

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **St. Barbara Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

At St. Barbara Catholic Elementary school, we believe that the Parish, Home, School Triad, working in partnership, are dedicated to the spiritual, emotional, academic and physical wellbeing of the whole child. We are a Catholic community that bases its daily practices on the Catholic Social Teachings. 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. Through daily scripture, we find connections to the gospel teachings and reinforce the need for our steadfast faith in our daily lives. Our mandate is to encourage in children the life-long desire to learn, find joy, delight and enthusiasm in the learning experience. Students should grow in solidarity with their Catholic Faith Communities, as we are all one family that is committed to the common good in the Light of Christ.

School Motto: Freedom to Learn, Freedom to Pray.

Pastoral Plan Links to Strategic Plan/Catholic Board Learning Plan:

► **Link: Strategic Plan** [2019-2020 Strategic System Plan](#)

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Our Parish: St. Joseph

Pastor: Father Paul Dobson

Parish website: www.stjosephsstreetsville.com

Message from the Pastor:

St. Joseph Parish's involvement in the faith formation of our schools and its children has four key dimensions: sacramental preparation, school Masses, classroom visits and offering the sacraments.

We offer sacramental preparation for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion (Grade 2 students) and share the work with the schools in preparing the Grade 7 students to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Our team, in particular, Fr. Neiman D'Souza, has been organizing and preparing over the summer to be able to deliver an excellent and informative faith experience. In addition to these encounters with select classes, we look forward to seeing all of the children in their classroom environments to help strengthen the link between the school and the Church. Throughout the year, we will be visiting classrooms and teaching small lessons to the children (the importance of the Mass, how to pray, etc.). Additionally, we will be leaving time during our visits to answer any questions that arise regarding the faith, the Church, vocations, etc. These class visits are mutually beneficial and prove to be a great way to get to know the children on a more personal level.

Our primary role is to help foster an encounter with the Lord, and to teach the children the importance of recognizing God in their lives. School Masses are a great opportunity to do this, both through the beauty of the Liturgy and the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. By doing this, we introduce the children to communal prayer and lay the groundwork for them so that they can build their own strong relationship with God through personal prayer. We also want to have the young people experience the Mass in their parish Church, and for this reason we have requested that at least two of the four yearly school Masses take place at St. Joseph's parish.

The Parish's final and perhaps most important role is to make the sacraments readily available to the children. We do this by pointing out to them the days and times of our sacramental celebrations (Masses, Reconciliation, etc.). Hopefully, this will prepare them to take ownership of their spiritual lives and to live a sacramental life where they

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may truly grow and flourish. We look forward to collaborating with our schools in this endeavour throughout the year.

Father Paul Dobson

Message from the Catholic School Council:

As members of the St. Barbara community, and our Catholic School Council we believe in the shared responsibility of education that exists among the school, the family, and the parish. Our duty is to support and help engage our students in becoming people of virtues and Christian values. We believe as a community anchored in the Catholic Faith we should work to apply Christian values to all of life's choices, challenges, and opportunities. Many aspects considered significant in the growth of Catholic character and virtue are purposefully developed at St. Barbara. We pledge to support and enhance the development of our children's faith and spiritual awareness as they learn and grow to be loving, faithful members of our community.

Catholic Education Week Theme: "Igniting Hope"

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.

May 3– May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

During Catholic Education Week we will have Liturgies and musical celebrations focused on our Faith and "Igniting Hope". During Catholic Education Week we will also be having classroom celebrations focused on Sacramental preparation and Scripture, to promote student understanding of Scripture and how it relates to everyday life. The Virtue of Acceptance and focus on the importance of Mary the Mother of Jesus will be an integral part of our Catholic Education Week and May activities and presentations.

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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.

- Adult and Youth Faith Ambassador Program
- Support of ShareLife Catholic Charities including a student presentation from Covenant House, St. Vincent de Paul, Canadian Food for Children
- Support of local Charities such as United Way of Peel, Heart and Stroke Foundation; Terry Fox Foundation;
- Social Justice, Faith leadership and Equity and Inclusive opportunities to support those in need will be utilized to promote the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations among our students
- Staff / Student Liturgies to honor Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Advent and Lent
- School community masses at St. Joseph Parish to worship together during Advent and Lent, school opening and closing, and for celebrations of sacraments and graduation. Grade 8 Graduation celebration at St. Joseph Parish, to strengthen further the Church, Home and School partnership.
- Beading Buddies Rosary's for Grade 2 and Grade 7 Sacramental preparation.
- Wells of Hope presentation for grade 8 students – secondary school social justice program

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 |
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| Sacrament of Reconciliation | (Students attend with their families) | December 17, 2019 (during the Confirmation retreat, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) |

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| Sacrament of First Holy Communion | May 9, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. | |
| Sacrament of Confirmation | | May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
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Liturgical Celebrations:

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

| Celebration | Date |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| School Opening Mass | Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 10:00 am |
| Advent Mass | Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 10:00 am |
| Lenten Mass | Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 10:00 am |
| School Closing Mass | Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 10:00 am |
| Grade 8 Graduation Mass | Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 10:00 am |
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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.

- Grade 8 student leaders organize and lead Food for Children and other food drives to support those in need.
- Three annual Food Drives for St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph Church, Cram the Cruiser Food Drive
- Me To We and ECO student leaders promote social justice focus on Water and Environmental Stewardship
- Whole school initiative to decrease our environmental footprint, through less use of photo copying, printing, decrease garbage generated, decrease hydro use by turning lights off when not in use and increase recycling.
- Family Hamper Christmas Program, St. Joseph Church

2202018-2019**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.

- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations highlighted in monthly virtue assembly
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations Principal Award highlighted in monthly virtue assembly
- Principal Award recipients receive OCSGE's medal during Graduation Ceremony

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 celebrating the virtue of the month, including student liturgies
- Students presented with the Living Our Faith Award and Principal's Award
- Virtues are celebrated and discussed through morning liturgy with students

2202018-2019**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.

- Altar/Cross/Prayer Table Cloths to represent the color of the liturgical season
- Virtue Banners
- Crucifixes and prayer tables in every classroom, and school library
- Liturgical Display in front foyer of the school, including Altar, Cross, Carving of Virtue of the Month
- Painted Portrait of St. Barbara
- Student led project of video celebrating our patron Saint Barbara for our 50th Anniversary
- Scarboro Mission Poster of Golden Rule from every faith

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](#)

2202018-2019**Resource List for Schools:****Board**

- **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 understands 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.

- [Enduring Gift Video](#)

School-Based

- **Saint Barbara: Convert and Martyr of the Early Church – DVD Film**
- **Daily Prayer for Children, Rosanna E. Golino**
- **Building a New Culture: Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment, Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**