



PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Ursula Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

The mission of the St. Ursula school community is to ensure that home, Church, and school are collaborative partners in the building of an environment that reflects Catholic faith and values by celebrating each person as a member of the Body of Christ and by challenging all to achieve excellence.

School Motto: *Where Wisdom Begins In Faith And Wonder*

Our Parish: St. Anne

Pastor: **Rev. Joel Pabilona Jr.**

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

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents and Families,

The school year 2023-2024 is being met with great optimism as the schools of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board opened their doors once again. St. Anne's Parish will resume to serve all the seven Catholic Schools under its pastoral care open to new and creative ways as deemed necessary.

This year, all the usual liturgical and pastoral activities are in place:

- School Masses
- School Confessions
- Sacramental Preparations
- School Visitations

There is an urgent need for school visitations most importantly to make surveys on whether everyone has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Holy Confirmation) accordingly. I enjoin the parents to make sure that their children are taken care of in this regard, especially those preparing their children for the Sacraments of Initiation,

I also urge everyone to keep in mind the significance of their promise at the baptism of their children to bring them up in the practice of the faith that is to love God and love others as God loves us. Incidentally, the theme of this school year coming from DPCDSB is "the call to love".

May the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons bring us hope, peace, and joy! My prayers and best wishes to the families.

God's continued blessings upon you all!



Fr. Joel B. Pabilona, Jr.

Pastor

Message from the Catholic School Council:

St. Ursula Catholic School Council Committee is comprised of parent/guardian volunteers and school representatives who believe that faith and learning go hand in hand. We endeavor, as a council, to encourage the parents/guardians and students to strengthen their bonds between home, school, and church. The goal is to see our school community have the faith and courage to step up to help those in need. To perform selfless tasks to promote volunteerism, understanding and acceptance. Working together as a team, we can support and strengthen each other, as well as affirm our faith.

Catholic Education Week – May 5-10, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One
L'éducation catholique: À plusieurs, nous sommes un

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.

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

«Nous qui sommes plusieurs, nous sommes un seul corps dans le Christ, et membres les uns des autres.» (Romains 12, 5)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

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

This year, during Catholic Education Week, St. Ursula Catholic School will showcase the precious gift of Catholic Education through several activities which will include:

- School-wide liturgical celebration based on the theme: We are many, we are one.
- Class/grade level liturgies around the daily them
- Welcome to Kindergarten Night

Additional activities will be communicated with the community closer to CEW 2024.

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 Faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Adult faith ambassadors lead staff in liturgies throughout the year
- Weekly staff liturgies during the seasons of Advent and Lent
- Invitations to the parent community to join in school liturgical celebrations

Student faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Youth Faith Ambassador Program which supports and facilitates a wide variety of faith-based activities throughout the school
- Daily, school-wide prayer
- Celebration of the monthly virtues and OCSGE through student-led liturgies
- Student-led liturgies to celebrate relevant feast days and seasons of the liturgical calendar (i.e., Advent, Lent)
- Student-led presentations and school-wide announcements, teaching students of all ages about important aspects of our Faith (i.e., the liturgical calendar, virtues, saints, tenets of our faith, Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, stewardship)
- Student-led class liturgies in the school Chapel
- School staff work in collaboration with the St. Ursula Parish pastoral team in faith formation and preparation for sacraments
- Consistent modelling of Gospel-values and faith practice
- Intentional and explicit inclusion of a distinctive Catholic worldview across all subject areas

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	TBD	
Sacrament of Confirmation		TBD
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	TBD	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass	October 3, 2023
Advent Mass	December 12, 2023
Lenten Mass	March 19, 2024
Confession	March 20, 2024
Stations of the Cross	March 28, 2024
Year End Mass	June 7, 2024
Crowning of Mary	TBD

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 Catholic school, we respond to the needs of the larger Community through outreach programs which include:

- Share Life Activities by staff and students (Spirit weeks, Dances etc.)
- Terry Fox Walk
- Eco Team Initiatives
- Food Drives • Christmas mitten/hat drive and Christmas Gift Donations to support local families
- Community Invitations to school masses, liturgies, and virtues assemblies
- Faith building opportunities - Retreat Days, School wide monthly liturgies, monthly Virtue assemblies, Prayers in our school, chapel room, outreach initiatives (Toy Mountain and Operation Christmas Child
- School wide visits with members of the Rosary Apostolate
- St. Ursula promotes St. Anne's Church Youth Program

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.

At St. Ursula School, the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are integrated in the teaching and learning in all our classrooms, from kindergarten to Grade 8, as Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Our instructional practices reflect the knowledge, skills and mindsets embodied in these expectations, and we recognize the importance of the development of the whole child in terms of values, attitudes, and actions. We strive to fulfill our Vision & Mission by working together with all stakeholders to providing our students with the knowledge and wisdom required to meet the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.

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 recognize our Catholic virtues during morning prayers and monthly student led virtue assemblies. Classroom teachers incorporate direct teaching of the virtues throughout their program. Students who demonstrated and modeled the virtue of the month are recognized and presented an award during monthly virtue celebrations.

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 call to discipleship and service are evident throughout St. Ursula School. Each classroom has a clearly identifiable Sacred Space in a prominent place which can serve as a focus for classroom prayer and reflection. The seasons of the liturgical year are represented in these

sacred spaces. As visitors are welcomed to St. Ursula the Catholic identity of our community is evident immediately upon entry through the altar and sacred space present in the foyer of the building. We have several murals throughout the school building representative of our beliefs and Catholic faith. As well, the St. Ursula prayer room is a sacred space where students and staff are invited to gather for the purposes of liturgies, reflections, and quiet prayer. Staff and students answer the call to service in many ways as well, including the collection of donations of food, money, clothing, and personal needs items, for various campaigns throughout the year (i.e., Food Drives, Collections for Dr. Simone, Christmas outreach projects, and ShareLife). These visible reminders, and opportunities to serve others, help us to focus our learning and interactions on the key tenets of our shared faith, and to ensure that our Catholic faith is lived out daily at St. Ursula School.

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 2021 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 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 2021 – [Catholic Education Week 2022](#)
- Synod on Synodality – [Synod 2021 - 2023](#)

Signature Page:

Pastor: Rev. Joel Pabilona Jr.

Faith Ambassador: T. Sirizzotti/ I. Saliba

Chair of Catholic School Council: C. Calabrese

Principal: J. Daly

Superintendent: Tammy-Lynne Peel