

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** Bishop Francis Allen School

## **School Mission Statement:**

Our school is the first community, after the family, in which our students participate. It is intended to help them develop the self-discipline, attitudes, values and skills to enable them to become productive, confident and responsible individuals in the various communities they will join on their life journeys. A community learning together, it also provides the adult members, parents, teachers and others, with opportunities to improve their parenting and their teaching, thus we grow in understanding and appreciation of Christian meaning as we journey together towards the ultimate community, the Communion of Saints in Christ.

At Bishop Francis Allen, with Jesus as our guide, we are companions on the journey – students, staff, parish and parents. We emphasize a Catholic environment, the nurturing of self-worth, self-discipline and respect of others.

**School Motto:** Respect, Cooperation, Excellence, Service

**Our Parish:** St. Mary

**Pastor:** *Rev. Liborio M. Amaral*

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

**Message from the Pastor:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There are things in our lives which we should hold dear and cherish closely, so that we do not lose them. One of these things is the reality of our Catholic school system. Our Catholic schools are great vehicles to pass on to our young children the Gospel values and the Teachings of the Catholic faith. Within the walls of our schools our children are able to live out their faith in word and action. We need to cherish the right (by Law) to begin our day with pray, to call on the Sacred Name of Jesus, to put up on our walls pictures and statues of our brothers and sisters (the Saints) who are living with God in heaven.

The goal of our Catholic school system is ultimately to train the next generation of "Followers of Christ" as best we can. The goal of every teacher should be to prepare their students to give witness to Christ by their faith, so that they can be with Him in Heaven one day for all eternity.

We are reminded that Catholic school communities are extensions of our own parish community - you are one with us and we are one with you.

I invite each and every one of you to be active followers of Christ and to live your faith by remembering to pray every day and to make it your top priority each week to come to Sunday Mass. We need your gifts and your talents here at St. Mary's parish. All of us, united as one, can work to build up the "Body of Christ" which is His Church.

Let us remember to pray for each other. Be assured that you will be in my prayers.

Blessings,

*Fr. Liborio Amaral*

**Message from the Catholic School Council:**

The Catholic School Council Committee for Bishop Francis Allen is comprised of parents who firmly believe in leading by example driven by our faith. Our goal as a council is to encourage parents and students in our school community and in our neighbourhoods to have the courage to step out and step up and help those in need. To perform selfless simple tasks that promote volunteerism, understanding and acceptance. Together as a team, we are able to support and strengthen one another and affirm our faith.

## Catholic Education Week - May 1 – May 6, 2022

**Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together**  
**L'éducation catholique: Rebâtir, Restaurer, Renouveler Ensemble**

*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.*

***"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)***  
***«Voici que je fais toutes choses nouvelles.» (Apocalypse 21,5)***

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are:

Monday: **Rediscover / Redécouvrir**  
 Tuesday: **Rebuild / Rebâtir**  
 Wednesday: **Restore / Restaurer**  
 Thursday: **Renew / Renouveler**  
 Friday: **Rejoice / Se réjouir**

Virtual School Mass – Wednesday May 4, 2022  
 Virtual Staff Mass with the Schools associated with St. Mary Parish  
 Welcome to Kindergarten Evening –Parent Engagement Evening  
 Youth Faith Ambassador Classroom presentations - Virtual or in person if possible  
 Individual Classroom lessons and activities

### 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.*

Central to our Catholic Identity is our faith formation. There are many spiritual activities throughout the liturgical year for staff and students to come together to celebrate our faith. There are staff and student liturgies, masses, confessions and formal sacramental preparation in Grades 2 & 7. The Grade 2 students will participate in a virtual church tour. The Grade 7 students will participate in a virtual church tour and retreat. Staff may also participate in board wide celebrations such as conferences and retreats. Staff and students participate in social justice initiatives, Community Response and contribute to campaigns such as ShareLife and Terry Fox.

### 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	TBD	
First Communion	TBD	
Confirmation		TBD

St. Mary Parish runs a sacramental preparation program for all students interested in receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Bishop Francis Allen actively supports the students' understanding and significance of receiving the sacraments through the Religion program.

**Liturgical Celebrations:**

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

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving Mass	Thursday October 7, 2021
Advent Mass	Wednesday December 1, 2021
Christmas Mass	Wednesday January 4, 2022
Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday March 1, 2022
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday March 2, 2022
Lenten Mass	Thursday March 10, 2022
Holy Week	Monday April 11 – Friday April 15
Easter Mass	Thursday April 21, 2022
<i>Catholic Education Week Mass</i>	Wednesday May 4, 2022
<i>Year End &amp; Graduation Mass</i>	Tuesday June 28, 2022

**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 community participates in food drives, a Christmas mitten tree, the coats for Kids program. We support our school community partnerships with St. Louise Outreach, Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, and the Knight's Table. The students participate in the annual Terry Fox Run and we have regular actives to support ShareLife .

**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.*

The OCSGE are embedded into daily school life. Students have the opportunity to be active members of the Eco Initiative, Faith Ambassadors, Health Diversity Team, and Social Justice Initiatives. All students have the opportunity to learn, practice their faith and to live the gospel values. Creating Pathways to Success support learners as they identify their strengths.

**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.*

We have monthly virtual Virtue assemblies. Each class is responsible for a presentation based on the Virtue of the Month. Morning prayers and announcements also help to highlight the Virtues and students are recognized for demonstrating the Virtues. A student in every classroom is recognized each month for demonstrating in both their words and actions 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.*

In our front foyer we have a Commissioned Altar, cross, student-created Virtue crests and our Brampton West Religion banner. All classrooms have prayer tables with visible signs of faith. Morning prayer, school masses, retreats and liturgies all reflect the faith formation of students. Social outreach initiatives focus on serving the needs of others and being a warm welcoming school that provides pastoral care to the community.

### **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](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

### **Resource List for Schools:**

#### **Board**

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- Renewing The Promise - [Renewing The Promise](#)
- Encyclical Letter “Fratelli Tutti”- [Fratelli Tutti](#)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- Catholic Education Week 2021 Video Message – [Catholic Education Week 2021](#)

#### **School-Based**

- Adaptive Kits for Sacraments First Communion and Confirmation
- Finding God Resource
- Bless This Day
- Words for the Journey for Kids

**Signature Page**

**Pastor: Father Liborio Amaral**

**Faith Ambassador: Helen Fredrick**

**Chair of Catholic School Council: Krista Garcia and Maria Villapando**

**Principal: Paul Roul**

**Superintendent: TL Peel**