

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: Holy Cross Separate School

School Mission Statement:

As a Catholic School Community, we commit ourselves to nurture and develop the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social growth of each student. We pledge to promote an effective partnership with the home, the school and the Parish in a safe, caring, inclusive and Christian environment. The mission of Holy Cross School is to further develop the faith of our members and to recognize that God lives in all of us. We strive to promote academic excellence in a success-oriented environment. Through social outreach programs, we strive to help students develop healthy minds, bodies and spirits. Instilling self-respect, respect for others as well as compassion and empathy are of foremost importance to our mission.

School Motto: Christian Living, Discipline and Knowledge

Our Parish: Our Lady of the Airways

Pastor: Father Thomas Lim

Parish website: www.ourladyoftheairways.com

Message from the Pastor:

Our Lady of Airways Church assists the students, parents and staff members of Holy Cross Catholic School to live their baptismal call. Through our collective efforts, we inspire our community of believers to answer the call to act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly, to serve generously and to live peacefully.

We invite you and your family to celebrate the Sunday liturgy with us. You are also welcomed to join the Holy Cross School community's masses and liturgies at Our Lady of the Airways Church.

God Bless,

Father Thomas

Message from the Catholic School Council:

"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gifts well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honor to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever."

1Peter 4:10-11

The Catholic faith community of Holy Cross (consisting of school, Church and family) is rooted in a set of common beliefs, inspired by the life, mission and teachings of Jesus. In partnership, we are called to learn and grow in faith and to be more like Jesus. At Holy Cross we continue to integrate opportunities to support student Well Being and the Virtues into the culture of our school. By nurturing student Well Being, the Virtues and character development in the lives of our students, we provide them opportunities to recognize and celebrate their gifts as well as the gifts of others in the school community. The practice of our faith will help us create a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

Catholic Education Week Theme: Igniting Hope

“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)

Catholic Education Week – May 3 – May 8, 2020

May 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week.

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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**

This year the theme for Catholic Education Week is “Igniting Hope”. Our student and parent community will have the opportunity to celebrate the significance of Catholic Education. It is our goal to Ignite Hope in Faith in families and community in which we serve.

- *Parent Engagement Evening, Family Fun Night
- *Virtue Liturgy at Our Lady of the Airways Church
- *Parent Communication about planned Catholic Education Week activities
- *Well Being Assembly
- *Liturgical Guest Speaker to Intermediate Classes
- *Kind Bunch Activities (Student Kindness Initiative)
- *Communion Preparation Activity
- *Youth Faith Ambassador Initiative
- *Daily Announcements reflecting on the subtheme of the day by Youth Faith Ambassadors
- *Classroom activities (provided by Institute of Catholic Education for each division)

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.

As a school community, we begin each day with Morning Prayers and Gospel readings.

- *Our monthly liturgies focus on the Virtues.

- *Staff Faith Liturgies

- *Promotion and the use of our schools Sacred Space

- *We celebrate Mass as a school community at Our Lady of the Airways Church.

- *Our Grade 2 and Grade 7 students prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

- *Student and Adult Faith Ambassadors lead staff and students in faith development.

- *Staff are encouraged to attend Faith retreats and PD sessions such as the Advent Retreat and When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference.

- *Rosary Apostolate – We are blessed to have volunteers come to the school once a month, to lead our students and staff in prayer.

- *Adult Faith Formation opportunities: Staff and community are encouraged to attend daily morning mass at Our Lady of the Airways Church Parish

- *Eucharistic Ministers: Staff members will be offered information to become Eucharistic Ministers by Enza Lamberti Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of the Airways.

Sacramental Preparation:

As Catholic 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 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Communion Retreat | April 25, 2020 | ***** |
| Confirmation Retreat | ***** | May 14, 2020 |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation | Feb 13, 2020 @7:00 pm | ***** |
| Sacrament of Communion | Sundays May 2-24 2020 | ***** |
| Sacrament of Confirmation | ***** | May 28, 2020 @7:00 pm |

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

| Celebration | Date |
|--|--|
| <i>Triumph of the Holy Cross – Opening Mass</i> | September 17, 2019 @9:00 am |
| <i>Advent Reconciliation</i> | Dec 11, 2019 @9:00 – 11:30 |
| <i>Remembrance Day Gathering</i> | November 11, 2019 @9:00 am |
| <i>Advent Mass</i> | December 17, @9:00 am |
| <i>Ash Wednesday Mass</i> | February 26, @9:30 am |
| <i>Lenten Reconciliation</i> | March 24, @9:00 am |
| <i>Lenten Mass</i> | March 31, @9:00 am |
| <i>Closing Mass</i> | June 23, @9:00 am |
| <i>Graduation Mass</i> | TBA |
| <i>All Are Welcome to Join the Holy Cross School</i> | <i>Community for Mass and Monthly Liturgies.</i> |

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.

Holy Cross participates in several activities that support members of our school, our community and the world:

- *Breakfast Club: In partnership with the Knights of Columbus, Holy Cross School supports the community by operating a breakfast club for students.
- *Share Life/United Way/Other Charities: Donations are collected through various activities – Seasonal Dances, Pancakes for ShareLife, Cops for Cancer, Terry Fox Walk, Jump Rope for Heart, Hats off to Kids, Change for Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Clothes and Shoe Drive.
- *Girls Club Christmas Ornament and Beaded Bracelet Sale for ShareLife
- *Food Drives: Holy Cross staff and students share the spirit of the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter) by conducting food and clothing drives to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- *Dr. Simone Warehouse of Hope and Milk Mats for Haiti
- *Diversity and Inclusive Education Initiatives and staff training
- *Movember for Prostate Cancer

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.

All our school programs, outreach initiatives, and classroom lessons foster the development of a Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. In our morning announcements regularly we include a description of individual expectations and how we can strive to achieve the expectations. Here at Holy Cross we will make a concerted effort to include an overview of the Expectations as well as a detailed individual description of an expectation in our School Newsletter.

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 and the OCSGE are celebrated each day when we gather to pray and in our classrooms. When the opportunity arises teachers are encouraged to integrate the virtues into all subjects so to focus on implementing our gospel values. Moving forward a goal will be to further share Gospel readings with formal lessons on the Virtues to classrooms. Monthly liturgies at Our Lady of the Airways Church strengthen our understanding of the Virtues and their importance in our daily lives. In our morning announcements regularly we include a description of individual expectations and how we can strive to achieve the expectations.

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 Holy Cross community of students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators will answer to our foundation call of our Baptism. Through our actions and our words we will answer to the call of acting justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly, to serve generously and to live peacefully.

In developing a renewed appreciation of hope in the Church, we accept our spiritual gifts. We promote unity within our school community by gathering together in a variety of contexts by sharing common prayers.

*Prayer is experienced daily as a whole school community, as a class and as an individual. Readings are shared with the whole school. Classroom prayer is also part of the dismissal times for lunch and end of day.

*Symbols of our Faith- In collaboration with the Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of the Airways Parish we have had the opportunity to purchase updated religious statues and virtue plaques. These outward symbols of our Catholic faith beautifies the school and promotes an identity of collective belief to the Holy Cross Community.

*Rosary Apostolate –_Once a month group of volunteers from the church come to pray Rosary with all classes and provide reflective opportunities about the Rosary. The student Rosary Club also prays weekly in our Sacred Space.

*The Holy Cross Youth Faith Ambassadors work together to help the students of the school understand the gospel stories. The Youth Faith Ambassadors, Boy's and Girl's club organize and coordinate the Food Drives for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

*The Holy Cross School Choir is made up of students from Grades 3 -8. The students gather together to practice holy music and sign at every mass celebrated at Our Lady of the Airways Church.

*The Adult Faith Ambassadors help to enrich the spiritual lives of the adults in our school community. They help to organize Family of School Events, namely the Advent Liturgies, and morning prayer opportunities for staff.

*The Holy Cross Sacred Space is a quiet space for students and staff to reflect and pray. The Sacred Space is also used for class/grade liturgies, YFA liturgies and prayer for the Rosary Club. The space is also utilized by our student Divine Chaplet of Mercy club where students meet weekly to recite the prayer of St. Faustina.

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](#)
- Institute for Catholic Education- <https://iceont.ca>

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](#)