

History & Tradition (from the School Board website)

The school is named after the Blessed Virgin Mary who appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes in France in 1858.

In 1989 the school was moved from its location at 146 Isabella Street to its present location. The buildings which it now occupies previously belonged, at different times to both Sacre Coeur Catholic School, and St. Joseph Commercial School.

The original location for the school was 138 Winchester Street, built in 1891 with a new school built in 1895 and named St. John's School. It was renamed Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in 1913. In 1919, a new school was built on the site at 146 Isabella, which was to remain the location of the school for 70 years.

Overcrowded conditions called for additions in 1953 and 1979; the temporary moving of the grade 7 and 8's back to the old Winchester location, now called St. Martin Catholic School; the eventual move to its present location in 1989; annexation to St. Martin's in 1994; and the redefining and closing of its boundaries in 1995.

The Parent Council of Our Lady of Lourdes worked with the Toronto Catholic District School Board to have the two buildings on Sherbourne Street joined to ensure the safety of our students. It was determined at the time, that a new school needed to be built. The location would remain the same on Sherbourne, just south of Wellesley Street.

In the meantime, St. Martin's school was closed and the students became a part of Our Lady of Lourdes school community. The staff and students moved into the newly built modern facility in 2005.

Children continue to move to the area of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish from all parts of the world, including the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Poland, Africa, Hong Kong and South America. Through the efforts of the parish priest and his team of youth ministers, school and parish life have definite and strong ties.

The children come in greatest numbers from the St. Jamestown apartments which stretch from Wellesley Street to just south of Bloor and east of Sherbourne.