

# PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **Our Lady of Peace Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

**OPEN DOORS:** We feel accepting warmth. We hear laughter. We see joy and awe. We recognize a secure environment. We speak prayers of welcome.

**OPEN HEARTS:** We feel a loving spirit. We hear equality in God's message. We see togetherness. We recognize unity in diversity. We speak prayers of compassion.

**OPEN MINDS:** We feel challenge. We hear the voice of all. We see the benefits of lifelong learning. We recognize creative independence. We speak prayers of community. We are "Our Lady of Peace."

**School Motto:** Let Your light shine through us.

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

**CATHOLIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** We believe that we grow in our faith as a community by living the gospel values of love, justice, compassion and service in our daily lives. We believe that we bring out the best in each other by working together to create welcoming and supportive relationships.

**PARISH-HOME-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS:** We believe that all partners in our school; staff, parish, parents, and volunteers, strive to put children first by building a community that communicates effectively and works cooperatively with one another based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic faith.

**STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:** As Pope Francis tells says, "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. We are committed to healthy and safe learning and working environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement.

**SACREDNESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT:** We believe prayer gathers us together as a community of faith and then resonates in all our activities throughout the school day. Each day prayers, virtues reflections, readings from Scripture, and inspirational sayings are part of every student's opening exercises.

**Our Parish:** St. Jerome

**Pastor:** *Rev. Jan Kolodynski*

Parish website: [www.stjeromeparish.ca](http://www.stjeromeparish.ca)

### Message from Father Jan:

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Our Lady of Peace Catholic School,

I prayerfully invoke an abundance of Divine blessings upon the staff and especially our children that they may continue to grow in knowledge, character and faith during this new school year and throughout their lives! As always remember to pray for our parish family and ask God's blessings as we build His kingdom here. Please know that I am praying for you, and I ask for your prayers for me, that together through the intercession of Our Lady, our Patroness, and united in the Holy Eucharist, we will reflect the presence of Jesus to the world.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Jan Kolodynski

### Message from the Catholic School Council:

The Our Lady of Peace Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith filled environment. The council builds opportunities to celebrate our faith with our students, families and staff with providing busing to school mass, recognizing the celebration of the new sacraments for students and participating as a partner in school wide charity work.

### Catholic Education Week Theme: Walking Forward Together

*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.*

April 30 – May 5 is Catholic Education Week.

Our Lady of Peace School Community will highlight Catholic Education Week with various activities for our students including a Talent Show. We will host Welcome to Kindergarten Night for the parents of new Junior Kindergarten students to meet the teachers and be introduced to the Full Day Kindergarten experience



## 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 Lady of Peace School has active adult faith and youth faith ambassadors who prepare and lead our school community in prayer and worship throughout the year. Lead by our youth faith ambassadors, students at Our Lady of Peace reach out to the community by supporting Share Life and United Way, St. Jerome's Parish, St. Louise Outreach and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Food and Toiletry Drives.

## Sacramental Preparation:

*As Catholic 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	Feb. 25, 2017 10:00 a.m. or 12 noon	Advent Reconciliation TBA; Lenten Reconciliation TBA
Sacrament of Communion	Spring 2017	NA
Sacrament of Confirmation	NA	Late Spring 2017

## Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	September 27, 2016
Thanksgiving Liturgy	October 7, 2016
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11, 2016
Advent Liturgy – Week 1	November 30, 2016
Advent Liturgy – Week 2	December 6, 2016
Advent Liturgy – Week 3	December 13, 2016
Advent Mass	December 20, 2016
New Beginnings Liturgy	January 17, 2016
Friendship Liturgy	February 15, 2017
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	March 1, 2017
Stations of the Cross	April 13, 2017
Crowning of Mary	May 15, 2017
Year End Mass	June 2, 2017
Graduation Ceremony & Liturgy	June 26, 2017

## 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.*

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and generosity by giving to those in need. We will continue to look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and His ministry through community service projects. Lead by our youth faith ambassadors, students at Our Lady of Peace reach out to their community by supporting The Terry Fox Walk, Cops for Cancer, The M.S. Read-a-thon, Share Life and United Way, St. Jerome's Parish, St. Louise Outreach, and by hosting Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Food and Toiletry Drives.

## 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 every classroom has been provided with the elementary school version of the expectations and encouraged to refer to them often. As a school community we completed a survey about students understanding of these expectations in relation to their daily lives and personal faith journeys. We continue to create Community building activities for our students based on these graduate expectations and our shared Catholic faith.

## 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 gather as a community of faith and recognize the virtues in the actions of our students. The virtues are rooted in the Gospel Values and emphasized in the Catholic Graduate Expectations with an emphasis on the development of the whole child. They are integrated throughout the day and across the curriculum.

These are the virtues that we recognize and promote throughout the school year:

<i>September - Faith</i>	<i>October - Empathy</i>	<i>November - Conscience</i>	<i>December - Hope</i>
<i>January - Self Control</i>	<i>February - Respect</i>	<i>March - Kindness</i>	<i>April - Love</i>
<i>May - Acceptance</i>	<i>June - Fairness</i>		

## 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.*

"In a Catholic School, everyone should be aware of the living presence of Jesus the "Master" who, today as always is with us in our journey through life as the one genuine "Teacher," the perfect Man in whom all human values find their fullest perfection." The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, 2006.

At Our Lady of Peace School visible signs of our faith are found every day and everywhere from the altar table and statue of Our Lady in the front foyer to classroom prayer tables and icons on our walls. Our Fully Alive and Religion programs make our catholic faith come alive in the classroom as students make real life connections to their religious instruction.

## 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](#)

## 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's understanding 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**

- **Adaptive Reconciliation Kit (grade 2)**
- **Adaptive First Eucharist Kit (grade 2)**
- **Adaptive Confirmation Kit (grade 7-8)**
- **Adaptive Program – Finding God Kit (kindergarten)**
- **Religion Textbook and Teacher’s Resource : Born In The Spirit ( grade 1-8)**
- **Family Life Textbook and Teacher’s Resource: Fully Alive (grade 1-8)**
- **Bibles**