

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Thomas More Separate School

School Mission Statement:

We, at St. Thomas More Catholic School aspire to nurture in partnership with Church, community and home, the Roman Catholic Faith and to provide our children with every opportunity to grow and develop in Faith and life-long learning so they meet the challenges of the future. It is our goal at St. Thomas More Catholic School to ensure that the needs of our diverse learners are met, and students develop and showcase their talents as they aim to reach their full potential, while supporting the best interests of the student and school community. Students have the right to live, work, play and study in an environment that promotes one's potential, self-worth, and self-discipline. It is our intent that students grow in respect for neighbour, sense of self-worth, personal responsibility, and love of God. In placing children first, we want students to learn all they are able to from classes, activities, and friendships and to celebrate life through the teaching of Gospel values in a Christ-Centered community.

School Motto: Welcome One Another As Christ Has Welcomed You.

Our Parish: St. Patrick (Mississauga)

Pastor: *Rev. John E. Facey*

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

Message from the Pastor:

We, the Parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, proclaiming our belief in Christ's message of love, with the support of the Holy Spirit, are committed to building a welcoming faith community for the greater glory of God. Sharing our gifts from God, we strive to grow in service and knowledge and to recognize Jesus in everyone on our journey together. Our school is under the pastoral care of Fr. John Facey at St. Patrick's Church. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for mass at the times listed below:

Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12 noon

7:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Daily (Monday-Friday) - 8:15 a.m.

Evening Mass: Tuesday & Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. us for mass at the times listed below:

Message from the Catholic School Council:

"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gifts well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honor to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever."

1Peter 4:10-11

The Catholic faith community of St. Thomas More (consisting of school, Church and family) is rooted in a set of common beliefs, inspired by the life, mission and teachings of Jesus. In partnership, we are called to learn and grow in faith and to be more like Jesus. At St. Thomas More, we continue to integrate opportunities to support student Well Being and the Virtues into the culture of our school. By nurturing student Well Being, the Virtues and character development in the lives of our students, we provide them opportunities to recognize and celebrate their gifts as well as the gifts of others in the school community. The practice of our faith will help us create a safe, caring and inclusive school community. Our Catholic School Council continues to support the school community through offering opportunities to families and students that enhance the learning environment and promote parent engagement in the school. As a Catholic school community, we, parents, students and staff, come together in prayer at our school masses held at St. Patrick's Church, and at our monthly liturgies/virtue assemblies. We continue to work together, home, school and parish to nurture our children in a Christ-centered environment.

Catholic Education Week – May 4th – May 9th, 2025

Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope *L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance*

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.

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

"Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée."
(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l'espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

- Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**
- Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**
- Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**
- Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**
- Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

In addition to our daily activities, the following celebrations have been scheduled to highlight Catholic Education Week:

Journey into Learning: Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Engagement Evening – New Kindergarten Year 1 Families are invited to meet their new FDK Teams, explore their new learning spaces and engage in sharing about how to best support their child's transition to school.

Welcome to Extended French Evening -New Grade 5 Extended French students and their families come explore their new learning spaces and engage in how to support the transition to a Dual Language program.

Crowning of Mary Liturgy: A May Crowning of Mary is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual with special devotions made to our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Junior/ Intermediate Talent Show & Café Français: This celebration of the Arts will highlight their talents and celebrate the French Culture with song, dance and some traditional French Fare.

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.

Student Faith Formation:

- School masses: Opening; Advent Mass, Lenten/Easter Season Mass, Year-End mass
- Rosary Team Volunteers pray the rosary (TBD)
- Youth Faith Ambassadors participate in a social justice activities (Food collections, Mitten Tree donations), assisting primary students with learning to tie their shoes, reading, virtues assemblies and C.E.W./ St Vincent de Paul/ Knights of Columbus events
- Monthly Liturgies/Virtues assemblies/Christian Meditation
- The Crowning of Mary is celebrated in May
- Collaboration with community partners (Peel Health) to promote safe schools' activities and social justice initiatives; Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, Introduction to Social Media, Anti-bullying presentations
- Promoting Inclusivity; Social Justice initiatives (Fundraising for ShareLife, food and toy drives), Black History and Aboriginal Day Presenters
- Random Acts of Kindness – students' names submitted by staff members (having demonstrated kind acts)
- School-wide Faith Retreat

Adult Faith Formation:

- School masses: Opening/Thanksgiving Mass, Advent Mass, Lenten/Easter Season Mass, Year-end Mass
- Monthly Virtues assemblies, praying rosary with class
- Opening Liturgies for Staff and School Council meetings
- Morning Prayer Services held once per month as well as Advent and Lent
- Adult Faith Ambassadors involved in faith Activities offered at the board and family of schools' level – Advent Retreat, planning and preparation of ME Faith Events
- Board opportunities for faith development will be advertised to staff
- Thoughtful Thursdays – mindfulness/Christian meditation during lunch hour.

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 Communion Retreat	TBD	
Confirmation Retreat		TBD
First Reconciliation	TBD	
First Holy Communion	TBD	
Confirmation		TBD

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 18, 2024
Advent Mass	December 3, 2024
Lenten Mass	March 19, 2025
Easter Mass	May 5, 2025
Year End Mass	June 13, 2025

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 raising funds and/or donations for

- Food Drives
- Staff raise funds on Staff Casual Dress Days (Fridays) for ShareLife.
- The Terry Fox walk for cancer research (TBD)
- School food drives at Advent & Lent

- Christmas Gift Baskets (cards & vouchers) for needy families in our community in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Society associated with St. Patrick's Church
- Remembrance Day poppies (TBD)
- ShareLife Spirit Days

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.

A Discerning Believer

- Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, Christian Meditation, school masses and sacramental preparation, daily prayers, visible signs of our faith (sacred spaces and crucifixes) are found throughout school, classroom posters for All Saints Day displayed in hallways and on TV monitor, anti-bullying Balloon messages per classroom displayed in halls.

An Effective Communicator

- Students have the opportunity to participate in Eco School, OPHEA Healthy Schools Certification, PALS, CCCCAT, Choir, the Arts, Sports, Bus Patrollers, and YFAs to promote a caring, inclusive school that celebrates diversity, embraces social justice initiatives and evangelizes the teachings of Jesus.

A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker

- Student learning is celebrated throughout school and showcased during Open House, Christmas Concerts, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and Grade 2 & 7 Sacramental preparation, Crowning of Mary in May/Rosary Apostolates' Program. Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, CCCCAT, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner

- All diverse learners are encouraged to work to their full potential and be reminded of their God-given talents, which are showcased throughout the year during Bullying Awareness Week, Black History Month, Open House, Christmas Concerts, Catholic Education Week, FDK year-end celebrations, Grade 8 graduation and Sacramental

preparation, mindfulness (primary students), as well as opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities.

A Collaborative Contributor

- PALS, CCCCAT, YFAs, WITS, Christian Meditation and Virtues assemblies and liturgies, and bus patrollers are vehicles, which support our safe school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

A Caring Family Member

- Students participate in monthly virtues assemblies, social justice initiatives, food drives, school masses and sacramental preparation, and daily prayers/Christian Meditation.

- PALS, CCCCAT, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies, fundraising for, Terry Fox and ShareLife provide students with opportunities to apply Jesus' teachings to a wider community and witness the connection between School-Home and Parish.

A Responsible Citizen

- Students are expected to follow the Catholic Code of Conduct and through progressive discipline, reflect on making good choices. PALS, CCCCAT, YFAs, WITS and Virtues assemblies are vehicles, which support our safe and inclusive school initiatives and guide students to making good choices modeled on Jesus' actions.

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.

The Virtues program is an integral component of our Catholic school; classroom teachers regularly implement the program through integration with daily curriculum and learning opportunities. School administrators and teachers infuse the virtues when assisting students to problem-solve and learn how to better foster relationships with peers. Classes and/or YFAs plan and prepare monthly liturgies/presentations on the Virtue of the Month.

Parents/Guardians and family members are invited to celebrate the Virtue of the month as recipients from each class receive recognition for demonstrating the Virtue of the month and through the actions and random 'Acts of Kindness' incentive program.

September – Faith	October - Empathy
November – Conscience	December - Hope
January - Self Control	February - Respect
March – Kindness	April - Love
May – Acceptance	June – Fairness

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.

School-wide Christian Meditation, individual classroom Christian Meditation.

- Each class is involved in daily prayers over the public address system. Readings are taken from a variety of sources: Children's Daily Prayer, and resources from Lenten and Advent Handbooks. Children also create their own prayers and thoughts for the day to share with the school community as appropriate.
- All Saints Day Posters on Display (St. Thomas More displayed at entrance of school).
- Prayers before lunch and before dismissal; individual class prayers in morning and afternoon; Rosary is prayed on a monthly basis.
- Prayers specifically for Bullying Awareness Week and Black History Month.
- Individual teachers use prayer in other ways during the school day as appropriate. Students are encouraged to pray for others as various events unfold in the school, local and world community throughout the school year.
- Cross in front hall, prayer tables in each classroom, front hall virtue display.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- New Family Life Curriculum 2023 - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- **Encyclical Letters** : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)
- Jubilee Year 2025 – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

Resource List for Schools:**Board**

- **General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar** - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- **Renewing the Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education**
- **Encyclical Letters** : ‘[Laudato Si’](#), ‘[Laudato Deum](#)’ and ‘[Christus vivit](#)’
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2025** – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

School-Based


- **Adaptive Kits** for Sacraments of Reconciliation; First Communion & Confirmation
- **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.

Signature Page

Pastor 

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)


K. Naveedha
J. Joice

Teacher(s) 
C. D'Souza

Chair of Catholic School Council



Vice Principal(s)



Principal


Dagazzino

Superintendent