s):



Principal:



Superintendent: