

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

1940 Saunderson Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 2C9

Tel: (613) 733-4661 – Fax (613) 733-8081

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September 29, 2023

Dear St Gemma Families,

Resurrection of Our Lord Parish celebrates the beginning of another school year. We look forward to participating liturgically with the school community. As a Parish we know the importance of living with intention as we serve, learn and grow so that the promises of Christ can be revealed to each one of us.

We take this opportunity to remind you that the following is available to you and your family:

1. Liturgical Celebrations: The church can collaborate with the school to organize liturgical celebrations, such as Masses for the school community (Blessing of the Backpacks, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and end of the school year). These events can be held at the church or within the school premises, allowing students to actively participate in the Catholic rituals and traditions. These events provide an opportunity for students to actively participate in Catholic rituals, fostering their spiritual growth and sense of community.

2. Participation in the Family and Children's Choir: We extend an open invitation for families and children to join our choir which provides a wonderful way to foster fellowship and community within the church environment. Singing in a church choir is a beautiful way for children to pray, participate in the Mass, work on their reading and listening skills and develop presentation skills. This iconic choir participates in the Sunday 11 AM Mass celebrations during the school year.

3. Sacramental Preparation: Resurrection of Our Lord Parish can collaborate with and extends an invitation to St. Gemma's in preparing students for sacraments such as First Communion and Confirmation. The church can support the school in preparing students for the reception of sacraments. In addition, we can provide catechesis and guidance to students and parents as they prepare for sacraments like First Communion and Confirmation. The church can also conduct sacramental ceremonies for the students at appropriate times. This may involve providing instruction, organizing practice sessions, and coordinating the sacramental celebrations (catechism) outside of regular school hours.

4. Spiritual Guidance: The church can provide spiritual guidance to the school community, including students, teachers, and parents. This can involve conducting religious services, offering sacraments, and providing pastoral care and spiritual counseling to those in need. Resurrection of Our Lord Parish can help foster a strong sense of faith and religious values within the school community.

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5. Support for Families: Resurrection of Our Lord Parish can provide support and resources to families of students attending the school - providing pastoral support to the school community during times of difficulty or crisis. We can offer spiritual guidance, and assistance to students, teachers, and parents who may be experiencing personal or emotional challenges. In addition, the church can provide opportunities for families to engage in prayer and reflection together.

Please note that any programs for Parents and Children will be posted in the school newsletter regularly and announced on the St Gemma Council Instagram Page.

This year your elected Parish Representative on the Parent Council is Natasha Nesrallah. Natasha is available to answer questions, provide support and guidance about faith and formation. Natasha can be contacted via email natashanesrallah@gmail.com.

This year resources will be available to Parents in the Parents Resource Center located in the office of the school.

We look forward to meeting you all and journeying with you as you grow by faith and by virtue.

Blessings,

Resurrection of Our Lord Parish,