

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** St. John Fisher Elementary School

## **School Mission Statement:**

We believe in providing a positive school environment that enhances its members to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially and intellectually to their fullest potential. We believe in the development and sharing of Christian values as witness in the Catholic tradition. We believe in fostering a mutually cooperative relationship among the home, school and parish to develop the full uniqueness of the individual. We believe in individual dignity, encompassing age, gender, race, capability and culture. We believe in the constant growth in the preparation for the future, while cherishing the richness of our past.

**School Motto:** Learning in God's Light

**Our Parish:** St. John Fisher

**Pastor:** Rev. Regulo Imperial

**Parish website:** <https://stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org>

## **Message from the Pastor:**

Greetings of Peace!

In difficult times, Jesus is constantly asking us to believe and put our trust in him. In times like this we are as it were 'walking on the water.' Have you ever experienced walking on the water? Yes, I have. It was when as a new priest back home, I was assigned to a remote place with no electricity and boat is the only means of transportation. Yes, it happened to a mother who quit a job to take care of her children. Yes, you do, teachers and students. It happens now when you leave the safety of home and to school where the risk of contacting the virus is very high. You are walking on the water and we are walking on the water.

Like Peter, it will involve us in responding to an invitation to walk on the water. When we agree to walk on the water, we open up the possibility of our sinking. Even when we are trying to do what is right and avoid evil, the possibilities open to us will often involve a mixture of good and evil together. 'Come! Do not be afraid.' Peter's response is worthy of our attention.

Peter had to leave the ship and risk his life on the sea, in order to learn both his own weakness and the almighty power of his Lord. If Peter had not taken the risk, he would never have learned the meaning of faith. The road to faith passes through obedience to the call of Jesus. I hope and pray that this will come to pass according to God's wisdom and God's time. Hang on to Jesus. He whispers to our ears: 'Do not be afraid.'

God bless!

Fr. Regulo Imperial

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

At St. John Fisher School, we are committed to promoting the Board's vision and values, the Sacramental life and the Catholic practices of this Board. We strive to support, encourage and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the school level considering the best interest of all parents. We aspire to improve student achievement and well-being within our school.

**Catholic Education Week - May 5 – May 10, 2024**

**Catholic Education: *We are called to Love***

*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.*

***"Behold, I make all things new."* (Revelation 21:5)**

***«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.»* (Apocalypse 21,5)**

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are as follows:

- Monday: **As people of HOPE**
- Tuesday: **As people of FAITH**
- Wednesday: **As people of MERCY**
- Thursday: **As people of JUSTICE**
- Friday: **As people of JOY**

For Catholic Education Week, our activities to date include:

- Monday, May 6:     Dental Screening (for JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, 8)  
                           Catholic Education Week School Council Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 7:     Catholic Education Week MASS at St. John Fisher Church at 9:00 am  
                           Dental Screening (for JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, 8)
- Wednesday, May 8:     Dental Screening (for JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, 8)
- Thursday, May 9:     Open House at 1:00 – 2:00 pm
- Friday, May 10:     Rosary Apostolate to visit classrooms

Note: We hope to provide opportunities to welcome parents / guardians to showcase the collaborative work of our students, staff and community partners that highlights the theme: 'We are Called to Love'

### **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.*

In support of Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle, we work to provide an increased number of faith opportunities and to develop an understanding of scripture as it is connected to our daily life. We believe and nourish our faith development through sacramental preparation, liturgical celebrations, sacramental retreats, community charitable works, prayer services, staff liturgies and school wide reflection days. In collaboration with our Pastoral team, we work together to nurture the seeds of faith for the community. Our daily morning prayer and formal religious instruction support the understanding of scripture for our students. Through the pastoral work of our Adult and Youth Faith Ambassadors, we bring scripture into action as we support community outreach projects and our breakfast program. As a community, gatherings are marked with scriptural prayer and reflection to keep us mindful of our journey as people of faith in Christ.

### 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	Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5	
First Holy Communion	Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5	
Confirmation		Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5
Reconciliation of Confirmandi		Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening / Thanksgiving Liturgy	Friday, October 5, 2023
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Friday, November 10, 2023
Advent Mass (at St. John Fisher Church)	Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Advent Liturgy #2	Monday, December 11, 2023
Advent Liturgy #3	Monday, December 18, 2023
Advent Liturgy #4	Friday, December 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Lenten Mass (at St. John Fisher Church)	Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Stations of the Cross Liturgy	Thursday, March 28, 2024
Catholic Education Week Mass (at the Church)	Tuesday, May 7, 2024
End of the Year / Feast Day Mass (at the Church)	Friday, June 21, 2024
Grad Liturgy	Monday, June 24, 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.*

Students at St. John Fisher School give witness to Catholic Social teaching by promoting peace and justice while reaching out to others less fortunate:

- Student Council led community projects
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Advent Food Drive
- Lenten Food Drive
- Helping Hands – Clothing Drive (new Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Socks)
- Supporting less fortunate (CAS & SW)
- Share Life
- Toys for Tots
- Terry Fox

We also recognize Orange Day (First Nations residential schools), Pink Day (Anti-Bullying) and Purple Day (breaking the silence on Child Abuse) to name a few.

### **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 highlight the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we offer faith-filled activities and instructional planning that will focus on the OCSGE. Activities such as curricular connections and reflections, student led liturgies, home school communication and the Rosary Apostolate, to name a few.

### **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.*

To celebrate the Virtues, we gather together as a community to celebrate our faith. Through daily prayer, monthly newsletters, staff weekly memos and conversations, we communicate openly our call to model and live the Virtues. Through the student leadership, the Youth Faith Ambassadors lead students through virtual prepared liturgies. We therefore share in communal prayer and are aware of how the Virtues are evidenced in the school and in our community.

**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 you enter St. John Fisher school, you will see an altar adorned with a bible and crucifix. Items representing the Liturgical Calendar are also placed on the altar. A Staff member has taken the responsibility to change the colors of the altar cloth to match the Liturgical Calendar seasons (Advent, Lent, Ordinary Time etc.). Each classroom has been given the various colors of the altar cloth as well to adorn their own sacred space. Our Virtue posters and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations banner are also visible in the front foyer.

**Resource List for Parents/Guardians:**

- 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 2023 Video Message – Catholic Education Week 2023

**Resource List for Schools:      Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2023 Video Message – Catholic Education Week 2023

**School-Based**

- Letters are sent home to parents before 'Created Sexual' Units are taught
- Family Life text books are provided to each student