




**OUR ADVERTISERS SUPPORT US – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM**

<p>This space is available</p>	<p><b>Never be afraid to ask for help</b> </p> <p>For confidential assistance with food or other emergency situations please call our parish office or send us an email.</p> <p>(905) 468-7272    svpsociety@svpparishnotl.ca</p>  <p><b>Society of Saint Vincent de Paul</b> St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish, Niagara-on-the-Lake</p>	<p>This space is available</p>
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*Go to the poor; you will find God.*

*If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary.*

*Your mere presence will touch hearts.*

*We should keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.*

*-- St. Vincent de Paul*



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Parish Priest / Pastor: Fr. Peter Rowe  
(assisted by Fr. Ron Wiecek, C.PP.S.)

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<u>LORD'S DAY MASSES</u>	<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>	<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u>
<p>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. in Spanish, seasonally</p>	<p>Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. + First Saturday -- see bulletin for changes</p>	<p>Mon., Thu. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tue. closed, Wed. noon – 3 p.m. Fri. 9 a.m. – noon</p>

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE PARISH**  
St. Michael School, Virgil 905/905-0151  
Holy Cross High School, St.C. 905/937-6446

Monetary donations by e-transfer: svdp1826@outlook.com  
Credit / Debit (TAP) donations now available at the church door.  
*We do not do church to make money. We need money, though, to do church.*

*You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected here at St. Vincent de Paul – no matter what!*

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**BAPTISM OF INFANTS: blessings on the birth of your child!**  
These take place bimonthly, at 1:00 p.m. (except in Lent). Those wishing to have their child baptized should contact the parish office at least two months in advance -- the parish website has a registration form. If you are able to do so, introduce yourself to the pastor.

**ADULT INITIATION / RECEPTION**  
Adults (and older children) inquiring into Christian living or Catholic practices join together in a gradual process or journey (Catechumenate) bound for the sacraments.

**FIRST COMMUNION / CONFESSION / CONFIRMATION**  
Children must register with the parish to receive these sacraments. Orientation sessions are held in the fall; Communion, Confirmation are celebrated in the spring.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
A Holy Hour of Adoration occurs on the first Thursday of the month, following the Mass. Contemplate the supreme gesture of love contained in the consecrated Bread.

**MARRIAGE: congratulations on your engagement!**  
Anyone wishing to be married at our church should contact the parish office at least one year prior: this is a popular wedding venue! Besides a series of meetings with a priest, a diocese-approved form of pre-marriage preparation is considered necessary.

**RECONCILIATION**  
This is celebrated weekly for individuals wishing to experience sacramental forgiveness – Fridays 9:00-10:00 a.m., first Saturdays 7:30-8:30 a.m., more hours seasonally.

**MINISTRY OF CARE TO THE SICK**  
Holy Communion and Sacrament of Anointing are available to any who are ill or housebound or seeking pastoral care. Notify the parish office to make arrangements. Advise the church office of hospital admissions or let the pastor know directly. Anointing should not be delayed until a person's final hours.

**CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES**  
Once you have contacted the funeral home of your choice to make arrangements, the parish will then be called. We have a Bereavement Ministry to assist you throughout.

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**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please fill in / clip out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the church office. As well, complete the Parish Profile / Confidential Registration Card found at the entrance to the church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence (with Postal Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**3rd Sunday of Advent** [*Gaudete* / "Rejoice!" Sunday]  
**December 15, 2024**



**REJOICE, THE LORD IS VERY NEAR**

Rejoice! The Lord is in your midst. (*Zephaniah*)  
 Rejoice! The Lord is near. (*Philippians*)  
 One who is more powerful than I is coming. (*Luke*)

As Christmas draws closer we sense with growing excitement and joy the approaching of Christ himself. In love we prepare our hearts to meet him, both as child of Bethlehem and as Lord and Saviour for all time and in all places.



-- Susan Sayers

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

The Christmas Mass continues to be the principal way for us to express our joy and gratitude for the mystery of the Incarnation.

*Tuesday, December 24 (evening)*  
 5:30 Mass, at night (twilight / sundown) (children's tableau 5:00)  
 8:00 Mass, at night (mid-evening) (readings, carol singing 7:30)  
 10:30 Mass, at night (pre-midnight) (readings, carol singing 10:00)

*Wednesday, December 25 (morning)*  
 9:00 Mass, at dawn  
 11:00 Mass, of daylight

**MASSES AT NEW YEAR'S**  
*Tuesday, December 31* 5:00 p.m. Mass  
*Wednesday, January 1* 10:00 a.m. Mass  
 Note: only one Mass in the morning of January 1.

**STUDENTS IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS**  
 Poverty is often associated with developing countries when, in fact, it exists right here at home. Every day in Niagara, a very large number of students goes to school hungry and waits in line for breakfast. The Niagara Region combined is just over the national average at 18%; however, when looking at the cities, that percentage increases to over 20% (that's one in every five children living in poverty and lacking proper nutrition). The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE) is a registered charitable foundation that assists students in need who attend our Catholic schools. Your donation to purchase food cards will help brighten Christmas! Receipts are issued for tax purposes (427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1); phone 905/735-0247, x210 or donate on-line through PayPal on the NFCE website ([www.nfce.org](http://www.nfce.org)).

**Monday, December 16** [*Las Posadas / Simbang Gabi begin*]

8:30 a.m. Mass † Gerald Mackay  
*[Bl. Maria Anna (Fontanella) degli Angeli, Carmelite religious]*  
*[Bl. Clemente Marchisio, priest, religious founder]*

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**Tuesday, December 17** [*"come, O Wisdom, Holy Word of God!"*]

8:30 a.m. Mass † Mary Shinerock  
*[St. Josep Manyanet i Vives, priest, religious founder]*

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**Wednesday, December 18** [*"come, O Adonai, Lord of Might!"*]

8:30 a.m. Mass † Ed Kocsis  
 12:00 p.m. **Advent School Mass** (at church: parishioners welcome!)  
*[St. Flannan of Killaloe, bishop]*  
*[Bl. Nemesia (Giulia) Valle, religious] [International Migrants Day]*

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**Thursday, December 19** [*"come, O Root of Jesse!"*]

8:30 a.m. Mass † David White  
*[St. Anastasius I, pope] [Bl. Urban V, pope]*

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**Friday, December 20** [*"come, O Key of David!"*]

8:30 a.m. Mass † Nellie Paraschuk  
 9:00-10:00 a.m. **Reconciliation**  
*[St. Domingo de Silos, Benedictine abbot]*  
*[Bl. Vincenzo Romano, priest] [International Human Solidarity Day]*

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**Saturday, December 21** [*"come, O Rising Dawn, O Dayspring!"*]  
*[winter begins!]*

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Reconciliation**  
*[St. Peter Canisius (Pieter Kanis), Jesuit priest, catechist, missionary, doctor of the Church, "second apostle of Germany"]*  
*[Bl. Peter Friedhofen, religious]*

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5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) ♥ people of the parish

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**4th Sunday of Advent, December 22** [*"come, O King of the nations!"*]

9:00 a.m. Mass † Harry Van de Laar  
 11:00 a.m. Mass † Alan Goodman

**CHRISTMAS EVE: EXTRA READERS**

Besides the already-scheduled ministers of the word (readers) at the Masses Christmas Eve, we will also be in need of one or two readers during the prelude to each Mass (7:30-8:00, 10:00-10:30), when two additional selections, ancient sermons on the Nativity, are read amid the singing of carols: (1) a choice of Theodotus or St. Augustine; and (2) St. Leo the Great. Let Fr. Peter or Ann McKenzie know a.s.a.p. if you can fulfill this role.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!**

*December 8* \$ 2,887.95

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

**UPCOMING HAPPENINGS** (all in the hall unless otherwise indicated)  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Wed., Jan. 8 (4:00 p.m.)  
 Finances Council: meets Fri., Jan. 17 (1:00 p.m.)  
 Sunday Readers / Word Proclaimers: meet Sat., Jan. 18 (10:30 a.m.) (church)  
 Holy Name Society: meets Thu., Jan. 30 (6:30 p.m.)

*Joy consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart aglow with warmth for all your companions on the road of life.*

*It is a blend of laughter and tears. It is knowing how to share with other people. It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between.*

*It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now. Joy is love bubbling over into life. And, surprisingly, it can coexist with pain.*

*Joy is the flag you fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace, is in residence within your heart.*

-- Flor McCarthy

**MASS INTENTIONS**

To have a Mass celebrated for a living or deceased loved one, and if you require a Mass card, please make your request in person at the parish office during regular hours (see the front of the bulletin). The offering (stipend) for a Mass intention is \$10. Choose for yourself what option you prefer: (1) the date of the Mass does not matter, or (2) having the Mass on a specific date. As the calendar of Masses gets filled in often weeks in advance (or if the Mass has to be cancelled for unforeseen reasons), it is advisable to submit requests for specific dates (birthday, wedding anniversary, anniversary of death) months in advance. We are coming to a point where we may have to limit the number of requests by a family or individual so as not to "overload" the schedule with too many of the same intentions, particularly at Sunday Masses. Multiple intentions are permitted, but limited to twice a week. Masses with an unclear intention (e.g., "in honour of St. Joseph") will be automatically forwarded to retired priests who often are short of intentions.

**THE MEUSE TO THE SEINE: Catholic and Cultural Heritage Sites -- Benelux, Germany, North of France**

Fr. Peter Rowe and Ineke Brinkman invite you to be our travelling companion(s) on a Holy Year pilgrimage in 2025; the dates: May 12-23! Following a compact itinerary, you will visit the southern Netherlands, Aachen and Trier in Germany, the Marian shrines of Banneux and Beauraing in Belgium, Luxembourg, Brussels and vicinity, Gent and Brugge, Ieper/Ypres and Vimy, the cathedrals of Amiens and Beauvais, leading to our rendezvous with alluring Paris. Plan to be among the "Pilgrims of Hope" for Jubilee 2025!

Package price (including flights, taxes/fees) is \$5,650 per person, based on double occupancy (the single supplement is \$1,525; limited availability). To reserve your space, call or e-mail Ineke (905/988-1313) or [ibrinkman@dt.com](mailto:ibrinkman@dt.com)

**"O" ANTIPHONS**

These ancient prayers of Advent are the antiphons for the Gospel canticle, Mary's *Magnificat* (Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours) from December 17-23. They are also the verses sung with the Alleluia before the gospel at weekday Mass, and they form the verses of hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Each antiphon includes an address, an indication of what the Lord does, and a petition. The banners in the church depicting these prayers were produced by Doug Mantegna, with artwork of the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey, Bedford, U.K.

**EXPANDING EUTHANASIA**

The BBC reported this week that assisted suicide (typically referred to as "medically-assisted dying" or "voluntary euthanasia") accounted for almost 5% of deaths in Canada in 2023 -- which is around 15,300 people or one in 20 deaths -- according to figures released earlier this month (with the highest usage rate in Quebec). This represents an increase of nearly 16% in 2023: the "normalization" of medicalized killing is alarming! Once medical murder becomes a solution to a particular problem, suddenly it will become the solution to many problems. Euthanizing people is frighteningly being turned into an almost forced solution, or duty to die, for many of our social problems. No one's life is safe in a culture that champions death.

A response card ("don't abandon people with mental illness to death by euthanasia") can be found in the church and sent to our Member of Parliament.

**POLAND, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA, CZECH REP.**

With the spiritual leadership of Fr. Stephen Bruzzese, Gateways International announces this April 29 - May 10, 2025 pilgrimage, including Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Krakow, Czestochowa, and more. Price per person in double occupancy \$5,995 (the single supplement is \$1,420). Enrich your faith and open your hearts to receive blessings and graces! To register and for more information, contact 905/889-1681 or toll-free 800/268-0900, x233; [edgar@gateways-international.com](mailto:edgar@gateways-international.com)

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THIRD ADVENT (C)

Invitation: The Lord is in our midst and renews us with his love. Let us ask for divine assistance in living as the people of God.

response: *Lord, come to us!*

Intentions: For Christians everywhere to be signs of joy pointing to Jesus, showing the brightness of God's glory to all the world, we pray...

For nations to stand in solidarity with one another in their efforts for peace and justice -- and for Syria's bright future, we pray...

For all who are in need of food or clothing, adequate housing and suitable employment: may these blessings soon be theirs, we pray...

For everyone who is suffering, particularly loved ones living through a spell of depression or else experiencing loneliness, to know God's presence and so be comforted in the darkness, we pray...

For any who find this season difficult to bear or whose poverty becomes especially painful at this time of year, to discover a renewed sense of joy among us here, with our parishioners, we pray...

For all of us here today to order our daily lives as true sons and daughters of God -- full of generosity and compassion, we pray...

**For our beloved deceased to sing the eternal  
hymn of glory with all the saints and angels,**

**especially:** *[5:00 Mass]* Jack Harmer... *[9:00 Mass]* Frances Piunno / Peter Van de Laar...  
*[each Mass]* Noreen Smith / Susan Wooll...

**we pray...**

**Conclusion: God of mercy, source of hope, as we await the feast of the  
Lord's nativity, may we be filled with expectation and joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.**