

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

St. Mark School, a diverse Catholic community of life-long learners, rooted in faith and guided by our Gospel values works collaboratively to ensure each individual develops to his/her maximum potential in accordance with standards set out by the Ministry of Education. We are committed to student well-being and student achievement. We are committed to meeting the needs of all students by providing ongoing assessment and a system of support that will ensure student success for all.

School Motto: : Learning, Growing and Serving in the Love of Christ

Our Parish: St. Ignatius Loyola

Pastor: Fr. Ed. Curtis

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

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, located at 2300 Burnhamthorpe Rd. West at Glen Erin Drive. St. Ignatius Loyola Parish is a welcoming and diverse Roman Catholic community of faith that, through celebration of our many gifts and talents, strives to build our lives in the image of Christ. We do so through our commitment to loving service of one another and of our broader community, all “for the great glory of God.” We encourage all families to register with the Parish and to join us on weekend Masses: Saturday 5 p.m. or Sundays at 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 12 Noon.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Faith Development at St. Mark School has been an integral component of the Catholic School Council. Our school community, Administration, Staff and Catholic School Council work collaboratively with the Pastoral Team on providing an abundance of opportunities for our students to practice and live out their faith via the Sacraments, participating in Masses and liturgies, Rosary Apostolate and Pastoral visits.

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**

Activities during Catholic Education Week will include:

- Special prayers to acknowledge Catholic Education Week over the announcements
- Liturgical Marian Celebration of Catholic Education Week

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.

Our Catholic faith, as expressed through the Gospel values, is the driving force in our school community where we continually nurture student application of Scripture, Sacramental life, and Catholic Social Teachings to daily life in our local and global world. We believe in faith development and continue to foster an authentic Catholic learning community, rooted in tradition and scripture while:

- Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic faith
- Being responsible stewards of God’s grace in the world
- Respecting human dignity
- Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion and service

In collaboration with our pastoral team, we work together to provide opportunities for faith formation via Sacramental preparation, liturgical

celebrations, daily prayer and reflection, retreats Rosary Apostolate and community building events.

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
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Oct 15 and 16	
First Communion	May 4 and May 25	
Confirmation		June 10 and 11

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving Liturgy	Monday, Oct 7, 2024
Advent Liturgy	Tuesday, Dec 10, 2024
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday, March 5, 2024
Graduation/Closing Liturgy	Monday, June 16, 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.

The outreach initiatives the St. Mark School community have embraced, initiated and implemented support our local and global communities and include: Share Life, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Terry Fox Foundation, and Eden Food Bank.

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.

Click here to enter text. To celebrate Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we as a school community infuse the expectations throughout the life of our school on a daily basis as well as continuously highlighting the OCSGE in visible signs, connect them to our monthly gatherings. Through liturgies, curriculum links and ongoing parent communication/education, we highlight the OCSGE as the foundation of Catholic schools.

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.

Our virtues are infused throughout the daily life at St. Mark school and throughout the school environment. Virtues are incorporated into daily prayers and reflection, posted throughout classrooms and highlighted in correspondence with parents/caregivers for parents to review and reflect upon at home with their children. Furthermore, virtues in action are articulated in the outreach initiatives our school community is involved in reaching out to our local and global communities.

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.

As witness to our faith, St. Mark school utilizes symbols, actions and service to live out our Christian call. Visible signs of our faith are evident upon arriving to our school where our motto is proudly displayed outside our school building: Growing, Learning and Serving in the Love of Christ. Upon entry into our building, our OCSGE, Virtues, Catholic Education theme and liturgical display bible, cross, candles (liturgical colors) in accordance with our liturgical calendar, displayed in our front foyer, visual media and throughout the school environment. Reflected in every classroom, all learning spaces incorporate a prayer table with symbols of our faith, OCSGE displays, virtues and Catholic Education Theme (Nurturing Hope). The daily prayers/reflections, celebrations, community building events and social justice initiatives our school community so actively implements and takes part in, illuminate our witness to faith and to serve in the love Christ.

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

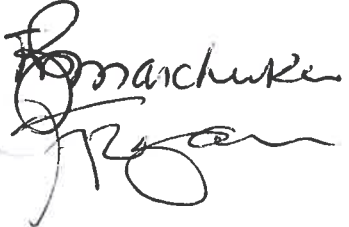
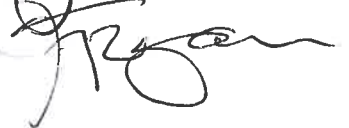
- **General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar** - 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027
- **Renewing the Promise** – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education
- **Encyclical Letters** : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
-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

Signature Page

Pastor: Fr. Ed. Curtis 

Faith Ambassador(s) J. Santizo 

Teacher: T. Spadafina, A. Pascolo 

Chair of Catholic School Council: M. Marchewka, J. Trojan 


Principal: Norma Resendes 

Superintendent: Drago Radic