

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School seeks to provide a school climate which fosters the Gospel values enabling our students to maximize their potential to love, learn, work and serve as Jesus did.

School Motto: Excellence and Cooperation

Our Parish: St. Leonard

Pastor: Fr. John Nosan

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

Message from the Pastor:

Jesus told His disciples, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3-4).

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us how we need to be like children. On October 15, 2023, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation in which he puts before us her example. He begins the letter with her words: "C'est la confiance et rien que la confiance qui doit nous conduire à l'Amour". "It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love".

In points 14-16, He wrote: "One of the most important insights of Therese for the benefit of the entire People of God is her "little way", the path of trust and love, also known as the way of spiritual childhood. Everyone can follow this way, whatever their age or state in life. It is the way that the heavenly Father reveals to the little ones (cf. Mt 11:25). In the

Story of a Soul, Therese tells how she discovered the little way: “I can, then, in spite of my littleness, aspire to holiness. It is impossible for me to grow up, and so I must bear with myself such as I am, with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new”. To describe that way, she uses the image of an elevator: “the elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, O Jesus! And for this, I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more”. Little, incapable of being confident in herself, and yet firmly secure in the loving power of the Lord’s arms.”

He finishes the Exhortation with a prayer, we can make our own:

“Dear Saint Therese, the Church needs to radiate the brightness, the fragrance and the joy of the Gospel. Send us your roses! Help us to be, like yourself, ever confident in God’s immense love for us, so that we may imitate each day your “little way” of holiness. Amen.”

May Our Lady help us in walking along the path of spiritual childhood as we follow her Son, led by the Spirit, full of confidence and trust in our heavenly Father.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. Agnes School Council takes great pride in supporting St. Agnes’ pastoral plan by:

- Supporting sacramental grades i.e. Retreats and Rosary Bracelets
- Support food drives and social justice initiatives
- Fundraise and help support school-wide activities/families in need

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**

During Catholic Education Week families are invited to join us for a variety of classroom activities showcasing Catholic Education. Students participate in daily faith based activities reflective of each sub-theme throughout the week culminating with our Catholic Education Week Liturgy.

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.

Highlights of school activities that support both adult and student faith formation and that provide faith opportunities and resources to develop student understanding of scripture and its connection to sacrament, Catholic social justice teachings and daily life:

- Integrate and model Jesus' values, prayer, sacred tradition, and scripture across the curriculum through daily interactions with all members of the community
- Sacramental retreats for First Holy Communion and Confirmation students
- Sacraments (Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation)
- School Masses and Liturgies
- Priest's school visits
- Emphasis on the cultivation of virtues in our student population
- Religion and Family Life curricula

- Morning announcements explaining highlights of Liturgical calendar as well as Christian values e.g. treat others as you would like to be treated/be kind to each other
- School staff teach, and model virtues, emphasizing a virtue each month.
- Use board liturgical resources to develop faith capacity among adults
- Youth Faith Ambassador group outreach projects ie) Dr. Simone and Grandfriends
- School facilitates information about dates and times, requirements for receiving the Sacraments and other information regarding our Faith Life at the Parish.

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
Reconciliation	January 26, 2024	
First Communion	May 4, 2024	
Confirmation		May 14, 2024

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving Mass	October 11, 2023
Advent Mass	December 19, 2023
Lenten Mass	February 28, 2024
Year End Mass	June 19, 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 community demonstrates compassion and generosity in giving to others in need. As a community of faith, we demonstrate our commitment to Jesus through helping the less fortunate. Some of the ways in which we do this include:

- ShareLife donations
- Food Drive – Thanksgiving/Christmas/Lent
- Hat/Mitten/Scarf drive
- Terry Fox Marathon of Hope
- Promoting the spiritual/corporal works of Mercy
- Christmas outreach

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.

- Model the OCSGE in our daily practices at school
- Highlight the OCSGE in our monthly newsletters
- Share information about OCSGE in our morning announcements
- Recognize students who demonstrate the OCSGE at Grade 8 Graduation

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.

- Highlight virtues in our monthly newsletter
- Share examples of how people demonstrate virtues as part of our daily announcements
- Recognize students who are demonstrating virtues
- Integrate virtue education into our religious and family life education

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 are displayed throughout the school as a reminder of our Catholic beliefs and traditions – in the Chapel, at the office, front foyer display, hallways and in the classrooms. These include: altar/prayer table, bible, candle, crucifix, stations of the cross, liturgical season symbols, advent wreaths, nativity scene and student work on liturgical seasons and sacramental themes.

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](#)
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