

# PASTORAL PLAN

**School:** **Blessed Michael J. McGivney Catholic School**

## **School Mission Statement:**

Our school community is a place for all students to learn and grow in the faith of our Church. We respect and value the talents of all students and strive to help them learn to use their gifts wisely in serving the larger community.

Our school community has many roots – we value our diversity and cherish the richness it brings to all of its members.

We strive to follow in the spirit of our namesake, Venerable Michael J. McGivney, who as founder of the Knights of Columbus, searched for ways to reach out to those in need. We offer many opportunities for giving as examples of young learners to learn, grow and be active in helping to build and sustain a community.

We value academic excellence in all students and encourage each to work to the potential given to each.

**School Motto:** Many Roots, Growing Together as One

**Our Parish:** St. Marguerite D'Youville

**Pastor:** *Rev. Roger Pascall*

**Parish website:** <http://stmargueritedyouville.archtoronto.org>

**Message from the Pastor:**

Greetings!

It is my distinct pleasure to lend my support to our Catholic elementary schools in their efforts to build a community based on self-giving, solidarity and shared responsibility. Our Catholic schools are extensions of the Parish Community and as such share in the mission of the church to spread the “good news” and to evangelize the world. Our schools provide a unique opportunity to expose young persons in their formative years to a faith filled community and the Catholic perspective on life.

Each year our schools endeavor to capture some aspect of this broad vision and I fully support the work of teachers and administration in making this a reality in the delivery of the curriculum and in their interaction with each other and their students.

This school year is like no other but I am convinced that despite the challenges we will emerge with a greater understanding of our collective strength and a greater appreciation of our dependence on God and each other.

The real challenge I suspect is to re-examine the core beliefs and values of each school. All our schools have long and rich histories of which students should be made aware. Each school’s history contains people and events shaping the school today. This year may be a good time to look at our school’s origins, why it was built and why it continues, the legacy of shared religious values, and the major players in the school’s history. It is a call to recapture and celebrate the identity of each institution and to demonstrate the school’s resilience in the face of adversity.

My plan this year is to be part of each schools’ effort to gain inspiration from its unique identity.

Please be assured of my constant prayers and availability to all of you.

Fr Roger

**Message from the Catholic School Council:**

Blessed Michael J. McGivney Catholic School Council actively promotes parental and community involvement through a variety of initiatives throughout the year. We, the Council strives to create a caring partnership of students, educators, parents and members of the community, built on faith and love. In addition, the council has an active parish and O.A.P.C. E. Representative.

## 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**

Catholic Education Week will be a busy week here at Blessed Michael J. McGivney. We begin the week with our Youth Faith Ambassador's leading the school community in a Liturgy. At this time, due to uncertainty and pandemic restrictions, specific events are to be confirmed. Lastly, throughout the week we will highlight our commitment to others through various spirit activities to support ShareLife.

### 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. At this time, due to uncertainty and pandemic restrictions, specific events are to be confirmed. 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.*

Event	Grade 2	Grade 7
Sacrament of Reconciliation	February 5, 2022 @ 11:30am	
Sacrament of First Communion	April 30, 2022 @ 1:00pm	
Sacrament of Confirmation		June 1, 2022 @ 7:00pm

### Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Thanksgiving Mass	October 6, 2021 @ 9:15am
Remembrance Day Liturgy	November 11, 2021 @ 10:45am
Advent Mass	December 15, 2021 @ 9:15am
New Year Mass	January 12, 2022 @ 9:15am
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	March 2, 2022 (Time TBC)
Lenten Mass	March 23, 2022 @ 9:15am
Easter Mass	April 20, 2022 @ 9:15am
Crowning of Mary Liturgy	May 2022 (exact date and time TBC)
Year-end Mass	June 15, 2022 @ 9:15am
Graduation Mass	June 28, 2022 @ 7:00pm

**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, Blessed Michael J. McGivney School supports a variety of different organizations including: The Terry Fox Foundation, ShareLife, Helping Hands Project, Covenant House, The Knights Table and The Heart & Stroke Foundation. Our school's Eco-Team focuses on being stewards of the earth. We will endeavor to continue our active participation in these initiatives dependent on pandemic restrictions.

**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

**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 two large crosses 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 were purchased for all Sacred Spaces within our classrooms and areas of the school.

**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](#)