

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: **St. Clare Separate School**

School Mission Statement:



St. Clare Catholic Elementary School is a diverse community of Catholic Educators, students and parents who believe that every child has the right to develop to their fullest potential in a safe and welcoming environment. As educators our goal is to provide a supportive atmosphere directed towards the improvement of our students. We believe in respecting the rights of every individual, while promoting social justice. Our mission is to encourage life-long learners and to nurture well-informed and productive citizens.

School Motto: Striving for Excellence

Our Parish: St. Ignatius Loyola

Pastor: Rev. Ed Curtis

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

Message from the Pastor:

Our school is under the pastoral care of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, located at 2300 Burnhamthorpe Rd. West and Glen Erin Drive Mississauga, ON L5L 3T6 (<https://stignatiusloyolami.archtoronto.org/en/>)

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish is a welcoming and diverse Roman Catholic community of faith that, through celebration of our many gifts and talents, strives to build our lives in the image of Christ. We do so through our commitment to loving service of one another and of our broader community, all "for the greater glory of God." We encourage all families to register with the parish and to join us at weekend masses: Saturday 5 p.m. or Sundays at 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., or 12:00 noon.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Clare Catholic School Council is excited to continue our work as an integral part of the school community. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to encourage all students to reach their full potential by enhancing their faith-filled opportunities while attending St. Clare CES. We are pleased to have a Parish Representative, who is dedicated to keeping our community connected with ongoing and effective communication between the home, school, and parish. Our Parish Representative alongside the Pastor at St. Ignatius of Loyola are committed to encouraging participation in parish-wide ministries and strengthening the school and parish community.

Catholic Education Week – May 4th – May 9th, 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**



This year our school will be creating a **Pilgrims of Hope** canvas for classroom prayer tables and will engage classes in guided meditation "Hope is your Anchor" while painting the canvas. Classrooms will incorporate this year's Catholic Education Week symbols: hope, dove, light, lotus, stars, bible verses, CEW Jubilee colours, and anchor. During Catholic Education Week our school will collect classroom canvas and display them as a mosaic at a central location for families to enjoy during our open-door event.

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.



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. Clare, 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, at school liturgies and school masses. Clubs such as Youth Faith Ambassadors, Wellness Warriors, Eco Club, and class Buddy System also 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 to prepare celebrations, plan masses, provide opportunities for student and staff prayer and to organize community outreach activities. St. Clare 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/Student Mentor Projects. St. Clare 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 student voice where all learners feel safe, involved, and supported. St. Clare staff are making a continuous effort to connect and know our learners. St. Clare promotes a safe school environment, as well as promoting coping strategies, to reduce negative effects. At St. Clare School, we recognize parents are integral in the development of their child's faith. In addition, we have monthly virtual visits from the Rosary Apostolates. Faith formation at St. Clare includes the well-being, learning and leading of our students. During the season of Advent, we hold an Advent activity. During Lent, we hold the Stations of the Cross presentation for parents.

**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

*Celebrate monthly 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/Youth Faith Ambassadors

*Monthly Virtues display

*Eco initiatives

*Leadership opportunities for Students

*Daily/Seasonal Prayer to begin meetings and gatherings

Planning with St. Ignatius Loyola for masses, sacraments, liturgies

*Visits from Rosary Apostolates (Virtually)/Crowning of Mary Celebration

*Supporting ShareLife through Spirit Weeks throughout the year

*Supporting Society of St. Vincent de Paul in partnership with St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

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
First Reconciliation	Nov 30/Dec 7 at 7:00 pm	
Lenten Confessions		Gr 3-8 March 27 th 9:45am
First Communion	May 4/May 25 at 2:00pm	
Confirmation	Wed. June 10/ Thurs. June 11 at 7:00pm	

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening Mass/Thanksgiving Mass	October 10, 2024 at 10:15
Remembrance Day	Mon. November 11, 2024 10:15 am
Advent Mass	Thurs. December 12, 2024 10:15
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wed. March 5, 2025 10:15
Confessions Gr 3-8	March 27 th 9:45
Stations of the Cross	April 17 th 1:00 PM
End of Year Mass/Graduation	June 19 th at 10:15am

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. Clare 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. Clare 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
- * Teacher Mentor Program
- * Food Drives
- * Christmas Hat, Mitten, Scarf, Sock Tree. Jordan's Socks Program
- * Adult Faith Ambassadors Program
- * Rosary Apostolate monthly school visits
- * Social Work Support with Mindfulness activities in the classroom for mental wellness
- * Stewardship through recycling programs & Green Eco Projects
- * Pink Shirt Day
- * Orange Shirt Day recognizing and fostering the spirit of reconciliation
- * Purple Day and RETT Syndrome awareness and inclusion
- * Blue Shirt Day/ Kindness Day/ Autism Awareness Day
- * ShareLife monthly Spirit weeks
- * Social Outreach (e.g., Terry Fox, Christmas Spirit Family Support, ShareLife, Angel Tree, Society St. Vincent de Paul, Local Food Banks etc.)

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.



St. Clare's focus is on creating Catholic Conditions for well-being and a commitment to realizing the Ontario Catholic Schools Graduate Expectations. At St. Clare, 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 imbue 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 OCGE in student friendly language to support student development in the classroom. We are mindful at St. Clare; 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 formed in the Catholic tradition** – we celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of God’s presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living. Some examples of ways to demonstrate this includes knowing the story of our faith, participating in the sacramental life, reflecting on God’s word, seeking to be in communion with God and others, respecting our faith traditions, integrating faith in our lives, and recognizing that we all have weaknesses, and we have forgiveness to help us through them.

• **Effective communicators** – we speak, write, and listen honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel value. Examples of how we accomplish this include listening, understanding, using, and reading oral and written materials effectively, presenting information and ideas clearly, and writing and speaking fluently in Canada’s official languages.



• **Reflective and creative thinkers** – we solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good. Examples of this includes creating, adapting, and evaluating news ideas, thinking reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems and making good decisions.

• **Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners** – we develop and demonstrate our full God-given potential. We can accomplish this through demonstrating flexibility and adaptability, setting appropriate goals and priorities for our work and personal life, and participating in a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

• **Collaborative contributors** – we find meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contribute to the common good. Examples include working effectively as a team member, and respecting the rights, responsibilities and contributions of ourselves and others.

• **Caring family members** – we attend to our family, school, parish, and the wider community. This involves relating to family members in a loving, compassionate, and respectful manner in our school and home families.

• **Responsible citizen** – we give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life. Examples of achieving this includes accepting accountability for one’s own actions, seeking and granting forgiveness, respecting, and affirming diversity, respecting the environment, and using its resources wisely and contributing to the common good.

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 happen monthly at the beginning of the month. Classroom teachers display the virtues on their prayer tables that are reflective of the liturgical season. 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, staff, parents, and visitors to a faith-filled community. These are visual reminders of our common heritage and the liturgical seasons. St. Clare's artwork in the front foyer and alter 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. St. Clare has a Peace Garden at the front of the school. and garden rocks where staff and students can reflect, pray the rosary, and share in a liturgy. Our classrooms regularly visit this garden and staff use and to support their teaching.

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

Signature Page

Pastor

Wentz

Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)

Teacher(s)

Chair of Catholic School Council

Vice Principal(s)

M. Smith *W. Smith*

Principal

R. Rodrigues-Coelho

Superintendent

Dr. R. Coelho