

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Matthew Catholic School**

School Mission Statement:

The mission statement of St. Matthew School is to develop a partnership of students, parents, staff and the Church that provides quality education and fosters Christian values in a Catholic environment. We believe all children can learn. Through on-going hard work, effort and high expectations, students can be successful in developing self-worth and the skills to become contributing members of society.

School Motto: Be the Difference, Live the Difference.

Our Parish: Cristo Rei

Pastor: **Rev. Carlos Macatangga, SVD**

Parish website: **www.cristo-rei.com**

Message from the Pastor:

St. Matthew School is under the pastoral care of Cristo Rei Parish. We encourage our families to register with the parish, and to join us for mass. Our Sunday schedule is as follows:

9:00 am - Portuguese

11:00 am - English

1:00 pm - Bilingual (Portuguese & English)

5:30 pm - English

This year we are preparing to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our parish. The theme of our celebration is: Love and Serve as JOYFUL MISSIONARY DISCIPLES of CHRIST THE KING!

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Matthew Catholic School Council 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.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope

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 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2020 are as follows:

Monday: **Our Hope in Christ**

Tuesday: **The Hope Within Us**

Wednesday: **The Hope Among Us**

Thursday: **Hope for the World**

Friday: **A Future Full of Hope**

St. Matthew School will celebrate the precious gift of Catholic Education through a number of activities during this week.

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.

- *Intentional and explicit inclusion of a distinctive Catholic world-view across all subject areas and as part of student inquiry*
- *Igniting Hope –preparing monthly for Catholic Education Week from Advent to April through review of parts of the mass, prayer and reflection*

- *"I Am Peace"- Theme of celebrating student voice to foster a positive, inclusive school climate*
- *Staff Liturgies before meetings and weekly during Advent and Lent*
- *Active Staff Liturgical Committee and Youth Faith Ambassadors*
- *Celebration of the Virtues through student-led liturgies*
- *Remembrance Day Liturgy*
- *Bullying Awareness and Prevention Initiatives*
- *The Circles of Rosary volunteer visits to pray the rosary with all students: October 28 (Glorious), November 25 (Luminous), December 16 (Joyful), January 27 (Sorrowful), February 24 (Luminous), March 23 (Joyful), April 6 (Sorrowful), May 4 (Crowning of Mary).*
- *Advent, Confirmation and First Communion Retreats*
- *Participation in Adult Faith celebrations – Advent Retreat, Lenten Retreat, Stations of the Cross*
- *Boys and Girls Night In*
- *Daily, student-led, school-wide prayer*
- *Consistent modelling of Gospel-values and faith practice*
- *Invitation to parent community to join in liturgical celebrations*
- *Catholic Conferences such as When Faith Meets Pedagogy*

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
<i>Parent Meeting</i>	<i>September 23</i>	<i>September 26</i>
<i>Confirmation Rite of Enrolment Mass</i>		<i>November 3</i>
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>December 6</i>	
<i>Retreat</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Sacrament of First Holy Communion</i>	<i>May 2</i>	
<i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>		<i>April 26 or May 3</i>

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass/Feast Day	September 23
Confessions	December 6
Advent Mass	December 17
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 26
Confessions	March 9
Easter Mass	April 17
Graduation/Year End Mass	June 23

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. Matthew staff and students, including Youth Faith Ambassadors, participate in several activities that support members of our school, our community and the world, including:

- *Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives (non-perishable items) for the St. Vincent de Paul Society*
- *Canadian Food For Children*
- *ShareLife*
- *Terry Fox Foundation Walk*
- *Toys for Tots*
- *Canadian Cancer Society-Daffodil sales*
- *M.A.D.D.*
- *Royal Canadian Legion*
- *Personal Charities for Teacher Dress Down Days*
- *Green Eco Team*
- *Healthy Schools Committee*
- *P.A.L.S.*

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 the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, we as a school community make these expectations visible in our offices, hallways and classrooms and we reference them in our announcements, assemblies, liturgies and conferences with students, staff and parents. We also always use these expectations as tools to help children grow through progressive discipline practices. We celebrate when students exhibit themselves as Self-Directed Responsible Life Long Learners, Discerning Believers, Collaborative Contributors, Effective Communicators, Caring Family Members, Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens.

Further to this as an integral part of our Catholic School Learning Plan, we link our goals of student Inquiry directly to our Ontario Catholic School 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.

St. Matthew Catholic School, the Catholic Virtues are regularly referenced as part of the ongoing instruction across various curricula. The Virtues are a part of our school culture, shape our approach to the world and cannot be excluded from the learning students do in the various subject disciplines and in their daily lives.

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. Matthew School. Each classroom has a clearly identifiable Sacred Space in a prominent place that can serve as a focus for classroom prayer and reflection. Our liturgical committee ensures that each classroom is equipped with the necessary materials to pray as a group and ensure that the seasons of the liturgical year are represented in the sacred space.

As visitors are welcomed to St. Matthew Catholic School, the Catholic identity of our community is evident immediately upon entry through the altar and sacred space present in the foyer of the building. Throughout the school, various Catholic School Graduate Expectations are posted where all can see.

These visible reminders help us to focus our learning and interactions on the key tenets of our shared faith. Through the actions of staff and students, our Catholic faith is lived out daily at St. Matthew.

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](#)

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](#)