

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School Name:** St. Anthony

**School Mission Statement:**

The staff of St. Anthony believes each student should be guided to grow in the image of Christ. Our mandate is to encourage in children the life-long desire to learn and find joy, delight, and enthusiasm in the learning experience. Our school reflects the community as an instrument which aids parents and the church in the formation of the young - spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially. Students should grow in their sense of self-worth, respect for all members of our community, personal responsibility in the use of freedom, and love of God. Students have the right to go to school. With that right comes the responsibility to respect the rights of others. Discipline is an educational process, which teaches responsibility. This process ultimately directs our students to self-discipline and responsible independence.

**School Motto:** A community of learning on a foundation of faith.

**Our Parish:** Saint Anthony of Padua

**Pastor:** Rev. Jibin Joy MCBS

**Parish website:** <https://stanthonyofpaduabr.archtoronto.org/en/>

**Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin this new school year, I am excited to introduce myself as your new pastor. My name is Fr. Jibin Joy, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community of faith. I ask for your prayers as we walk together on this journey of growing in faith, knowledge, and love.

Our Catholic schools are a special place where academic excellence and spiritual values come together. These schools are a blessing to our community, helping our children grow not only in knowledge but also in their faith in Christ. They provide a nurturing environment where students are encouraged to live their faith daily. With God's guidance, they learn the importance of love, kindness, and respect for one another.

I believe that with Jesus, everything is possible. As St. Paul reminds us, "If God is with us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). In challenging moments, we can trust in God's love and care for us. Jesus is always by our side, guiding us and giving us strength.

As we start this new school year, I encourage families to stay connected to their faith and to each other. I invite you to attend Sunday Mass regularly and to make prayer a part of your daily routine at home. When families pray together, they grow closer and welcome Jesus into their lives. Parents, you are the first teachers of faith to your children, and your example will have a lasting impact on their spiritual growth.

I also want to encourage you to get involved in our parish community. At St. Anthony of Padua, we have many ministries where you can share your gifts. Whether it's through our Youth Group, Choir, or volunteering in other ways, there are many opportunities to help build up our parish family. Together, we can create a welcoming and loving environment for everyone.

Let us move forward with faith and trust in the Lord. I look forward to working with you and supporting our schools as they continue to form students into faithful disciples of Christ. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you in mine. May God bless you and your families this year and always.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jibin Joy  
Pastor, St. Anthony of Padua Church

## Message from the Catholic School Council:

The St. Anthony Catholic School Council has served as an integral part of our school community. 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. We extend sincere thanks to all of our current volunteers and continue to invite parents to participate as an Executive Member on our Catholic School Advisory Council. All are welcome.

## Catholic Education Week – May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### ***Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope***

*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)

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**

**Hope in Overcoming Challenges.** From Monday to Wednesday on CEW, students will participate in climbing activities with Guelph Grotto. Together, students will overcome personal and collective challenges, as we reflect on how hope empowers us to face life's difficulties.

**Hope through healing, resilience, and renewal.** On Thursday of CEW, Junior students will be participating in a Mental Health Presentation on Hope. Junior students will be learning about how we cultivate hope in the possibility of change and growth.

**Hope through Mary.** On Friday of CEW, our school will be celebrating the Crowning of Mary. Mary's "yes" to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation was an act of pure hope. Despite the uncertainty, she trusted in God's promise. We are encouraged to say "yes" to hope in our own lives, trusting that God has a plan for each of us, even in difficult or uncertain moments.

## 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. Anthony, we are called to affirm our Catholic Faith, in word and action and increase student knowledge, understanding and application of scripture. Activities that support both adult and student faith formation:

- Student and Adult Faith Ambassadors initiatives (Ongoing)
- Celebrating the Eucharist on PA days as a staff.
- Sharelife Events for staff and students (Spirit Week)
- School Masses
- Gr 6, Gr 7, Gr 8 HOPE Retreats
- ADVENT/LENT School-Wide Retreats
- Confirmation Preparation classes with Lay Minister from St. Anthony of Padua Church
- First Holy Communion and First Confession Preparation Classes with Lay Minister from St. Anthony of Padua Church
- Rosary Apostolate – Monthly Visits
- 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
Sacrament of Reconciliation	TBD	
First Holy Communion	May 17 – time TBD	
Confirmation		June 7, 2025 – Time TBD

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
School Opening Mass @ Parish	September 25, 2024 @10:30
Advent Mass @ Parish	December 4, 2024 @10:30
Ash Wednesday @ Parish	March 5, 2025 @ 9:00
Lenten Confession @ Parish	April 9, 2025 @ 10:30
Teaching Mass Gr 7 @ Parish	May 7, 2025 @ 10:30
Year End Mass @ Parish	June 11, 2025 @ 10:30
Grad Mass Gr 8 @ Parish	June 12, 2025 @ 11:00

### 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:

- Terry Fox Foundation
- Canadian Food For Children
- In school nutrition program
- ShareLife – spirit weeks
- Knight's Table Food Drive
- Warming Up Winter (mittens/scarves/hat tree) during Advent season
- Meaningful engagement to understand Canada's history of residential schools and bring awareness to the injustices of residential school by participating in "Orange Shirt Day"
- Christmas Spirit week
- Anti bullying spirit week
- Valentines dance & Valentines spirit week
- Easter Food drive

**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 displayed in our stairwell, allowing students to reflect on and connect to the words and images representing the OCSGEs, encouraging students along their pathways. Additionally, our grade 8 graduation awards will include recognition of students who demonstrate the OCSGE regularly at St. Anthony.

**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 will be recognizing and reflecting virtues daily, in our interactions with students, integrating it into our curriculum and having our classes attending masses weekly.

**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.*

Each of our classes has a prayer table. Our front foyer features an image of our Patron, St. Anthony, and a display case highlighting our virtues and celebrations of Faith.

**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](#)

**School-Based**

**Signature Page**

**Pastor** 

**Chair of Catholic School Council**

**Teacher** 

**Principal** 

**Superintendent**