

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: St. John Henry Newman

School Mission Statement:

The Catholic tradition is rooted in the Word of God. All members of the St. John Henry Newman Catholic School community are considered within the context of Gospel values in fostering personal, social, intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth to its fullest potential. As a Catholic school community, we are committed to preparing children to develop in a framework of Catholicity, knowledge and values that benefit society.

School Motto: Where Heart Speaks to Heart

Our Parish: St. John Fisher

Pastor: *Rev. Regulo Imperial*

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

Message from the Pastor:

Click here to enter text. 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:

The Catholic School Council Committee for St. John Henry Newman is comprised of parents who firmly believe in leading by example, driven by our faith. Our goal as a council is to encourage parents and students in our school community and in our neighborhoods to have the courage to step out and step up and help those in need, to perform selfless simple tasks that promote volunteerism, understanding and acceptance. Together as a team, we are not only able to support and strengthen each other, but also affirm our faith. In working together, we promote the School Board's goal to increase parent and parish school engagement.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Called to Love

L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer

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.

"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12

Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)

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**

St. John Henry Newman Youth Faith Ambassadors will hold Liturgies in Chapel. Classroom activities will be planned that connect to the five subthemes of Catholic Education Week. These activities will offer opportunities to develop the whole child within the community, i.e., spiritually, artistically, and kinesthetically. Journey into Learning Event will take place during Catholic Education Week. St. John Henry Newman Catholic School will participate in the Catholic Education Week Mass.

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.

St. John Henry Newman Catholic School 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. In addition, St. John Henry Newman Catholic School Council has a Parish Representative. Ongoing and effective communication between the home, school and parish is essential for supporting our students' faith formation and creating successful learning experiences. Parents are welcome to attend school liturgies, sacramental preparations, and to support our efforts in creating a strong sense of stewardship among our students by supporting school outreach projects and community charities.

St. John Fisher Parish recognizes how the School and Parish serve the family and the "Domestic Church". In a sense the Family and the School are rooted in the soil we call "Parish". St. John Henry Newman Catholic School supports the faith formation of students and staff within St. John Henry Newman Catholic School Community through liturgy, prayer, and the Sacraments. St. John Henry Newman Catholic School supports the work of evangelization in the parish through promotion of parish wide Youth Ministries.

Faith formation is a process of journeying into a deeper relationship with Jesus. The initial primary points of reference are our own lives and the Bible. At St. John Henry Newman, staff

members work collaboratively to create various opportunities for spiritual reflection for our students in their classrooms, through liturgies, shared stories, as well as during Religion and Family Life curriculum. Faith Formation is ongoing in all we do. Collectively, we pray before lunch, perform daily Christian Meditation, pray at school liturgies, school masses as well as school wide faith-based Retreats. Clubs such as Youth Faith Ambassadors, Eco Club, Heart Hero's, Heart Buddies, Bus Patrollers, give our students the opportunity to build on their faith in a variety of ways.

Staff deepen their faith formation as Adult Faith Ambassadors. They provide both staff and school community support for spiritual development and Gospel Action. They are part of the larger Dufferin-Peel community of Adult Faith Ambassadors who gather throughout the year in reflective retreats, and liturgies to celebrate and promote our Catholic virtues and gospel teaching. These leaders continue to encourage each other and support others in order to prepare celebrations, plan masses, provide opportunities for student and staff prayer and to organize community outreach activities such as prayer lines for sick or ill staff and students, prayer circles, share life lunches and fundraising efforts. St. John Henry Newman staff promote a culture of high expectations and a positive school climate that supports well-being and uphold the principals of equity and human rights with our Teacher Mentor and Heart Projects and time spent knowing our learners personal home life and situations.

St. John Henry Newman creates faith formation connections for wellbeing, learning and leading in a positive climate as demonstrated in our various virtue initiatives as well as creating a healthy social space that includes but is not limited to student voice where all learners feel safe, involved and supported. St. John Henry Newman staff are making a continuous effort to connect and know our learners. Tracking attendance and mental health is taken seriously. St. John Henry Newman promotes a safe school environment, as well as promoting coping strategies, to reduce negative effects.

At St. John Henry school we recognize parents are integral in the development of their child's faith. In addition, we have monthly visits from the Rosary Apostolates. Faith formation at St. John Henry Newman includes well-being, learning and leading of our students. During the season of Advent, we hold an Advent school-wide retreat and a Living Nativity to model and demonstrate our deep-rooted faith commitment. During Lent, we hold the Stations of the Cross presentation for parents and a Lenten school wide retreat supported by our Heart Buddies and Youth Faith Ambassadors. Promote successful partnerships through Pastoral Planning.

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 First Holy Communion	Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5	
Preparation Sessions for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5	
Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony		Enrolment Dec. 4 & 5
Sacrament of Confirmation		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 School September Mass Feast of St. John Henry Newman	October 10, 2023 In school gym 10:30 am
All Saints/ All Souls Day Liturgy	November 1, 2023 Liturgy over the PA system
Advent Mass	December 15, 2023 In school gym 10:30 am
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14, 2024 In school gym 10:00 am
Stations of the Cross	March 28, 2024 In school gym 3:00 pm
Catholic Education Week	May 1, 2024

	Mass at the Parish 10:30 am
Graduation Liturgy	June 25, 2024 10:30 am In school gym

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.

St. John Henry Newman students, staff and parents actively support Catholic charities and needy families in our community and/or in our global community. Our focus for school-wide improvement in our Catholic Teachings of the Church root our actions in supporting each other and those less fortunate. St. John Henry Newman Staff and students given the opportunity to learn and support the human dignity of each person and serve the most vulnerable in our society. Below are some examples of the activities that promote our vision of a caring and compassionate Catholic community:

- * Youth Faith Ambassadors Program
- * Heart Buddies
- * St. John Henry Newman Teacher Mentor Program
- * Project Christmas Baskets
- * Adult Faith Ambassadors Program
- * St. John Henry Newman Hope Boxes
- * Rosary Apostolate monthly school visits
- * P.A.L.S. and Heart Buddies supporting mental health for play and character through our school CYW and Peel Nurse
- * Social Work Support with Mindfulness activities in the classroom for mental wellness
- * Stewardship through recycling programs & Green Eco Projects
- * Heart Project service projects
- * Inclusion Day students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of workshops celebrating our differences and demonstrating the importance of being inclusive
- * National Day of Truth and Reconciliation “Orange Shirt Day” Orange Shirt Day recognizing and fostering the spirit of reconciliation
- * Purple Day and RETT Syndrome awareness and inclusion
- * Special Olympics inclusive education and awareness
- * Fundraising and outreach for staff and student families

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....

St. John Henry Newman is on creating Catholic Conditions for well-being and a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic Schools Graduate Expectations. At St. John Henry Newman, we model and support the Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations. Students work towards becoming effective, reflective, self- directed collaborative caring and responsible children. We model, teach and imbed these qualities in all we do at school. The Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations are present in student's agendas, on display in the front foyer and on the school website. Staff were provided the OCSGE in student friendly language to support student development in the classroom. We are mindful at Holy Family; we are working towards effective instruction that respectfully challenges all learners, within a caring community, to take risks, to experience success and to achieve the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Discerning Believers:

- Place our faith at the center of all learning.
- Have implemented Safe Schools Policies, Bullying Prevention and Character Building & Leadership Programs: Student CCCC group to support Anti-bullying, self-regulation, and conflict resolution.
- Have a Friendship Group to support student well-being.
- Have students led Faith Activities?

Lifelong Learners and Reflective Thinkers:

- Have shared activities to know the individual learner to support academic growth, well-being and faith formation.
- Engage in staff professional development and planning to integrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in the teaching of curriculum, student profile meetings, faith formation and student well-being: to have a School Wide Learning Goal for Improvement, to meet the board goal to increase the proportion of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in literacy and numeracy.
- Establish safe, faith-filled, and equitable classrooms that support student learning and well-being.
- Support transitions among students based on individual needs, particularly attending to students with exceptional learning needs.

Responsible Citizens and Caring Family Members:

- Work to increase the board goal to increase student engagement (i.e., academic, social, and intellectual) and reduce bullying and aggressive behaviors, among all students.
- Have a student nutrition program, led by staff.
- Student committee, Heart to Heart Crew, to mentor younger students with morning messages regarding anti-bullying, self-regulation, and conflict resolution

- Student committee, Unity Club, to promote equity and student voice with morning messages highlighting different trailblazers.
- A school eco-team who supports student understanding of the sacredness of life and the environment
- Education with students to promote student awareness and development of Catholic digital citizenship.

Collaborative Contributors and Effective Communicators:

- Have student led programs, supported by staff: Intermediate Leadership Team, Youth Faith Ambassadors, PALS leaders.
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in activities that support student voice, leadership, service, and well-being

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.

The month-at-a-time format of our Virtues program provides vocabulary and milestones for a continuous school-wide conversation about how we can creatively maintain and strengthen a safe school community that reflects the values and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Virtues are shared monthly in our school newsletter, on our school twitter feed, over daily announcements in our student agendas as well as posted on our website and our school monthly Virtual Virtue Assemblies. Classroom teachers display the virtues on their prayer tables that are reflective of the liturgical season. In addition, we recognize students once a month with a virtue dog tag at each Virtual Virtue Assembly. Staff recognize, monthly, those students who demonstrate Virtues in Action.

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.

The front foyer and main office of the school welcome students and staff. We have visual reminders of our common heritage and the liturgical seasons. The St. John Henry Newman artwork in the front foyer and crucifix dominate the main entrance of the school. Crucifix of the Risen Lord, bible, and prayer tables with liturgical cloths, classroom rosary and bulletin boards are on display for students, visitors and staff as visual reminders of our Catholic beliefs, faith and traditions. Students' artistic endeavors are reflective of the Liturgical seasons and highlighted in the classrooms and throughout the school.

This year, classes can access our school's chapel and outdoor Sacred Space, where classes can go and celebrate liturgies. St. John Henry Newman has a Peace Garden at the front of the school. There is a statue of Mother Mary and garden rocks for students to sit as a class, pray the rosary, and share in a liturgy. Staff sign up for outdoor education blocks to use this space.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **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 2024** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan** - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- **Renewing the Promise** – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- **Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"** - [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2024** – [Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- **Synod on Synodality** – [Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

School-Based

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