

# **PASTORAL PLAN**

**School Name:** St. Rose of Lima

The St. Rose of Lima Catholic School Community works to nurture respect for lifelong learning.

**School Motto:** Learning Together

**Our Parish:** Merciful Redeemer

**Pastor:** Father Seamus Hogan

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

## **Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Parents, Staff and Students of our Parish Schools,

On behalf of the Priests, Staff and Parishioners of Merciful Redeemer Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our prayers for you, and all your loved ones during the new 2024-2025 School year. It is my pleasure to serve you, your families, and all the people of our vibrant parish community. Please know that we are ready to assist you as parents, students, educators, and administrators, in whatever way we can to know, love and serve the Lord. Our church is open each day from 7am to 10pm and provides an oasis for prayer and contemplation in the busy community, especially our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel which is perfect for private prayer and meditation. Danielle Lape, our enthusiastic Youth Minister, and her gifted team have prepared another year of exciting and meaningful activities for our Edge and Life Teen programs. This year we are happy to resume in person sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. You are part of our parish family, and I hope that we can spend time together worshipping the Lord at Sunday Mass each week and through your active participation in the life of the parish. At the same time, I welcome your ideas as to how your parish may be more attentive to your needs and support your family, to make you feel at home and to help you to know and love the Lord, and to pass on our Faith to your children as you pledged and promised to do before the Lord on the day of their Baptism. Once again, I am pleased to

assure you and our school communities of a remembrance in my prayers, along with those of Fr. John and Fr. Adam. Kindly, remember us also in yours during these challenging times.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Séamus Hogan,

Pastor Merciful Redeemer Parish

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

As we welcome students, teachers, staff, and families to another school year, we begin with a school welcome mass just as we concluded at the end of year mass – that is, with the triumphant singing of what has come to be our school anthem: “Go make a difference in the world”. One need only hear the sweet voices of children triumphantly singing these words, to be jolted into eagerly embarking on another wonder-filled school year. On that musical note, our school community at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Elementary School continues to thrive under exceptional administrative leadership, excellent teachers, curious students, and dedicated families. Our community is filled with faith, hope, courage, generosity, and love. We are collectively committed to building a strong school-parish connection with Merciful Redeemer Parish, and with our energetic parent and family community. The St. Rose of Lima School Council also continues to grow with enthusiastic parent volunteers who generously give their time to work beyond fundraising, in activities such as organizing sacramental lunches with students, teachers, and Parish staff, to supporting faith development, with 2 Parish Representatives this year who will help to enhance the school-parish connection. This school council and staff partner to support social justice in many ways such as raising funds for families in need and delivering our landmark career awareness event that integrates examples of vocational calls to live out Christ’s teachings in the world of work. Emulating Christ’s teachings of justice, our students also host multiple annual food and clothing drives for communities in Peel Region.

As always, we look forward to welcoming families to school liturgies and masses. Last year, the parent council, school, and parish, partnered to host our inaugural prayer vigil: ‘An Evening of Prayer at St. Rose of Lima’. The event brought families to the transformed candle-lit gymnasium of our school to pray for local and global communities. We look forward to making this remarkably well-attended event, an annual tradition. There truly are countless ways that the community at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School has worked to foster an environment that is a robust place to experience God’s eternal presence through learning. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors (YFAs) are a large group of grades 6, 7, and 8 students who have self-selected to be leaders of faith in our school community leading everything from food drives to equity-facing events, to anti-bullying campaigns and much more. In classrooms, teachers work with their students to co-create faith-filled practices that they share with the greater community by displaying student work, sharing in school announcements, and contributing to faith-centered aspects of

school assemblies. In this way, there are diverse experiences of faith in each grade, alongside common elements and celebratory practices that range from activities related to the virtues.

A true constant in life is the inevitability of change. This year our school welcomed a vibrant new Principal, Mrs. Connie Gale following the retirement of our beloved Principal of 8 years, Ms. Cheryl Cauduro. God has indeed blessed our school community with incredible excellence in leadership that shows through the safety of our teachers and students, the joy and peace evident in daily experiences at school, and the constant modeling of the virtues. We are so blessed to have the outstanding, loving, tireless guidance of Principal Connie Gale who graciously came out of retirement to usher our school through the transition to a new Principal in January. The generosity and dedication of leaders at St. Rose of Lima is a testament to God's loving protection. St. Francis's prayerful words "make me a channel of your peace" are so deeply enacted by those who join our school community, alongside those who are a long-standing part of this community, and of course, those who will eventually leave our school community – because change is inevitable. At St. Rose of Lima, the pastoral plan remains to continue to be channels of God's peace as we proudly take up our duty to 'Go and Make a Difference in the World'.

L. De Souza-Kenney, School Council Chair

## **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**

Catholic Education Week is highlighted in the following ways:

- Liturgies
- Youth Faith Ambassadors' Activities
- Social Justice Initiatives
- Daily Reflection and PA announcements
- Prayers
- Crowning of Mary
- Rosary Apostolate Visits
- Activities to address the CEW Themes and Virtues in each classroom
- Art Activities
- Career Awareness Day
- Assembly
- Parent Visits

### **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 are:**

##### **Adult Faith Formation:**

- Adult Faith ambassadors gather as representatives for the Mississauga West Family of Schools
- Advent and Easter Celebration with Mississauga West Family of Schools
- Watch Dufferin Peel Board Liturgies from Msgr. Shiels Monthly
- Invitations to the parent community to join in School Liturgical Celebrations

- Staff Faith activities and liturgies are led by Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Prayers and Liturgies at Staff meetings
- Staff Professional Development opportunities; When Faith Meets Pedagogy, Mississauga West Advent and Lenten Retreats

Student Faith formation is supported in the following ways:

- Monthly Assemblies
- Morning prayers and announcements
- School masses and liturgical celebrations (e.g. Opening School Mass, Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter, End of Year and Graduation Masses)
- Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- Participation in the Morning Star School Rosary Apostolate
- Youth Faith Ambassadors
- Virtue Awards and Displays
- Social Justice Activities-Food Drives for Eden Food Bank, Gift Card Drive at Christmas, Share Life Activities
- School visits from Fr. Sutka and Fr. Seamus from Merciful Redeemer Parish
- Remembrance Day Liturgy

### 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	February 26, 2025 - 4:00-6:30 pm	
First Holy Communion	June 1, 2025-3:00 pm	
Confirmation		May 9, 2025-7:00 pm

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	September 24, 2024
Thanksgiving Liturgy	October 17, 2024
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 8, 2024
Advent Liturgy	December 2, 2024
Advent Mass	December 10, 2024
Advent Liturgy	December 18, 2024
New Beginnings Liturgy	January 16, 2025
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	March 5, 2025
Stations of the Cross	April 17, 2025
Catholic Education Week Liturgy	May 5, 2025
Crowning of Mary	May 30, 2025
Graduation Mass	June 18, 2025
End of Year	June 24, 2025

### **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 school participates in:**

**ShareLife, Social Justice Initiatives, Outreach and Charity Activities for all stakeholders**

**Examples include:**

- ShareLife activities ie. Spirit week
- Food Drives for Eden Food Bank (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter...)
- Terry Fox Run
- Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children
- Support for Merciful Redeemer's St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Card Drive

- Bullying Awareness Week Activities
- PALs Program with CYC and Peel Public Health Nurse
- Eco-school initiatives that focus on stewardship of our sacred environment
- Student Faith Ambassadors – to support students who are new to Canada and School Activities
- Staff Donations to ShareLife through Employee Campaign
- Land Acknowledgement Readings and Posters

### **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.*

As a School Community, St. Rose of Lima considers the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in school wide activities, academic pursuits, as well as Assemblies and Morning Prayers and Youth Faith Ambassador Activities:

- School-wide masses and liturgical celebrations (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Stations of the Cross, Easter)
- Grade 2 First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, and Grade 7 Confirmation Sacramental Preparations
- Youth Faith Ambassadors Expectations
- Adult Faith Ambassadors (initiatives and events)
- Liturgical Committee
- Rosary Club
- Daily Religious Education/Family Life Instruction
- Visits from Parish Priests from Merciful Redeemer Parish
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Activities (as well as on-going)
- Virtues Programs and Liturgies
- Participation in Equity and Diversity Committee
- Classroom rules and charters
- Daily prayers and announcements created and run by classes
- Clubs and extra-curricular activities, including sports and academics
- Zones of Regulation (taught by CYC incorporated into a variety of classes)

- Eco team
- Co-planning of Teachers
- Teacher participation in-services, professional development developed by the board (through system weekly update emails)
- Student-led initiatives (Kindergarten Helpers, PALs Program)
- Reading buddies
- Library helpers
- Scholastic book fair
- Extra-curricular clubs and sports
- Participation in PLCs and Principal Learning Teams (all staff)
- Variety of excursions connected to curriculum
- Bulletin Boards sharing information on the virtue of the month, ECO initiatives, diversity and equity initiatives
- Living the Catholic Code of Conduct-Safe Schools
- Volunteers (students and parents/guardians)
- Participation in Roots of Empathy
- Grade 8 leadership initiatives

### **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.*

### **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.*

Visible signs of our faith are consistently found at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Elementary School, and they include:

- Sacred Spaces in every classroom, workroom, and office-they include:  
appropriate coloured cloths based on the liturgical season, Bibles, candles, Rosaries, and other symbols which represent our faith
- Community service, social justice, and faith activities



- Crosses and Prayer Tables in classrooms
- Altar in our school foyer – decorated to reflect the liturgical season
- Morning prayers and reflections
- Daily Prayers: morning, dismissal, clubs, sports, group activities, meetings, Grace before meals
- Announcements of special liturgical days or seasons (e.g., feast days)
- Virtue Bulletin Boards
- Faith Display cases in front of school
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations posters and curriculum focus
- Resources, artifacts, books, posters that are visible reminders for our students
- Daily positive interactions between students, staff, and families
- Land acknowledgement posters

### **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**

- Many Gifts resource (online and print)
- Fully Alive program
- Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ resource

- Religious Education and Faith Formation SharePoint resources
- THRIVE newsletters
- Deepening our Faith Videos
- Look and Learn: Words for Catholic Kids
- Equitable and Inclusive Education SharePoint
- Pastoral Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Canada to Young People

**Signature Page**

**Pastor** Fr. Seán Hogan.

**Faith Ambassador(s) (as applicable)**

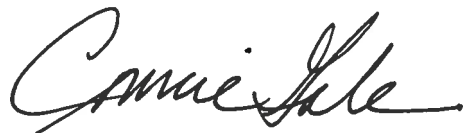
Catharine Murphy

**Teacher(s)** Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin

**Chair of Catholic School Council**



**Principal**



**Superintendent**