

# PASTORAL PLAN



**School Name:** **St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Elementary School**

## School Mission Statement:

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Elementary School strives to assist each and every one of our school community members to grow in wisdom, caring and courage. We endeavor, as did our patron saint, to help all become strong and gentle messengers of God's love. It is our objective to work in partnership with our parents, guardians and parish in the formation of children so that our students may portray Jesus' life and become contributing members of their families, community and the Catholic Church. As a staff we are committed in providing a sound, quality Catholic education in a genuine caring environment where each child may grow and flourish to their full potential.

**School Motto:** *Wiser—Braver—Kinder*

**Our Parish:** St. Francis of Assisi

**Pastor:** *Rev. Damian Ali*

**Parish website:** <https://stfrancisofassisi.archtoronto.org/>

## Message from the Pastor:

Our Catholic Faith is a personal response to the God who loved us first. Everything we do as Catholics should reflect our belief in the Father who created us, the Son who redeemed us and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. We are blessed to have a school system in Ontario that is privileged to call itself Catholic. The parish, home and school collaborate every year to provide students with a well-rounded Catholic education. With the help of a dedicated and hard-working parish staff and a supportive base of parishioners, I am blessed with the opportunity to prepare young people to celebrate the sacraments. I also work with teachers and administrators to coordinate school Masses, classroom visits, and other occasions to interact with students and their families. May God continue to imbue our school community with His gift of wisdom as we grow together in faith, hope and love!

Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Church

## Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Margaret of Scotland School Council is an integral part of our school and parish community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents and guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith-filled environment. We welcome all parents and guardians to participate in council meetings, for it is through active participation that our students' lives are further enriched and supported on their journey to fully realizing the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

### ***Catholic Education Week – May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

#### ***Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance***

*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.*

The quote for Catholic Education Week 2025 is:

***"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."***  
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

***"Nous devons garder allumée la flamme de l'espérance qui nous a été donnée."***  
(Lettre sur le Jubilé de l'espérance; 11 février 2022)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2025 are:

Monday: **By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine**

Tuesday: **By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création**

Wednesday: **By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés**

Thursday: **By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité**

Friday: **By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix**

At St. Margaret of Scotland, we will begin our Catholic Education Week with an opening liturgy. We will also have our Crowning of Mary Liturgy with the assistance of the Rosary of the Apostolates. Throughout the week there will be a celebration of learning where students will demonstrate their learning at St. Margaret of Scotland with a focus on our CEW theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

## 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.*

*School activities that support both adult and student faith formation:*

- Integration of the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations into the curriculum and school activities with a focus on Digital Citizenship
- Social Outreach (e.g., Terry Fox Fundraiser, Geronimo's Dream Fundraiser, Halloween Candy Collection for Dr. Simone, Christmas Spirit Family Support, ShareLife, Local Food Banks etc.)
- Celebrate liturgical events and Mass with the community
- Student-led morning prayers
- Staff gatherings for liturgies during Advent and Lent
- Sacred Space in each classroom and throughout the school in common areas
- Daily Religion and Family Life instruction in each classroom
- Adult and Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Monthly Virtues display and assemblies
- Eco initiatives
- Leadership opportunities for Intermediate Students
- Intermediate student day retreats
- Daily/Seasonal Prayer to begin meetings and gatherings
- Planning with the parish for masses, sacraments, reconciliation, liturgies, retreats
- Visits from Rosary Apostolates (monthly)
- Crowning of Mary Celebration
- Supporting SHARELIFE

## 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	Tuesday, November 21 and 23, 2024 at 6:30pm	
Confession for Confirmandi		Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00pm
First Holy Communion	Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 4:00pm	
Confirmation		Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 4:00pm

## Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Welcome Mass	Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 12:30pm
Advent Mass	Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 12:30pm
Lenten Confessions	Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 9:15-11:10am grades 3&5, 12:30-2:15pm grades 8
Easter Mass	Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 12:30pm
Year End Mass	Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 12:30pm
Graduation Liturgy	Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 6:30pm at Loyola Secondary School

## 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.*

Social justice is an integral part of the Church teachings. Social justice calls us to work with one another to help and care for all living things in our world.

*Our school participates in various outreach activities and supports organizations including but not limited to:*

- The Terry Fox Foundation
- Geronimo's Dream Fundraiser
- Food Drives during Advent and Lent
- Halloween Candy Drive for Dr. Simone's CFFC
- Remembrance Day poppies
- Christmas Spirit Family Support, Christmas Outreach to Parish families in need
- ShareLife is supported throughout the school year by a variety of activities such as dress down Friday for staff and school spirit weeks for students.
- Anti-Bullying Awareness
- Mindfulness Activities
- PALS playground program
- Our Eco School team is fundamental to all that we do in looking after and sustaining our environment here at St. Margaret of Scotland School and within our community.

## 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. Margaret of Scotland students are expected to be:

- **A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living.
- **An effective communicator** who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.
- **A reflective, creative, and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.
- **A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner** who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.
- **A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
- **A caring family member** who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
- **A responsible citizen** who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life.

At St. Margaret of Scotland, we conduct OCSGE and Virtue assemblies that recognize those students who model and strive to emulate the virtues and the OCSGEs.

## 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 Virtues program is an integral component of our Catholic school. Classroom teachers regularly implement the program through integration with daily curriculum and learning opportunities. School staff infuse the virtues when assisting students to problem-solve and learn how to better foster relationships with peers. Classes prepare monthly liturgies/presentations on the Virtue of the Month. Parents/Guardians and family members are invited to celebrate the Virtue of the month as recipients from each class receive recognition for demonstrating the Virtue of the month.

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

## 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.*

Symbols of our faith are visible in each classroom and throughout the school. Liturgical cloths, Crosses and bibles in front hall, sacred spaces in each classroom, Advent wreaths, candles and books that speak to our Catholic faith are evident, especially during our masses, liturgies, and celebrations.

The display case and entrance to the school welcomes all who enter through our doors and gives a strong message to our visitors that St. Margaret of Scotland School is a Catholic School in word, deed, and action. Staff and students are committed to Catholic Education and living out our Faith daily through prayer, reflections, and good acts of charity.

Each class is involved in daily prayers over the public address system. Readings are taken from a variety of sources: Children's Daily Prayer, and resources from Lenten and Advent Handbooks. Children also create their own prayers and thoughts for the day to share with the school community as appropriate.

Prayers before lunch and before dismissal, individual class prayers in morning and afternoon as well as the Rosary are prayed on a regular basis. Prayers specifically during Bullying Awareness Week and Black History Month are also a part of our school day.

Individual teachers use prayer in other ways during the school day as appropriate. Students are encouraged to pray for others as various events unfold in the school, local and world community throughout the school year.

## **Resource List for Parents/Guardians:**

- **General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar** - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- **Religious Education Curriculum** - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- **New Family Life Curriculum 2023** - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum 2023](#)
- **New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources** – [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- **Fully Alive Program information** - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- **Encyclical Letters** : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **Catholic Education Week 2025** – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)
- **Jubilee Year 2025** – [Pilgrims of Hope](#)

## **Resource List for Schools:**

### **Board**

- General Roman 2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar - [2024-2025 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)
- Renewing the Promise – [A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letters](#) : 'Laudato Si', 'Laudato Deum' and 'Christus vivit'
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2025 – [Catholic Education Week 2025](#)

### **School-Based**

- Religious Education Program
- Family Life Program
- Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Catholic Education Week Package
- Library materials that are gathered to support virtues, units of study, Catholic Education Week themes, and so forth.

**Signature Page**

**Pastor: Father Damian Ali**

**Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*): *Maria Dimperio***

**Teacher(s):**

**Chair of Catholic School Council: Michael Hickey and Deidra Wong**

**Vice Principal(s): Colleen Klein**

**Principal: Kelly Ann Marsi**

**Superintendent: Drago Radic**