

PASTORAL PLAN

School: **St. Cornelius Elementary School**

School Mission Statement:

The staff of St. Cornelius School strives to provide a safe, caring, inclusive environment, which inspires academic excellence, continued personal faith development and respect for all living things. Each individual is challenged to use his/her unique talents to contribute positively to the school community. Parents, teachers, parish priest and students work together to promote the Gospel values and be living examples of God's message of love. Through our shared efforts and commitment, we encourage our children to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially in the image of Christ.

School Motto: **I** Together in Faith and Excellence.

Our Parish: St. John the Evangelist/St. Cornelius

Pastor: Rev. Robert Thomas Glynn

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

Message from the Pastor:

It is one of the greatest joys of my life and ministry to work with our youth, helping them to deepen and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ through the Sacramental life of the Church. I am grateful for the dedication and faithfulness of our teachers and staff, who daily encourage the dedicated and consistent prayer life in St. Cornelius School. We have a loving and nurturing environment in which there is collaboration, cooperation, and a genuine concern for the welfare of the children. Our Catholic School is a gift that I have the privilege to serve and witness wonderful miraculous acts of Christian Virtue that happen every day.

Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Cornelius Catholic School Council is an integral part of our school community. The diverse Catholic community is reflected in our Catholic School Councils. At St. Cornelius School, all members of the community are welcome, respected and valued. All members are invited to attend our Catholic School Council meetings and are given the opportunity to participate in council positions and activities. Catholic School Council participates in our Curriculum Night/Open House to encourage new membership, and provides opportunities for parents to become involved in volunteer activities at the school. Through the active participation and collaboration of parents/guardians, we strive to ensure that all students reach their full potential in a faith-filled environment.

The Catholic School Council provide representation of the diverse voices in the faith life of the school through participation in Catholic School Councils, by supporting school activities, through participation in liturgical celebrations and other religious events, and by helping to build parish-school relationships.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

Catholic Education Week Theme: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together

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.

May 1-6 is Catholic Education Week.

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelations 21:5)

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2022 are as follows:

Monday: **Rediscover**

Tuesday: **Rebuild**

Wednesday: **Restore**

Thursday: **Renew**

Friday: **Rejoice**

Classroom teachers will work to bring alive the theme of Catholic Education Week, which is along with the daily themes every day in their classrooms permeating curriculum delivery and everything we do at St. Cornelius Elementary School.

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. Cornelius School, we promote catechesis and faith formation in our students and staff in a variety of ways. This year due to COVID restrictions, we will celebrate prayer as a school community that reflect the Liturgical Calendar, led by RF Chaplaincy Team and our pastor, Fr. Bob.

Teachers evangelize through daily classroom prayer, reflections, incorporate church teachings, and gospel values into all curriculum areas. Religious Education and Family Life Education Programs are taught daily in all classrooms.

St. Cornelius participates in many social outreach activities to promote humility and mercy amongst our students such as food drives and Christmas outreach program.

Finally, through the triad partnership, parish, home and school work closely together to encourage a support system of a faith-based curriculum, through prayer, liturgy, moral justice and scripture. Our St. Cornelius staff and students work in close collaboration with our school pastor, Fr. Bob who regularly visits our school and shares prayer and reflections over the announcements.

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 Public Health, dates will be set by our parish, St. John the Evangelist. Please contact the church directly for most up to date Sacramental schedule.

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Our opening mass was celebrated on Monday October 4 and streamed live via Zoom from the chapel at RF Hall. Further dates for other liturgical celebrations are yet to be determined.

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.

St. Cornelius participates in Faith opportunities by demonstrating the Gospel in Action. Our school participates in many community outreach activities that give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace and justice while reaching out to others less fortunate.

Some of these social justice initiatives include:

- Thanksgiving and Easter Food Drives
- Christmas Tree of Hope
- ShareLife Initiatives

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.

We continue to commit to the guiding principles of Learning for All: K to 12 and to Dufferin-Peel's Equity and Inclusive Education Policy while:

- Being authentic witnesses to our Catholic faith
- Being responsible stewards of God's grace in the world
- Respecting human dignity
- Modelling all learners after Jesus, as ministers of compassion and service

At St. Cornelius School, we recognize the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through a variety of activities. We promote a respectful, caring, inclusive safe environment that reflects student voice.

Some examples of these activities include:

- Participation in workshops/ programs about digital citizenship and how to use social media in a socially responsible way
- Social Justice Initiatives - Food Drives, ShareLife Initiatives
- Eco Schools –Student led Eco-Club planning initiatives such as Earth Hour, Walk to School Wednesdays, Energy Audits and Waste Audits
- Bullying Prevention and Awareness Activities

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.

The systematic program of Virtue Education for students is an essential part of the offerings of St. Cornelius School. This program helps students understand and appreciate the importance of character traits such as honesty, respect for others, self-control, fairness and empathy. Students are honoured with Virtue Certificates when they practice God's will, performing good actions that reflects the values and teachings of Jesus Christ. Virtue Education is highlighted on our school weekly bulletin, school website, and bulletin board displays.

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.

- Regular school visits by Fr. Bob
- Faith events and activities highlighted in classroom calendars and school bulletin
- Daily announcements include readings from scripture
- Catholic Code of Conduct embedded in discipline and rehabilitation
- Advent preparation
- Staff liturgies and reflections
- Classroom liturgies
- Classrooms participate in prayer at the beginning of the day, at lunch and dismissal
- Cross and Faith symbols on display in the school foyer
- Continued implementation of our Virtues Program
- Classrooms have a prayer table/corner for individual prayer opportunities/focus for class celebrations
- Daily Religion/Family Life formal instruction
- Informal living and teaching of our faith occurs throughout our daily interactions and respect for others
- Online school masses
- Bullying Prevention and Awareness Activities

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](#)

Resource List for Schools:**Board**

- **Vocations Units**
We have Vocations units as part of the Grades 2, 5, and 8 curriculum. The goal of these supplementary units is to deepen understanding of God's call – the “*vocare*” – to various forms of life within the Church.
- **History of the Parish**
Through the resource book *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*, grade 7 students have the opportunity to learn about the history of our parish.
- [Enduring Gift Video](#)

School-Based

- Children's Bible and Daily Readings
- Novalis Advent and Lent Resources
- Novalis Monthly “Living in Christ” Publication
- Teacher Faith Based Resources
- Copies of church bulletin to promote good relationships between the triad relationship of school, parish and home