

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Separate School**

School Mission Statement:

We believe that by providing children meaningful opportunities to develop their faith and increase their knowledge of Christ, they will continue to grow as learners and builders of Christian communities. We believe that through a cooperative partnership among the school, family and the church, every learner will be provided with the opportunity to become a valued and contributing member of society. We believe that it is only by involving and fostering an appreciation for their learning that the children who are entrusted to our care will become lifelong learners. We believe that we must foster an atmosphere of mutual respect in order to help children grow in self-esteem and self-confidence. We believe that a supportive, nurturing Catholic environment will help each child grow into a positive role model for other members of the community.

School Motto: *Faith in God and Service to Others*

Our Parish: St. Anthony of Padua

Pastor: *Rev. Joseph Pham*

Parish website: www.stanthonyofpadua.ca

Message from the Pastor:

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is truly a privilege to serve as the Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church for the past 8 years. As we begin this new school year, I pray that you will join me in thanking God for the gift of education. Please join me in praying and showing our gratitude to God for our dedicated and hard-working group of teachers who will not only teach but minister to your children in their education. The start of a new

school year is always a special time filled with much excitement as we begin to travel the road ahead. There is so much to learn and experience that we much thank God for these many blessings of growth and discovery. It is my prayer that God may watch over our students, parents, teachers and administrators and grant us all the grace of wisdom and understanding, patience and abundant charity throughout this new school year.

Pope Francis, in his message for the relaunching of the Global Compact on Education, sponsored by the Congregation for Catholic Education, highlights the role of education as one that becomes a creator of fraternity, peace and justice. He Prays and hopes that we may be sustained by the conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope of peace and justice, the hope of beauty and goodness, the hope of social harmony.

I invite you to return to St. Anthony of Padua church for Sunday worship. Here at our parish community of St. Anthony of Padua, we believe that the Lord is always present among us. Jesus gathers us as a family every Sunday so we can be fed by His Word and Eucharist. Indeed, the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” We gather to be nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist so that we can be living examples of Jesus to our brothers and sisters. At St. Anthony of Padua Church, we encourage our families to attend Mass on Sunday. Our weekend Masses are Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:15, 9:30, 11:00am and 12:30pm. Besides coming to Mass on Sunday, I also encourage your family to spend a few minutes daily praying together. When the family prays together, it brings them closer to each other and to God. Invite the Lord to come into your family and place in His hands your joys and sorrows. As parents, you are called to be examples of faith to your children.

Together we can make a difference with the help of God. Please keep me in your prayers, and may God bless you and your family always.

With trust in God’s providential care, I will keep you daily in my prayers.

Fr. Joseph Pham
Pastor – St. Anthony of Padua Church

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School Council supports our community in developing and strengthening our faith. Our council supports various faith activities throughout the year including but not limited to, when possible, subsidizing school trips for students, funding Advent and Lenten Retreats, the Forest of Reading Book Program, Grade 8 Graduation and Shrove Tuesday Breakfast. We are committed to collaborating with our school in developing a faith filled student body.

Catholic Education Week Theme: We Are Many, We Are One

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.

Sunday May 5th – May 10th 2024 is Catholic Education Week.

<i>Monday:</i>	As people of hope / Dans l'espérance
<i>Tuesday:</i>	As people of faith / Dans la foi
<i>Wednesday:</i>	As people of mercy / Avec compassion
<i>Thursday:</i>	As people of justice / Dans la justice
<i>Friday:</i>	As people of joy / Dans la joie

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.

At St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, we have a strong sense of faith and community. We recognize that Faith formation is a process of journeying into a deeper relationship with Jesus. We also recognize that school may be the only place some of our students experience the celebration of our Faith, and as such, we are committed to educating the whole child in partnership with our local parish and families. Throughout the 2023 - 2024 school year we continue to live out our call to be disciples of Christ by empowering our youth to embrace a Catholic worldview through the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. As a school, we will provide the following opportunities for Faith formation and development:

- *Liturgies to foster faith formation among staff*
- *Liturgies and Masses*
- *Monthly recognition of Virtues*
- *Promotion of the sacramental programs offered at the Parish*
- *Support for the Sacramental Preparation for Grade 2 and Grade 7 students*
- *Incorporating prayer throughout the school day*
- *Daily Religious/Family Life instruction*
- *Living our faith throughout daily interactions and the modelling of Gospel Values*
- *Respect for self, others and the learning environment*
- *Physical representations of our Faith throughout the school*
- *Social Justice Programs*

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.

Grade 2	Grade 7
First Holy Communion – May 2024 (Date TBD)	Confirmation April 22, 2024

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving Liturgy	Oct 10
Remembrance Day	Nov 11
Advent Mass	Dec 13
SMB Feast Day Liturgy	Jan 12
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14
Lenten Mass	March 19
Stations of the Cross Liturgy	March 26
Catholic Education Week Liturgy	May 8
Marian Celebration	May 23
End of Year Mass	June 4

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 through various fundraisers throughout the school year that involve all members of the school community. Through these fundraisers, we demonstrate our commitment to helping those less fortunate. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors have participated in initiatives such as a Halloween Candy Drive for Dr. Simone and seasonal food 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 celebrate OCSGE, we as a school community provide opportunities throughout the school day and school year for students to become successful Ontario Catholic School Graduates and stewards of our Faith. Every day at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, we begin with our National Anthem, Prayers central to our Faith (i.e Our Father and Hail Mary), and a Land Acknowledgement. Students in FDK through to Grade 8 come to understand the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through their work in My Blue Print, through the Religious Education and Family Life program and as our Gospel Values are interwoven throughout the curriculum.

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.

Through teacher modeling of our Catholic faith and the virtues program, each child develops spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. Virtues education is celebrated during morning announcements, classroom activities and at monthly liturgies when we gather in prayer.

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.

Our school has many signs to display and witness our faith including a cross in each classroom and an interactive Sacred Space. Our school altar is a prominent focus in our front foyer of the school as well as a portrait of our Patron St. Marguerite Bourgeoys and Pope Francis. Each class has a set of rosary's so that students can participate in praying the Rosary together. We also have "Our Story. Our Tradition. Our Journey" on display, open to the history of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys school, available for the community to learn about the history of all Catholic Schools in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Prayers are displayed in classrooms and throughout the school.

We also actively raise funds and support ShareLife, a Catholic Charity and collect food and hygiene items for local Catholic Charities.

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 "Laudato Si'" - [Laudato Si'](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)

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

- Auditing Our Catholic Schools by John Bradley Kostoff
- Daily Children's Prayer Book By Margaret Burk and Vivian E. Williams
- Words for the Journey for Kids Ten- Minute Prayer Services for Schools by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller
- Words for the Journey for Teens Ten-Minute Prayer Services for Schools by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller
- Words for the Journey Ten-Minute Prayer Services for Teachers and Administrators by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller
- Catholic Meditation for Children