

PASTORAL PLAN

School Name: Georges Vanier

School Mission Statement:

We at Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School are a faith-centered Catholic community of educational professionals, students and families. As educators, we honour the unique gifts, talents and abilities of each child. We work in close partnership with our families and parish to foster the development of our children in to discerning believers, lifelong learners, caring family members and responsible citizens who will contribute positively to their community by actively living their faith and serving God. It is our collective responsibility to help each child reach their potential and to celebrate their uniqueness and diversity.

School Motto: Go Make a Difference.

Our Parish: St. John Fisher

Pastor: Rev. Liborio Amaral

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

Message from the Pastor:

A school pastoral plan is essential to have at the start of a school year, because it brings together the three points of convergence of family, school and parish. My hope this year is to make myself present in the schools for class visits and to lead Liturgies throughout the liturgical and school calendars. My hope is that at the end of the school year children will understand that the parish of St. John Fisher is there for their help and support and that they can feel as if they are at home at the parish as they feel they are at school. My hope also extends to the parents of our school children - that they too can see the importance of the parish in their life. I will also try to be a support to our wonderful school staff and administrators. Blessings, Fr. Liborio Amaral.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

It is with great pleasure that the members of our Catholic School Council extend our continued support to all the students at Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School. We serve and support the students and staff of the school with our volunteer efforts. Together with our school community and parish, we celebrate the many wonderful events in the liturgical calendar, as well as students' religious milestones in the receipt of sacraments for students.

"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

~ Luke 18:16

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**

Catholic Education Week will be a busy week here at Georges Vanier Catholic School. We begin the week with our Youth Faith Ambassador's leading the school community in a Liturgy. Throughout the week we will highlight our commitment to others through various spirit activities to support ShareLife. Classrooms will facilitate activities for students that focus on the themes of Catholic Education Week and strengthen the parish-home-school relationship.

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.

All staff and students participate in all of the Liturgical celebrations that occur throughout the year. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors are active in a variety of activities that focus on social justice and charitable works. Faith Formation is a part of all of our monthly staff meetings and we have monthly staff liturgies before school.

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.

Under the direction of Father Liborio, information related to Sacramental preparation and celebrations will be available directly through the Parish. Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the Church directly for more information. The school will endeavour to communicate information to families as it is received.

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Friday, September 27, 2024 1:30pm	Opening of School / St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day Liturgy
Monday, November 11, 2024 10:45am	Remembrance Day Liturgy
Tuesday, December 3, 2024 10:30am	Advent Liturgy (at St. John Fisher Church)
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:15am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Thursday, March 27, 2025 10:00am	Lenten Liturgy
Thursday, April 17, 2025 1:15pm	Stations of the Cross Liturgy
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:30pm	Catholic Education Week Liturgy
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 exact time TBC	Crowning of Mary Liturgy
Monday, June 23, 2025 10:00am	Year-end Liturgy
Tuesday, June 24, 2025 6:00pm	Graduation (at St. Thomas Aquinas S.S.)

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 contributes through monetary donations and acts of service to various organizations. Throughout the school year, Georges Vanier School supports a variety of different organizations including: The Terry Fox Foundation, ShareLife, Helping Hands Project, Covenant House, St. Vincent de Paul Society and The Heart & Stroke Foundation. Our school's Eco-Team focuses on being stewards of the earth.

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 we work to include the OCSGE in the lessons being taught in the classrooms. Each month in the school newsletters we highlight a section of the OCSGE. Also every month, OCSGE that align with the virtues of the month are celebrated at our whole-school assemblies. The OCSGE are highlighted in the main entrance of the school.

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.

Each month we highlight the Virtue of the month in a school wide assembly. The monthly virtues are highlighted in classrooms and on the morning announcements. Our display case in the entrance of the school and the main floor hallway are also used to highlight the virtue of the month.

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.

When you walk into our school you are greeted by a large cross and an altar presented in the colours of the Liturgical Season. Each classroom and office has a Sacred Space found within it. Each office and classroom has a crucifix. Prayer Cloths adorn all of the sacred spaces across the school.

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](#)

Signature Page

Pastor – *Fr. Liberio Amaral*

Faith Ambassador – *Jane Njoku*

Chair of Catholic School Council – *Michael Burns*

Principal – *Daniel Birkenbergs*

Superintendent