

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

San Lorenzo Ruiz is a community of learners committed to the development of the whole person. We are gifts of God, working together to serve the Lord Jesus and each other. With family and parish, we strive for excellence and a commitment to life-long learning.

School Motto: A Community Growing in Faith

Our Parish: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mississauga

Pastor: Rev. James Cherickal

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

Message from the Pastor:

Catholic Education aims at forming students into faithful disciples of Jesus. Its three-fold objectives are: a) to provide an environment in which students are enabled to build and deepen their relationship with God; b) to foster an academic culture aimed at the pursuit of truth; c) to actively promote growth in virtue. Parents are the primary educators of their children through words and exemplary actions, and the school is but an active, yet essential, extension of parental education. I am very happy with the relationship and cooperation among the parish, the school and the parents. However, we should not be contented with what we are all doing now. Let's do more to realize the three-fold objectives of the Catholic Education.

Fr. James Cherickal

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School Council strives to fulfill its obligation to "promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the school and Board". The Council provides advice to the school principal on a number of items including goals and procedures for supporting the best interest of the Catholic school community. A Parish Representative is appointed to the Council annually to serve as a communication link between the parish and Council with respect to parish information and to provide guidance and support on initiatives and faith formation in the school community.

Catholic Education Week – May 5th – May 10th, 2024

Catholic Education: We are Called to Love

L'éducation catholique: Appelés à aimer

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.

"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12

Si nous nous aimons les uns les autres, Dieu demeure en nous. (1 Jean 4, 12)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2024 are:

Monday: **As people of hope / Dans l'espérance**
 Tuesday: **As people of faith / Dans la foi**
 Wednesday: **As people of mercy / Avec compassion**
 Thursday: **As people of justice / Dans la justice**
 Friday: **As people of joy / Dans la joie**

We invite all members of our community, to participate in the celebrations and activities that will mark the celebration of Catholic Education Week in our school.

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God who is love,
Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.
As we celebrate Catholic Education Week,
may our love in action reveal to our world
that we are people of justice and mercy.
May our daily words and example show clearly
that we are people of faith and hope.
In the ways we reflect you daily,
may everyone recognize us as people of joy.
Help us to never forget how much you love us,
and to cherish your life within us,
which gives energy and direction to our loving.
May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively,
and may we call our world to be more loving also.
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.
Amen.

A school-wide liturgy, focused morning prayer / reflections, and a school-wide retreat day will highlight our week. Each division will be involved in a number of events, each emphasizing the week's themes. Through prayer, music, reflection, drama and art, students will come to deepen their understanding of this year's theme: *We Are Called to Love*. We will also raise funds and awareness for ShareLife. Our celebrations will culminate with the Crowning of Mary - our annual celebration made possible by our partnership with the Rosary Apostolate.

Each year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources as well as our own developed activities, we will prepare activities. Information will be shared with the community closer to Catholic Education 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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Elementary School promotes faith by having a vibrant Youth Faith Ambassadors program as well as Adult Faith Leaders who provide guidance, support, liturgical opportunities to support our staff at the school and our MBC Family of Schools. Our school community continues to promote and empower our students to become discerning believers, effective communicators, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner, collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Through liturgy, word and action, we embrace and practice our Catholic responsibility and Gospel values.

- Faith Ambassador gatherings for staff
- Stations of the Cross
- School Wide Liturgical celebrations and gatherings
- Staff Liturgies and Reflections
- Student led morning prayers
- Daily classroom prayer: beginning of the day, lunch and dismissal
- Daily Religious/Family Life Education
- Staff PD opportunities, "When Faith Meets Pedagogy," religion in-services
- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our day in our treatment/respect of others
- Sacramental retreats

At the MBC Family level, teachers gather for Advent and Lenten Celebrations. In our school, the Adult Faith Team invites colleagues to prayer services held after school over the course of the year. The Youth Faith Ambassadors is a program that invites students to become faith leaders in our school. From social justice initiatives such as planning food drives and our Angel Tree gift drive, to faith formation of the school by

leading retreats for our primary grades, the YFAs play a vital role in the faith development of our school. The MBC Family of Schools also organizes a YFA retreat for all students to celebrate as a group their efforts at the school level as well as share ideas with other schools.

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 – Parent Information Session	October 10, 11, 12	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion – Parent Information Session	October 10, 11, 12	
Sacrament of Confirmation – Parent Information Session		October 16, 17, 18, 19

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening/Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass	September 28, 2023
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 10, 2023
Advent Mass	December 6, 2023
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	February 14, 2024
Lenten Confessions	February 27, 2024
Stations of the Cross	March 28, 2024
Year End/Graduation Mass	June 12, 2024

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.

San Lorenzo Ruiz students are encouraged to look beyond themselves to the needs of others. Students are involved in local, regional, national and international outreach. As a faith community, we may be called to be involved in outreach that is not listed below.

September: Terry Fox Marathon of Hope – SLR is on the move!

October: Thanksgiving Food Drive, Halloween Dance for ShareLife

November: Candy Drive for Dr. Simone CFFC

December: Angel Tree

February: ShareLife

March: 'Cram the Cruiser' Canned Food Drive,

Youth Faith Ambassadors visiting Dr. Simone's CFFC Warehouse

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.

Catholic School Graduate Expectations are incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. The Ontario Catholic Graduation Expectations are listed in students' agendas and are displayed in the front foyer for parents' and students' reference. Staff have been provided the OCSGE in student friendly language to support student development in the classroom. Also, there are many opportunities throughout the school for students to display their spiritual leadership: i.e., Youth Faith Ambassadors, Diversity Team, Eco Team, library helpers, athletics, clubs, PALs, etc.

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.

At San Lorenzo Ruiz, we say a daily prayer for the Virtue of the Month on the morning announcements to highlight the Virtue and remind students what the virtue looks like, feels like and sounds like in the classroom and in the schoolyard. As a school community, we will gather monthly to celebrate the virtues together and recognize those who have been instrumental in demonstrating the virtue for that month. We will continue to infuse the virtues in our daily teachings to promote greater awareness of living out the virtues in our lives. This year, we will connect our Virtues to digital citizenship. This allows students to demonstrate the virtues of self-control, respect and acceptance in a digital age.

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.

At San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School, visual signs of our faith serve to remind us of God's love for us. They let all who enter know that we are a Catholic school community, and that Jesus is the primary focus of our school. Visual signs of our faith are evident immediately as one walks into our school. In the front foyer, our altar, bible and cross are prominently displayed. Each classroom has a crucifix, a prayer table with the liturgical colors of the season, a bible and class rosary. Seasonal symbols such as Advent Wreaths and Stations of the Cross are also displayed. Posters and murals throughout the school highlight our Catholic faith and virtues.

Resource List for Parents/Guardians:

- General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- Religious Education Curriculum - [Ontario Religious Education Curriculum](#)
- Family Life Curriculum - [Ontario Family Life Curriculum](#)
- Fully Alive Program information - [Ontario Bishops' information on Fully Alive](#)
- [Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti"- Fratelli Tutti](#)

- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- [Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

Resource List for Schools:

Board

- **General Roman 2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar** - [2023-2024 Liturgical Calendar](#)
- [Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [Renewing the Promise – A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- Fratelli Tutti](#)
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [Catholic Education Week 2024 – Catholic Education Week 2024](#)
- [Synod on Synodality – Synod 2021 - 2024](#)

School-Based

- **Many Gifts Resource**
- **Fully Alive Program**
- **Library resources**
- **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ digital resource**

Signature Page

Pastor: Fr. J. Cherickal

Faith Ambassador(s) (*as applicable*)

Teacher(s): A. Gonzalez

Chair of Catholic School Council: D. D'Mello

Vice Principal(s): N/A

Principal: D. Clifford

Superintendent: A. Scigliano