

# PASTORAL PLAN

School: **Our Lady of Good Voyage**

## School Mission Statement:

Our Lady of Good Voyage is a community of learners where parents, teachers, and students demonstrate respect for the dignity of each other. We encourage the growth of individual learners to reach their full potential. We will strive to promote an environment that fosters our children's development in Catholic values, social skills, physical health and lifelong learning. As a community dedicated to service and compassion, we are rooted in the teachings and love of Christ.

School Motto: Let your light shine so that everyone can see God's good works!

Our Parish: St. Joseph

Pastor: **Rev. Paul Dobson**

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

## Message from the Pastor:

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

God bless you and enjoy the year before us.

Fr. Paul Dobson

### **Message from the Catholic School Council:**

As a Catholic School Council, we always seek to strengthen the bonds among school, home and church. We keep the children's spiritual, emotional and academic education at the center of all we do. In the past, we have accomplished these goals through community events such as Open House, Advent Mass socials, and Christmas concerts. The OLGV Catholic School Council remains committed to the well-being and success of the school community. Our fundraising efforts continue to provide students with many tools and experiences to enrich their learning. Finally, Council provides each student with a special gift to celebrate the Sacraments and their Graduation.

## Catholic Education Week Theme: **We are Called To Love/ 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.*

May 5 – May 10, 2024 is Catholic Education Week.

Our spiritual quote for Catholic Education Week 2024 is:

*"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)*

### **Sub-Themes for Catholic Education Week**

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week are:

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

**Monday: Let Our Light Shine for All to See School Presentation and Crowning of Mary (As People of Hope)**

**Tuesday: Gratitude Graffiti Wall (As People of Faith)**

**Wednesday: Forgiveness Christian Meditation (As People of Mercy)**

**Thursday: Plant seeds in OLGV Peace Garden (As People of Justice)**

**Friday: Say Something Positive (People of Joy)**

**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 through:**

- Staff liturgies in our Chapel
- Daily Prayers and Scripture read during morning announcements & within the classroom
- School visits by Fr. Paul Dobson and Fr. Anish, Megan and/or Zahra
- Virtues and Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation in-class assemblies throughout the year
- School Masses for Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, End-of-Year

**Youth Faith formation is supported largely through our Youth Ambassador Program, in the following ways:**

- Confirmation for Grade 7 students
- Graduation Mass for Grade 8s
- School Liturgies for Remembrance Day, Ash Wednesday, organized and led by students
- Student-led liturgies to celebrate relevant feast days, virtues, OCSGE, and periods in the liturgical calendar (i.e. Advent, Lent), in all classrooms
- Every classroom has a prayer table and is updated to reflect the liturgical calendar
- Christian Meditation and Rosary Apostolates
- Food Drives (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent)
- Social Justice activities through the Advent and Lenten Classroom challenge

**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	Thursday, April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 5-8 pm at St. Joe's Parish	
First Holy Communion Ceremony	Sunday, May 26, 2024 2 pm	
Confirmation Ceremony		Thursday, May 16, 2024 7:30pm

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
Teaching Mass	Thurs. Sept. 28, 2023 10am
Remembrance Day Liturgy	Friday, November 10, 2023 10:50am
Advent Mass	Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10am
Holy Thursday: Stations of the Cross	Thursday, March 28, 2024 1pm
Easter Mass	Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10am
Year End Mass & Graduate Blessing	Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10am (@St. Joe's)

### **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 Lady of Good Voyage Catholic Elementary School community participates in...**

**Terry Fox Marathon of Hope**

**Thanksgiving Food Drive to support St. Vincent de Paul**

**Christmas Drive to support local parish and community agencies**

**Advent/Lenten Classroom Challenge – doing a variety of charitable activities as a class**

**Kindness Initiative to combat bullying all year**

**Anti-Bullying Awareness announcements and activities Spirit Week (November)**

**ShareLife pretzels for Lent**

### **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 share the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations with our students in student-friendly language. Many teachers discuss the expectations and create a visual chart explaining how they sound like and look like.**

## **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.*

**Christian virtues are celebrated and emphasized throughout our school community through explanatory and prayerful announcements and during in-class lessons and celebrations which honor and integrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.**

**Symbols representative of the virtues are on the sacred table in our front foyer, and change monthly. Our Virtue Ambassadors are proud role models of each virtue and our YFA exemplify that all of the students' words and actions are aligned with our Catholic virtues.**

**This year, we will recognize two students from each class who exemplify the virtues being highlighted for the month. We will recognize them at an assembly and the students will receive metals to celebrate and acknowledge them.**

## **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.*

**An altar featuring relevant symbols of our Faith, is present at the entrance of our school building.**

**A sacred virtuous space and an OCSGE thematic display case (created by our OLGV students) are present in the front foyer of the school.**

**A prayer center can be found in every classroom, on which a cross, Bible and candle can be found along with other relevant symbols of our Faith. This prayer center reflects the liturgical calendar.**

We are blessed to have a Chapel or Prayer Room, where we gather as a faith community to celebrate liturgies and learn about Scripture teachings. We will also be using this space to practice Christian Meditation, to pray and to reflect.

The hallways of our school are adorned with Faith based initiatives promoted by the YFA and Shark Pack of OLGV. (i.e. Kindness Virtue Wall, Say Something Bulletin Board, the Many Faces of God Bulletin Board...).

A peace garden was created for students to enjoy at recess and classes to gather and assemble in Faith.

Staff and students come together to donate food, and gift cards for various drives throughout the year (i.e. Thanksgiving Food Drive, Angels on the Tree...).

### **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](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2024 - <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/we-are-called-to-love/>

### **Resource List for Schools:**

#### **Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’” - [Laudato Si’](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Truth and Reconciliation - [Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2024 - <https://www.dpcdsb.org/catholic-community/catholic-education-week>



**Signature Page**

**Pastor: Fr. Paul Dobson**

*Fr. Paul Dobson*

**Faith Ambassador(s): Diana Mucio**

*Diana Mucio*

**Teacher(s): Diana Mucio, Jenna Brandner and Alex Swierczynski**

*Diana Mucio*  
*Jenna Brandner*  
*Alex Swierczynski*

**Chair of Catholic School Council: John Lewis**

*John Lewis*

**Vice Principal(s) N/A**

**Principal K Karen MacDonald**

*Karen MacDonald*

**Superintendent: Silvana Gos**

*Silvana Gos*