

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name:** St. Albert of Jerusalem

**School Mission Statement:**

- our values are based on our faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ
- the Church, family, and school community are active participants in the Catholic education of our children
- each person, as a child of God, deserves respect and dignity
- everyone is encouraged to respect themselves, others, and the environment
- in developing and instilling in each child a love of learning
- in the encouragement of all individuals to develop their gifts and talents to the fullest
- our school to be a safe, caring and harmonious environment for each child to learn and grow academically, socially and morally
- our school is a cooperative, friendly, charitable and inviting school

**School Motto:** Upon our foundation we continue to build the Spirit

**Our Parish:** St. John of the Cross

**Pastor:** Rev. Joyson George, O. Carm.

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

**Message from the Pastor:**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight" Proverbs 9:10

We are grateful for the faith-based education in our catholic schools and the great cooperation we experience between the schools and the church here at St. John of the Cross faith community. May the Carmelite saints continue to be our role models and may their spirituality inspire the catholic formation of our younger generation.

## Message from the Catholic School Council:

*St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School Advisory Council, through the support of the school, church, and parental community are happy to encourage and contribute to the growth of our students in their faith and learning, through school and community-based activities.*

## Catholic Education Week – May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

- Crowning of Mary
- Journey into Learning
- Classroom activities that connect the five subthemes of Catholic Education Week
- Full listing of events to be shared with the school community

## 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.*

At St. Albert, we are called to affirm our Catholic Faith, in word and action and increase student knowledge, understanding and application of scripture. We recognize parents are integral in the development of their child's faith. At St. Albert, faith formation is developed daily through prayers, religious and family life lessons. The students will deepen their understanding of Scripture with the consistent use of our religious resources. Announcements incorporate daily readings, quotes from famous saints and messages about living the virtues. In addition, faith is developed in all our classrooms daily and all lessons are rooted in our Christian Faith.

Activities that support both adult and student faith formation:

- Land Acknowledgement every morning in recognition that we are a Treaty people
- Weekly scripture passage related to virtues
- Student and Adult Faith Ambassadors initiatives
- Staff liturgies
- ShareLife Events for staff and students
- School Masses
- Sacramental Retreats
- School-Wide Retreats
- Confirmation Preparation classes
- First Holy Communion and First Confession Preparation Classes
- Rosary Apostolate
- Health and well-being initiatives aligned to our Faith
- Sacred spaces within classrooms
- Food Drives

## 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
Reconciliation Classes	Term 1 via school curriculum	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Monday November 20, 2023	
First Holy Communion Classes	Term 2 via school curriculum	
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	April 2024	
Confirmation Preparation		November 11, November 25, December 9, 2023, January 20 & February 10, 2024
Sacrament of Confirmation		April 9, 11, 16, 2024

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening / Thanksgiving Mass	October 4, 2023
Advent Mass	December 5, 2023
Lenten Reconciliation	February 28, 2023
Year-end/ Graduation Mass	June 12, 2023

### 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 a variety of charitable and outreach activities. We support the Terry Fox Foundation as well as Canadian Food for Children, Share Life and the Knight's Table.

We organize a Terry Fox run, ShareLife spirit weeks and food drives.

As a Catholic Community, St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic Elementary School is committed to providing members of the community with authentic and meaningful ways to engage,

support and understand Canada's history of residential schools. Our school has brought awareness to the injustices of residential schools by participating in Orange Shirt Day.

St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School community is also committed to promoting a positive peer relationship by educating staff and students on the impact of systemic racism. We continue to work to achieve this through school announcements, purchase of classroom resources that reflect underrepresented communities, ...

### **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 OCSGE, we as a school community acknowledge the efforts of all our students regularly. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the OCSGE in their report card comments as well. Each classroom has the elementary version of the OCSGE and teachers are encouraged to refer to them often. During their long-range planning, teachers also consider opportunities to highlight the expectations throughout the curriculum. Our grade 8 graduation awards will include recognition of student who demonstrate the OCSGE on a regular basis at St. Albert of Jerusalem.

### **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. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School supports practices and activities that align with the Dufferin-Peel CDSB MYSP by focusing on student, parent and community focused events that are rooted in the respect for members of our Catholic community. This year, our mission is to ensure that equity is present within our school, as well as to provide opportunities for students that are based in the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to succeed personally and academically, regardless of background, identity, or personal circumstances. Some of these opportunities will include:

Child and Youth Worker/Social Worker programs – promoting healthy interactions between peers and connecting families with community-based resources, programs and supports.  
Progressive Discipline – Ensuring that student actions that do not meet School and Board behaviour expectations are addressed through a Catholic lens of empathy, accountability, and support. Our decision making is grounded in the Catholic Social teachings that promote and elevate human dignity for all.

We value and encourage the contribution and cooperation of all the St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School community members in the achievement of all our goals.

### **Catholic Community Virtues Program and Liturgies**

Each month, the school population celebrates the Virtue of the month. The Catholic Virtues program incorporates a variety of activities related to the virtue.

September: Faith

October: Empathy

November: Conscience

December: Hope

January: Self Control

February: Respect

March: Kindness

April: Love

May: Acceptance

June: Fairness



## 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 Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario notes that "Catholic schools have a unique opportunity to show young people the way to that high ground; to accompany students in the search for truth; to foster in them a thirst for justice and an appreciation of the goodness of God, leading them patiently and lovingly in their journey of faith." Faith formation and its integration into curriculum, environment and climate provide the foundation of our school district. St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School displays several visible signs of our faith. Upon entry into the school space is grounded with a large cross and altar. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are displayed on the wall with children from the school community reflected in the pictures. Additionally, a large photo display in the form of a cross marks the entrance to the foyer where Mother Mary the focal point. Each classroom has a prayer space and cross. Additionally, visible signs of our Faith are evident in the daily actions and faces of our students and staff.

St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic School has recently established a prayerful gathering space in the lower-level forum of the school. Church pews, a large cross and a statue of Mother Mary provide visible symbol that the space is distinct from the rest of the school.

### **Witness of our Faith:**

- School wide liturgical celebrations
- Staff liturgies and reflections
- Prayers, readings, and reflections during morning announcements
- Daily classroom prayer
- Sacred space in classrooms
- Participation with Rosary Apostolate
- Resources provided to parents supporting a better understanding of the Family Life Education Curriculum
- School foyers welcomes students, staff, parents, and visitors in a faith-filled community. The signs of faith include the altar, seasonal altar displays, Virtue's program posters serve as visual reminders of our common heritage and liturgical seasons.

### **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**

St. Albert of Jerusalem Website

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/ALBER>

Board Website Religious Education

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/parents/religious-education>



**Board Website Virtues of the Month**

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/Catholic-Community/Virtue-Of-The-Month>

**Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations:**

<https://iceont.ca/resources/ontario-catholic-school-graduate-expectations/>

**Signature Page**

**Pastor** 

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

**Teacher(s)** Catherine A. Duhanty

**Chair of Catholic School Council**



**Vice Principal(s)** S. Rossi

**Principal** Patricia Williams

**Superintendent**