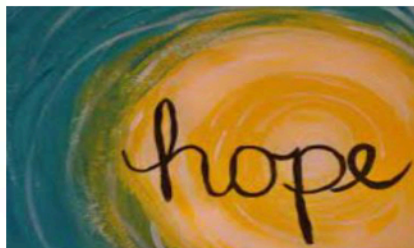


# St. TERESA OF CALCUTTA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Hands to Serve, Hearts to Love, Growing in the Image of Christ*

December 2024



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Mississauga Ontario  
[BlessedTeresaofCalcuttaInfo@dpcdsb.org](mailto:BlessedTeresaofCalcuttaInfo@dpcdsb.org)

Phone: (905) 273 - 3937  
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Principal  
Gráinne Maddison

Secretary  
Lorrie Gordon

Superintendent  
Dulcie Belchior

Trustee  
Mario Pascucci  
Contact number 905-302-3096

Parish  
St. Patrick  
Fr. John Facey

Associate Pastor  
Fr. Brian Clough

St. Patrick Church  
921 Flagship Dr, Mississauga, ON  
L4Y 2J6  
(905) 270-2301

Dec 21-Jan 5 (Back to school Jan. 6)

✻  
O  
Jesus,  
Our savior,  
thank you for  
living among us  
and showing us the  
way to God. Thank you  
for being born at  
Christmas.  
Your presence among us  
is our  
greatest gift, one that  
gives us peace  
and joy. Thank you too  
for all those who  
show us how to follow  
you and for all your  
angels and saints who  
watch over us with such  
great love. Thank you  
very much for all our  
blessings.  
Bless and watch over all  
of your people in this  
Christmas  
season  
and  
always.  
AMEN

## Principal's Message

This year's Catholic Education Week's Theme is **Pilgrims of Hope**. During Advent we are reminded of God's love for us and how we must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of God's Holy love, shining like light on the earth. It is round because love never ends. The wreath is usually made of green evergreens because God's love always grows and is ever present in our lives.

The candle of HOPE is light, recognizing the hope Jesus Christ brought to the world. This month at St. Teresa of Calcutta School we are doing things to help others because as a community of many we can make a difference for those in need.

We are asking families to donate a gift card or hats and mitts to the **YFA Angel Tree**.

We had a wonderful annual Christmas Trip to the movies to see Moana on December 4. We are looking forward to our **Christmas Concert** on **December 18** during the afternoon for our Kindergarten Students' Families and in the evening at 6:30 p.m. for our Grade 1-6 Students and their Families.

As we take the time to reflect upon and renew our goals for the New Year, we commit ourselves to fulfilling the hopes God has for each of our lives. May our intentions and actions be rooted in the values of truth, justice, inclusion, respect, and responsibility.

On behalf of the staff of St. Teresa of Calcutta School, may the peace of the season bring you great joy!

Mrs. Maddison



## School Hours for 2023/2024

School begins: 8:55 a.m.  
First Recess: 11:00-11:15 a.m.  
Lunch: 11:55-12:55 p.m.

Second Recess: 2:25-2:35 p.m.  
Dismissal: 3:25 p.m.

## PEOPLE OF HOPE...

- EXPECT THE BEST TO HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE
- HOLD ON TO THEIR DREAMS
- ALWAYS COUNT ON GOD TO HELP THEM IN TOUGH SITUATIONS
- TRUST THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT IN GOD'S WAY
- LOOK FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO COME OUT OF PROBLEMS
- ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO LIFE'S BLESSINGS
- SET AND STICK TO THEIR OWN GOALS

# HOPE



## VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

In the month of December, we will celebrate the Virtue of Hope:

Congratulations to the recipients of our November Virtue of Conscience certificates:

**Ms. Scarpelli and Ms. Karandysovsk**  
FDK – Nick D., Mateus S.

**Ms. Medeiros and Ms. Pereira FDK**  
FDK – Joanna G., Bailey K

**Ms. Iassogna**  
Gr.1/2- Eva C.H, Gabriel K., Yoann H.

**Ms. Casciaro**  
Gr. 1/2 – Lucas C., Felicie B.

**Ms. Bailey**  
Gr. 2/3 – Cabriel, Malvina

**Ms. Neiva**  
Gr. 3 – Sydney, Esther

**Ms. Armstrong**  
Gr. 3/4 – Darlington, Elise

**Ms. Pereira**  
Gr. 4/5 – Dominic B., Michael O.

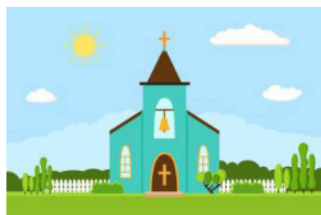
**Mrs. Midgley**  
Gr. 5/6 – Ella V., Blake Z.

**Mr. Salinas**  
Gr.6/ 7 – Mateo C., Sviat Y.

**Mrs. Guzik**  
Gr. 7/8- Max C., Bohdan

**Mr. Felice**  
Gr. 8 – Milosh, Reyna

## FAITH



### St. Patrick's Church Info

Christmas Bazaar Join us for our St. Patrick's CWL Christmas Bazaar on the weekends of December 7th and 8th in the Parish Hall after all Masses. We have lots of delightful things in store for you! You can purchase food items, sweet baked treats, Christmas and seasonal decorations, crafts and handmade items. A Christmas Gift Basket Extravaganza Raffle starts this weekend up until the bazaar. Tickets are: \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for 2 and \$10.00 for 5 tickets. Thank you for your support!

### Christmas Mass Times

#### **Christmas Eve —**

Tues, Dec 24 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm

#### **Christmas Day —**

Wed, Dec 25 8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

The season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This year, the liturgical season of Advent began on Sunday, December 1, 2024.

“Advent is a Latin word meaning “the coming”. During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord into the world through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light during darkness, as symbolized best by the Advent Wreath. Most popular of the Advent customs handed down to us is the Advent Wreath made of evergreens bound to a circle of wire. The wreath is German in origin. It represents the cycle of thousands of years from Adam to Christ during which the world awaited the coming of a Redeemer. It bears four candles, equally spaced, three purple ones to be lighted on the “penitential” Sundays, and a rose-colored one for *Gaudete*, the joyful Sunday in Advent. It is meant to lift our spirits, just as the liturgy for that day tells us to rejoice.

#### ***What do the symbols mean?***

The **circle** which never ends, teaches us that God and the joy of eternity never ends. The wreath made of **evergreens**, which never change reminds us that God’s love never changes. The **purple ribbons**, which decorate it, symbolizes penance. The **candles with their light** tells us that Christ is the light of the world. The **prayers** said with the lighting of the candles ask God to strengthen us to prepare to listen and to respond.

The 1st candle is purple, and it represents HOPE.

The 2nd candle is purple and it represents PEACE.

The 3rd candle is pink and it represents JOY.

The 4th candle is purple, and it represents LOVE

At St. Teresa of Calcutta, we emphasize the implications of the birth of the Saviour through our actions. We ensure that Advent is a time where we emphasize charity and social justice. On **December 11**, we will be having a school mass at 9:30 a.m. with Fr. Facey, who will be celebrating mass with us.

May the joy and peace of Advent be with you and your family today and all through the year.

### Catholic Graduate Expectations



#### **A Self-Directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner**

##### **I AM A LEARNER FOR LIFE!**

I use my gifts and talents given to me by God  
I always do my best  
I build on my strengths and weaknesses  
I set goals  
I accept change  
I am proud of the good things I do  
I am thankful for the gifts of others  
Because I am a learner for life, I can reach for my dreams, by living my life like Jesus.

### ShareLife Christmas Spirit Week

#### **STOC Christmas Spirit Week**

December 13-20







## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

### Co- Chairs-

Claudia Filipe and Chris Garofalo

### Secretary-

Julia Van de Kraats

### Treasurer-

Nelly Xavier Cordner

### OAPCE Representative –

Janet Kus

### Parish Representative–

Andrea Gavrilovic

### Teacher Representative –

S. Iassogna

Our next meeting will take place on January 16 with a timed agenda at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

*All School Council Meetings will be at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on the following dates: January 16, February 20, April 24, May 8, and June 12 with a timed agenda from 7:00-8:30.*

An email address is available for STOC Catholic School Council:

[mtrsacsinfo@dpdsb.org](mailto:mtrsacsinfo@dpdsb.org)

The principal and Catholic School Council Chair will review any items submitted.



## Thrive in Community

December 2024

Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being



## Thrive in Community - December 2024 Newsletter

## Math @ Home



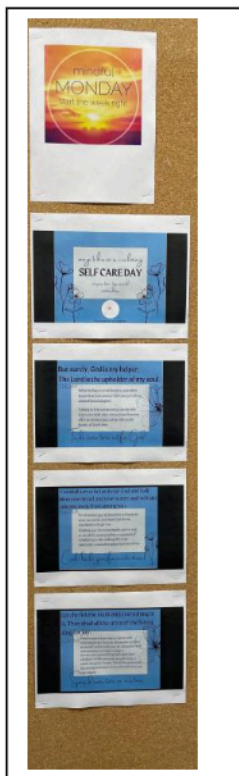
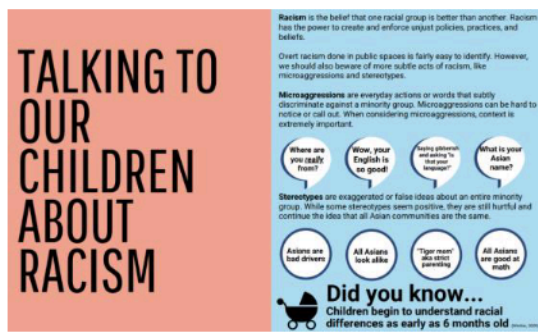
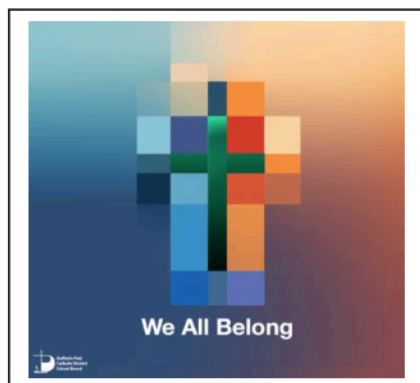
Connect learning between school and home with our **Math@Home newsletters**.

Each Math@Home newsletter:

- Highlights a mathematical concept/skill;
- Includes related Family Math Activities that can be done at home;
- Spotlights a resource that can be used to further support doing math at home.

December's focus:

[Math at Home - Mental Math](#)



During Advent, we continue our **Mindful Mondays** with virtual announcements and prayers led by our intermediate students. Each Monday, students are provided with student generated ideas to support mental health and wellbeing. We will continue with this student led initiative throughout the school year & look forward to a Mental Health and Well-Being Student Led day at STOC on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Hope is believing that good things will happen, and your goals will be achieved.

This month, as we celebrate the virtue of hope, and as we wait and prepare for the Nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas, let us keep our hopes and dreams, and the hopes and dreams of others, in mind.

Science tells us that people who practice hope live happier lives and enjoy better physical and mental health. December is a good time to reflect on how we engage with our goals over the past year and what new goals we have for the upcoming year. Creating goals gives us something to strive towards, and hope keeps us going when things get tough.

## Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year at Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) schools is now open. DPCDSB offers the Kindergarten program in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville.

Parents/guardians can register online at [dpcdsb.org](https://dpcdsb.org).

Registration is open to Catholic children and children of Catholic parents. Kindergarten students must be at least four (4) years of age by December 31, 2025.

The following documents are required to complete the registration process:

- Proof of age of the child
- Original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) or original baptismal certificate from a church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome or an Eastern Catholic Church.
- Immunization Reference #'s from the local Public Health Unit
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status
- Proof of home address
- Proof of English Separate School Support

Please refer to the [Register for School webpage](#) for accepted forms of documentation.

Inquiries about home school locations/boundary areas should be directed to the DPCDSB Planning Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24440.

For more information, parents/guardians should contact their local Catholic school, visit the DPCDSB website at [dpcdsb.org](https://dpcdsb.org), or call DPCDSB's Admissions Department at 905-890-1221.



## Message from Public Health

This message was sent to families in December:  
[December School Health E-Blast: Have a Healthy and Active Holidays!](#)

## Important Information from the Region of Peel:



**Attendance and Punctuality - We continue to have students who arrive late at school. Please help your child to be on time!**



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward. Missing 10% of school (1-2 days every few weeks) can:

- Make it harder to develop early reading skills
- Make it harder to develop numeracy skills
- Develop a poor attendance pattern that's hard to break
- Absences can affect the whole class as time may be required to help children catch up
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves

## **SPORTS**



### **Volleyball**

*November was filled with lots of volleyball for our Girls and Boys teams. They played in local school and Pakman Tournaments as well as hosting our Family of School Pod tournament at STOC. We had 3 schools come to play in the Volleyball Pod Tournament.*

*The Girls Team played their very best and tried their hardest to win their points. Congratulations to our 2024 Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team!*

*The boys won First Place finishes at all 3 Tournaments & represented STOC at the Family Tournament on Monday, December 2. They will represent our school at the Boardwide tournament on Wednesday, December 11! Congratulations to our 2024 Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team!*

*Special thanks to our coaches Mr. Felice and Mrs. Beach.*



**As the colder weather begins, please ensure that your child comes prepared to participate in all activities including outdoor recess – all children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots. Snow boots and snow pants in primary must be worn on the field. Please bring indoor shoes & an extra pair of socks is also good idea!**

### ***SNOW stays on the ground.***

For everyone's safety, we do not allow snowballs, kicking/throwing snow or any other ice/snow activity that could lead to potential harm or injury.

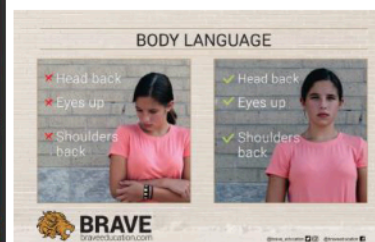
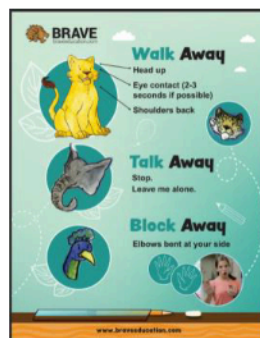


### **STOC ECO TEAM**

Did you know our Eco Team encourages recycling of batteries, markers and pop can tabs. Let's support our EcoTeam's Eco School Goals!



For further support, please visit our [parent resource](#) page





## Community Development

What to do if someone is **BOTHERING** you?

**W**alk away  
**I**gnore  
**T**alk it out  
**S**eek help

Use Your WITS!

[www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca)

UVIC

WITS

At STOC we want our students to feel safe and happy coming to school. We will be reminding our students to continue to be BRAVE by Setting Healthy Boundaries and using Bullying, Conflict and Relationship Strategies. We also encourage students to THINK before they speak (post, text etc.) **Is it True, Is it Helpful, Is it Inspiring, Is it Necessary, Is it Kind?**

As well when faced with a problem, we encourage students to use their WITS-

**Walk Away**

**Ignore**

**Talk it out or**

**Seek adult help!**

Before you speak:

**THINK**

**T** = Is it True?

**H** = Is it Helpful?

**I** = Is it Inspiring?

**N** = Is it Necessary?

**K** = Is it Kind?

### St. Teresa of Calcutta

R. Scarpelli FDK  
 M. Karandysovska DECE  
 L. Medeiros FDK  
 A. Pereira DECE

S. Iassogna Grade 1/2  
 M. Casciaro Grade 1/2  
 M. Bailey Grade 2/3  
 M. Neiva Grade 3  
 T. Armstrong Grade 3/4  
 C. Pereira Grade 4/5  
 D. Salinas Grade 6/7  
 A. Guzik Grade 7/8  
 M. Felice Grade 8

A. Galle French  
 V. Corapi Library/Planning Time  
 Y. Chan SERC/SERT  
 P. Noronha Planning Time

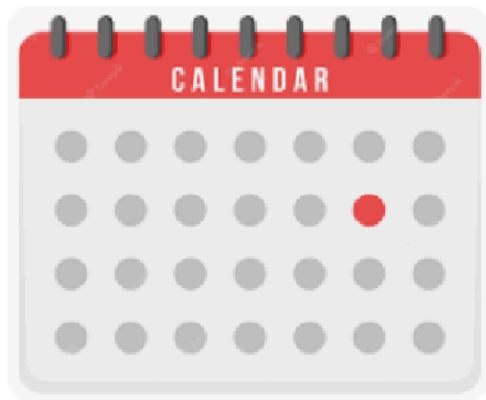
M. Tully  
 L. Mykhalyuk  
 Z. Pyczek

M. Knibbe  
 A. Passarelli  
 A. Estabrooks

R. Jardin  
 D. Kostyshyn  
 L. Gordon  
 J. Xamin  
 E. Garcia  
 A. D'Ettore

SERC/ ESL  
 ESL  
 Planning Time

ERW  
 Child and Youth Worker  
 Speech and Language  
 Pathologist  
 Psychologist  
 Social Worker  
 Head Secretary  
 Head Custodian  
 Night Custodian  
 Night Custodian



### Dates to Remember.....

[Click Here for 2024\\_2025 School Year Calendar](#)

Dec. 4	STOC Christmas Movie Day
Dec 11	Advent Mass 9:30 a.m.
Dec 13	Cozy Christmas Spirit Day
Dec 13-20	STOC Christmas Spirit Week
Dec 18	Christmas Concert – Kindergarten Afternoon and Gr. 1-6 evening performance
Dec 20	Last Day of school before Christmas Holidays!
Dec 21-Jan 5	Christmas Break
Jan 6	First Day of school after Christmas Holidays!
Jan 17	STOC Mental Health and Well Being Day
Jan 30	ShareLife Cozy Spirit Day