

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Rita Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

The mission of the St. Rita school community is to build and foster a Catholic partnership within the school where we as parents, parish, students, and support staff create a harmonious, cohesive environment that allows students to learn Catholic values as well as the required curriculum. Our intent is to assist the school community and support parents in raising well rounded faith-filled children.

School Motto: Putting our Faith into Action

Our Parish: St Leonard

Pastor: Rev. Paul 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:

As members of Council, we seek to enhance and enrich the overall experience of a Catholic education for our students, school representatives, and parents working together as members of the St. Rita School community. We encourage the relationship between curriculum, Faith, and family by working together through faith-based involvement in community and Parish initiatives. In this way, we nurture the development of conscientious, responsible, collaborative students who demonstrate their God given talents as lifelong learners.

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**

We will:

1. Offer a brochure invitation sent home outlining the events for the week
2. Offer individual classroom/grade level events reflecting the theme for the day: events encourage parent engagement in their child's learning as well as peer sharing
3. Facilitate school wide and division planned activities
4. Support a Social Justice Initiative led by our Youth Faith Ambassadors/Social Justice Team

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 led prayers
- Virtue Assemblies
- Student Retreats
- Sacramental preparation
- Liturgies
- Food Drives
- ShareLife campaigns
- Staff liturgies during Advent and Lent, as well as any other time prayer is needed (to pray for a staff member/family, during times of crisis, etc.).
- Mass responses practiced by classes
- Start each meeting with a prayer

- Bulletin Boards for our virtues
- Bulletin Board dedicated to Catholic Education Week. (All year)
- Classroom prayer tables
- Altar in foyer
- Faith Tab in staff google classroom.
- Rosary Club

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
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	Feb 23, 2024	
<i>Sacrament of First Communion</i>	April 13, 2024	
<i>Confirmation Retreat</i>		TBD
<i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>		May 7, 2024

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
All Saints /All Souls Observances	November 1 & 2
Remembrance Day: A Prayer for Peace/ Classroom Liturgy	November TBA
Advent Liturgies	November 30; December 7; December 14; December 21
Ash Wednesday	February 14
Lent Class Liturgies	Week of February 14 – March 28
Holy Thursday	March 28, 2024

Crowning of Mary / Living Rosary	May TBA
Catholic Education Week liturgies	May 5 - 10
Feast of St. Rita liturgy	May 24
Graduation celebration	June TBA
End of Year Liturgy	June 20, 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.

- Terry Fox
- ShareLife
- Seasonal charitable drives to support St. Leonard Parish, Knight's Table, Dr. Simone, St. Louise Outreach, including:
 - Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - Christmas Project Gift collection
 - Lenten food and clothing
- Eco-School promotions
- School Reconciliation Display
- Staff Ecological awareness and nature appreciation experiences
- We note that staff members are sensitive to local family and community needs; as such, they will initiate additional drives to support needs as they arise (Christmas and Easter)

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.

- Student Faith Ambassador Events
- Virtue Buddies, Pals, Friendship Group Leaders
- Eco Schools / Student Green Team
- Student Retreats where focus is sharing, building, growing, and communicating in Faith (Sacramental Preparation)
- Anti-Bullying initiatives
- Virtue Assemblies

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.

- Monthly Assemblies
- Announcements
- Classroom Learning Activities
- Visible signs via posters and student work throughout the school
- Rosary Club

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: prayer tables, altars, front foyer displays, posters and wall displays, Bibles, Crosses, Rosaries, Statue of Mary, picture of the Holy Family, Statue of St. Rita, Picture of Archbishop, Hallway of Saints
- Faith events and activities highlighted on classroom calendars
- Saint Feast days promoted through social media
- Student-produced Saint Profile posters in hallways
- Daily announcements include Gospel, Bible readings, and reflections
- Catholic Code of Conduct embedded in discipline and restitution

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

- Children’s Bible and Daily Readings
- Novalis Advent and Lent resources
- Prayer cards and links provided by Father Nosan
- Teacher Faith based personal resources
- Family Faith web links on FAITH tab of school webpage
- Faith Kits for each classroom for each Liturgical Season

Signature Page

Pastor

J. Nosan

Faith Ambassador

R. Sist

Teacher(s)

R. Sist, M Castrucci, K. Oliviera

Chair of Catholic School Council

M. Assenza

Vice Principal

S. Quartarone

Principal

J. Vieira

Superintendent

T-L. Peel