

## SCHOOL PRAYER

### *Faith in Education*

*Grant Lord,  
To all who study and those who teach,  
The grace to love that which is worth loving,  
To know that which is worth knowing,  
To value what is most precious to You,  
And to reject whatever is evil in Your eyes.*

*Heavenly Creator,  
Give us a true sense of judgment,  
And the wisdom  
To see beneath the surface of things.  
Above all, may we search out and do  
What is pleasing to You.*

*Help us by providing Christian opportunities,  
To make our own contribution to our community,  
To learn to be good students and educators,  
To be model citizens and good neighbours.  
May we serve each other through respect and love.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We God's people, staff of Sts. Martha and Mary School, strive daily to meet all aspects of our vocation, i.e. to teach and learn from each other and our students. We believe that literacy and numeracy are fundamental life skills. We endeavour to teach these essential processes in our classrooms.*

## BELIEF STATEMENTS

### *We believe that*

*...we grow in our faith as a community by living the gospel values of love, justice, compassion, and service in our daily lives.*

*...each individual within the community can grow intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually through meaningful and challenging learning experiences.*

*...we bring out the best in each other by working together to create welcoming and supportive relationships.*

*...all partners in our school – staff, parish, parents, and volunteers strive to put children first by building a community that communicates effectively and works cooperatively with one another.*

*...each individual is unique and that treating each other with courtesy, kindness and respect fosters a caring and safe learning environment.*

*...a professional staff working collaboratively to enhance the learning environment and their own learning enriches the lives of everyone.*

## *Sts. Martha and Mary*

### *Pastoral Plan*

*2008-2009*



*Faith in Education*

## A COMMUNITY GROWING IN FAITH

The triad of home, school and parish working together to support one another in educating the whole child is what makes Catholic education distinct. Now more than ever, our challenge is to instill Catholic values within our students. We are called to live the gospel teachings, to be disciples of the Good News and to be Samaritan to those in need. Our mission statement and beliefs establish a strong foundation in which to create a positive and challenging learning environment for our school community. Our pastoral plan is an example of how we can learn and work together as followers of Jesus.

Susan Steer  
Principal

*"The Catholic Education system is distinct in the way it prepares its students. We prepare our youth in stewardship. We prepare them to be persons for the world rather than just preparing them academically for the future." - Our Catholic Schools, Ontario Catholic Trustee's Association 2000*

## Parish & Home Connections

Sts. Martha and Mary School is very fortunate to have Father Edwin D'Souza as our spiritual leader. He visits our school community and adds to the development and celebration of our faith. The school council parish liaison representative provides an important communication link with Sts. Martha and Mary Parish and assists us in achieving our spiritual goals. We continue to invite and seek guidance of the parents on our School Council in the faith formation of our students. Ongoing and effective communication between home and school is essential for supporting our students' faith formation and creating successful learning experiences. Parents are welcome to attend school liturgies, sacramental preparations, and to support our efforts in creating a strong sense of stewardship among our students by supporting school outreach projects and community charities.

## SCHOOL PASTORAL PLAN

As we continue with our journey of faith, our Pastoral Plan will be centered on the faith formation of the students we serve.

### Prayer

Prayer, a reflection or reading from Scripture, and O Canada are part of every student's opening exercises. Prayer helps to bring us together as a community of faith and is extended throughout the school day through liturgies, sacramental preparation and classroom activities.

### Special Liturgical Celebrations

As Catholics, we praise God every day and we are thankful for our many blessings. We use special times of the year to highlight our thanks to God for all that He has done for us. Our special liturgical celebrations include: Opening Mass, Thanksgiving, Virtues Celebrations, Advent Mass, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Lenten Liturgy, Easter Mass, School Graduation Mass, End of Year Mass.

### Community Service & Outreach Projects

As a community of faith, we show our compassion and generosity by giving to those in need. We will continue to look for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and His ministry through community service projects. By reaching out to others, students are encouraged to become thoughtful and caring members of the community and to appreciate the importance of social justice and stewardship.

### Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation of students is central to the faith formation of each and every student. At Sts. Martha and Mary, our grade two and grade eight teachers, supported by the parish team at Sts. Martha and Mary Church, spend a great deal of time preparing students for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Sacramental dates and parent meetings are listed on the next page.

## LITURGICAL YEAR AT A GLANCE

DATE	CELEBRATION
September 9, 2008 7:00 p.m. in Church	Parent's Meeting for: First Reconciliation First Communion
September 11, 2008 1:15 p.m. in School	Opening Mass
September 30, 2008 7:00 p.m. in Church	Parent's Meeting for: Confirmation
October 9, 2008 10:30 am	Thanksgiving Liturgy
November 30, 2008	Advent Season Begins Enrollment Service for Confirmation
Dec. 17, 10:15 a.m.	Advent Mass
February 25, 2009 1:15 p.m. in School	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
March 31, 2009 7:00 p.m. in Church	First Reconciliation
April 9, 2009	Stations of the Cross
April 10, 2009	Good Friday
April 13, 2009	Easter
April 17, 2009 10:15 a.m. in School	Easter Mass
May 3, 2009 2:00 p.m. in Church	First Holy Communion
May 23, 2009 6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
June 15, 2009 10:15 am	End of Year Mass
Tuesday, June 23, 2009 7:00 p.m.	Graduation Mass