

PASTORAL PLAN

School: Divine Mercy Elementary School

School Mission Statement:

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Community of the Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School,
will nurture, inspire and educate our children
in a physically safe and emotionally secure environment.

We will promote the spiritual, emotional and
intellectual potential of each individual
and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

We are Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary

School Motto: Living, Loving, Learning

Our Parish: Merciful Redeemer

Pastor: *Rev. Monsignor Owen Keenan*

Parish website: www.mercifulredeemer.org

Message from the Pastor:

Dear Parents, Staff and Students of our Parish Schools,

Welcome back to you and your children after another beautiful summer! I hope each of you had pleasant and enjoyable vacation.

I wish to take this opportunity to introduce to you our new Associate Pastor, Fr Suresh Xavier. He joins us along with Fr Rick Davis. Fr Suresh is a most welcome addition to our parish, and he, along with Fr Rick and Marc Puigmarti (our parish Youth Ministry Coordinator) and myself, will be making regular visits to

our schools to meet with students and staff, sharing with them the Gospel and the beauty of our Catholic Faith.

As the new school year begins, I invite each of you – parent, student, teacher, administrator, staff – to prayerfully consider how you can strengthen the connection between your school, your home and your parish. Merciful Redeemer parish – priests, lay staff and parishioners – are committed to welcoming our students and families and to do everything we can to make sure that our entire school community is welcome here. I invite you to make some concrete resolutions as to how you will move forward in your relationship to the Lord through your parish and school. I welcome your ideas as to how your parish community can be more attentive to your needs and support our school families.

Experience shows that even the best teachers and best priests and best parishes can have only a limited impact on the growth and depth of a child's spiritual life, if the teachers' and priests' efforts are not first experienced and subsequently mirrored at home by Moms and Dads. Our celebration of Sunday Mass is the most important part of what we do, as Catholics, to love God and love our neighbor; it is also rather the bare minimum: if we are not doing that much – giving God priority at least that one hour a week as a family and as a community – then the rest loses its meaning and vigor rather quickly. And so I encourage each of you to make Sunday Mass a regular and important part of your weekend; our parish community is here to serve you and to make you feel at home and to help you to know and love the Lord, and to hand that on to your children.

I am pleased to assure you that you and all your loved ones are remembered in Fr Rick's and my prayers daily. Remember us also in yours.

God bless and be well,

Msgr Owen Keenan – Pastor Merciful Redeemer Parish

Message from the Catholic School Council:

Catholic Education Week Theme: Living as Joyful Disciples

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 3 – May 8 is Catholic Education Week – Igniting Hope

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2020 is **Igniting Hope**. Our staff, students, and parents will be involved in activities that provide us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the privileges of Catholic Education. During this week, there will be a variety of in-class activities at the school and will be designed to highlight the unique role our faith plays in our understanding of the curriculum. Such activities will include: Opening Liturgy on Monday May 4th, Virtue Assembly, Crowning of Mary on May 8th, and many more events to come.

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.

Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School promotes the catechesis and faith promotion by having a vibrant Youth Faith Leaders program as well as Adult Faith Leaders who provide guidance, support, liturgical opportunities to support our staff at the school and our Mississauga North Family of Schools. Our school community continues to promote and empower our students to become discerning believers, effective communicators, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner, collaborative contributor, a caring family member and a responsible citizen. Through liturgy, word, and action we embrace and practice our Catholic responsibility and Gospel values.

School activities that support both adult and student faith formation include:

- Rosary Apostolate monthly classroom visits and Monthly Community Morning Prayer
- Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2, 7
- Pastoral school wide visits from Msgr. Owen Keenan, Fr. Rick, Fr. Suresh and the team from Merciful Redeemer Parish
- Stations of the Cross
- Adult Faith Ambassadors
- Youth Faith Ambassadors & Youth Faith Development Conferences
- Social Justice Activities & Outreach (food drives)
- Staff Liturgies/Reflections monthly as well as during Advent and Lent
- School wide Opening Mass, Advent Mass and Year End Mass
- School wide Remembrance Day Service
- Student-led daily prayers during opening exercises
- Sacred spaces in each class for individual prayer and as a focus for class celebrations
- Staff focus on faith life of the school at monthly staff meetings
- Staff PD opportunities, "When Faith Meets Pedagogy," religion in-services
- Daily Religious Education and Family Life Education

- Virtues Assemblies
 - School Liturgical Committee
 - Mississauga North Stations of the Cross (Adult Faith Ambassadors)
 - Creating a welcoming environment in the front foyer and highlighting our Catholic School Graduate Expectations in the interior windows of the school
- Crowning of Mary

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
<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	March 4, 2020 6:00pm-9:00 pm Merciful Redeemer Church	
<i>Sacrament of First Communion</i>	Saturday May 9 th @ 5pm Sunday May 10 th @ 11:30am Saturday May 16 th @ 5pm Sunday May 17 th @ 11:30am Location: Merciful Redeemer Church	

<i>Crosses & Confession</i>		Thursday March 26 th @ 9:00 am Divine Mercy School
<i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>		Monday April 20, 2020 @ 7:00 pm Location: Merciful Redeemer Church

Liturgical Celebrations:

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

Celebration	Date
Opening School Mass	September 27, 2019 @ 9:30 am- Merciful Redeemer Church

Advent Mass	December 2 nd , 2019 @ 9:30 am – @Merciful Redeemer Church
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wednesday February 26, 2020 @ 9:00 am Divine Mercy School Gym
Holy Thursday Liturgy	April 9, 2020 – School Gym
Crowning of Mary	Friday May 8, 2020
Year End Mass	Monday June 15 th , 2020 @ 9:30 am Merciful Redeemer Church
Grade 8 Graduation Mass & Ceremony	Monday June 17, 2020 @ 5:00 pm Merciful Redeemer Church

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 several activities such as, Eden Food For Change, Terry Fox Walk – A – Thon, ShareLife Fundraising, Youth Ministry involvement (EDGE) at Merciful Redeemer Parish, Food Drives, St. Vincent de Paul by sponsoring Christmas Families.

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 Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) are fostered in all our actions as a school community. We strive to nurture an environment where students not only learn the curriculum but also how they can contribute to the community as: Self-Directed Responsible Life Long Learners; Discerning Believers; Collaborative Contributors; Effective Communicators; Caring Family Members; Reflective and Creative Holistic Thinkers and Responsible Citizens. The OCSGE are visible in all areas in our school – in our classrooms, hallways and office.

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.

Through student led assemblies and liturgies, Divine Mercy Catholic School students, staff and community members celebrate the virtues of faith, respect, empathy, kindness, conscience, love, hope, acceptance, self-control and fairness. We strive to ensure that these virtues are consistently visible within our school. The virtues are referred to through prayer, daily announcements, progressive discipline and curriculum connections. School Masses and Liturgies are two areas where our virtues come to life within our school community.

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.

Upon entering Divine Mercy Catholic School, the cross, the altar and the Holy Bible, the Virtue banners, the OSCGE banner, images and booklet welcome all visitors and members of the community on a daily basis. Within every classroom, a visible sacred space makes us mindful of the faith that we share and work to develop each and every day. The most vibrant sign of faith you will see when you enter Divine Mercy Catholic School are the students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators working together to bring to life the Gospel values. Together we live our faith as a school 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](#)

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 one's 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

- Many Gifts Resource
- Fully Alive Program
- Dear Pope Francis
- Auditing our Catholic Schools

Class Visits

Msgr. Owen Keenan, Fr. Rick, and Fr. Suresh, along with Marc Puigmarti (our parish Youth Ministry Coordinator) regularly visit classes from Kindergarten to Grade 8 to discuss virtues and the importance of gospel values.