

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name: ST. JOHN XXIII**

## **School Mission Statement:**

*St. John XXIII Elementary School is committed to educate and serve our students in a safe, caring, Catholic environment so that they will develop the spiritual values and intellectual skills necessary for their growth as responsible citizens in a changing society.*

*We are a Catholic community. We demonstrate our love for God by respecting each other and by striving to meet the expectations of our Catholic faith, the Ministry of Education, and those established by parents, teachers and students.*

*Our mandate is to encourage in children the life-long desire to learn and find joy, delight and enthusiasm in the learning experience. Students should grow in sense of self-worth, respect for all members of our community, personal responsibility in the uses of freedom, and love of God. Students have the right to go to school. With that right brings the responsibility to respect the rights of others.*

**School Motto: A Family of Peace and Hope**

**Our Parish: St. Martin of Tours**

**Pastor: Rev. Gijo Muthanattu, O.Carm**

**Parish website: <https://stmartinoftourschurch.blogspot.com/>**

**Message from the Pastor:** Catholic schools are an integral part of the Catholic Church's mission. The relationship that exists between home, school and parish is of vital importance to Catholic education today. This is an important partnership because it helps St Martin of Tours parish to connect with families, not only for sacramental preparation, but more importantly, for Sunday worship. Through the school, there are also other opportunities to draw parents and families into the life of the parish.

The goal of Catholic education is to prepare hearts using the language of love, dialogue and service. Pope Francis, reminds us that the essence of our vocation is to love. This means that as partners in Catholic

education it is not about the great things we do; it is about doing little things with great love. This is the heart of joyful discipleship; it is the foundation of Catholic education.

May the Lord continue to guide us and bless our school to be a loving caring community where all feel loved, accepted, and empowered to grow.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr Gijo Muthanattu George

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### **Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The St. John XXIII Catholic School Council promotes parent engagement and faith development. We work closely with the school, parents and St. Martin of Tours Parish to deepen our faith and enrich the Catholic school experience for our children. The School Council has supported various activities to raise funds for local charities, such as, St. Vincent de Paul Society and food banks and annually support Archdiocese of Toronto ShareLife campaign.

### **Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

*Highlight activities or events planned for the Week:*

Catholic Education Week begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes. Throughout Catholic Education Week, we will reflect on the significance of Catholic Education's presence and contribution in our Catholic Church, and in our society. We invite all members of our community to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2024 in our school. Each class will focus on the theme of hoping in the Lord to renew our strength in some format that can be shared with the community.

### **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. [OBJ]*

*Please highlight the school activities that support both adult and student faith formation.*

St. John XXII School participates in various activities that nurtures our Catholic Faith, virtues, and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. These activities include sacramental preparation, masses, student and staff liturgies. St. John XXII School continues to provide sacramental preparation in partnership with the pastoral team, liturgical celebrations, community building celebrations for staff, daily morning prayers prepared by and delivered by students. Staff, students, and parents collaborate to truly live out our gospel values through scripture. School masses are being held in the school. Through our morning announcements, we pray together daily as a school, and we have found this has provided a school-wide focus on our prayer time. Each week a different class runs the announcements, and the children are active in delivering the prayers and reflections.

We have monthly virtue assemblies. Students in every class are recognized for demonstrating the virtue of the month. They are given certificates and recognized in front of the entire school.

### 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>	<i>Date/Activity</i>	
Rite of Enrolment (First Holy Communion)	January 24, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. or January 28, 2024 n@ 8:00 a.m, 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 noon	
6 Week Online Sacramental Preparation Course	February 5, 12, 20, 26, March 4 & 18, 2024	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	February 24, 2024 10:30 a.m.	
First Holy Communion	April 20, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. @ St. Martin of Tours Parish	
Rite of Enrolment (Confirmation)		December 2, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. or December 3, 2024 @ 12:00 noon
6 Week Online Sacramental Preparation Course		February 5, 12, 20, 26, March 4 & 18 2024
Sacrament of Confirmation		April 18, 2024 7:00 p.m. @ St. Martin of Tours Parish
Confessions and Confirmation Rehearsal		April 16, 2024 10:00 a.m. @ St. Martin of Tours Parish

## Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Beginning of Year / Thanksgiving Mass	October 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10, 2023 11:00 a.m.
Advent / Christmas Mass	December 19, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14, 2024 – Liturgy in the gym
Lent / Easter Mass	March 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross	March 28, 2024 – Liturgy in the gym
Catholic Education Week	May 5 to May 10, 2023 We Are Called To Love
End of Year Mass / Grade 8 Graduation Mass	June 25, 2024 10:00 a.m.
***Additional boxes can be added as needed.	

## 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....*

As a school community we fundraise for ShareLife. With respect to outreach activities, we facilitate food drives for St. Vincent de Paul Society at Thanksgiving and Christmas. As a community, we gather items for Christmas baskets for families, hard candy drives for Dr. Simone and his organization, "Canadian Food for Children" and the Terry Fox Foundation.

We recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Week in September, and on September 30 we celebrate Orange Shirt Day. In February we focus on Black History Month, although the themes of anti-racism, equity and inclusion are not exclusive to February.

### **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 OCSGE, we as a school community....*

To celebrate Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE), we as a school community review the expectations with our students.

OCSGE are evident throughout the school. As a Catholic community, we embed the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. It is our endeavor to provide the best education to our students to ensure future success. Our school's overall focus is the well-being of all our students. We strive to do this by nurturing learning skills, with current trends through our Religious Education and Family Life program to provide students with the necessary skills to ultimately be contributing members of society.

### **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.*

*We have monthly assemblies....*

As a Catholic Community, we embed the Virtues Program into all that we do spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. Every week a different class leads the announcements. Every day the virtue of

the month is recognized, and the daily virtue prayer is read. Students will be recognized for displaying daily actions related to the Virtue of the month. Every month we have a Virtue Assembly. 2-3 students in every class are recognized for demonstrating the Virtue of the Month. They are given certificates and recognized in front of the entire school. The Virtue of the Month for staff, students, and parents are promoted on our Virtue of the Month Recognition Bulletin Board. A monthly newsletter is sent out to the parent community and the Virtue of the Month is always included in the update. Also, virtues are reflected/reviewed in discipline and conflict resolution when addressing behaviours in the school.

### **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.*

*We have ...Crosses, Bibles, Prayer Tables, community service*

Our Main Entrance has a large cross and altar. The Holy Bible and rosary, as well as religious icons are evident throughout the school. Main office area is reflective of our Catholic teachings with religious icons evident throughout.

We have framed religious posters and prints throughout the school.

Our Grad Wall in the front hall includes art work of Jesus and children. The picture depicts a diverse group of contemporary children.

Upstairs has a wall mural of the 10 Commandments for children. We also have a mural of the Teen Be-Attitudes which reframes The Beatitudes in a way that is relevant and easily understandable for young people.

Classrooms have a crucifix and sacred space with the Virtue of the Month, Bibles, and other religious icons.

Students say Grace daily before their lunch and a prayer at the end of the day.

We pray daily during morning announcements: Virtue Prayer, Daily prayer, St. John XXIII prayer and a standard (Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be.. etc)

We have a Peace Garden for quiet reflection and prayer.

### **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-See Above**

Signature Page

Pastor



Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

C. Szpanar R. Marangoni

Teacher(s)

R. Dalli, S. Poradzios

Chair of Catholic School Council

J. Zhan 

Vice Principal(s)

N/A

Principal



Superintendent

Silvana Jos