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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



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

73 Picton St. (PO Box 71)
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
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905/468-7272
e-mail: office@svdpparishnotl.ca
website: svdpparishnotl.ca

<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>

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!

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.

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: _____

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2025 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity]

WE ARE CHOSEN AND CARED FOR

The marriage of Jerusalem. (Isaiah)
The same Spirit activates all gifts. (1 Corinthians)
The marriage at Cana. (John)

God has chosen us and cares for us as a bridegroom loves and cares for his bride, to the extent that he has put away our sin and gives us the gift of his living Spirit which enables us to work powerfully for good in his strength. He can transform us into living members of his Body.

-- Susan Sayers

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: January 18-25

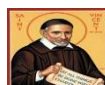
"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26)

-- prepared by the Bose, Italy monastic community

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea (near Constantinople), in 325 AD. The commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this council, a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. Christian Unity Week offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

The guiding biblical text for the week is John 11:17-27. The biblical texts for each day highlight in turn key statements of the Nicene Creed:

day 1: The fatherhood and care of God who rules the universe
day 2: Creation as God's work
day 3: The Incarnation of the Son
day 4: The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus
day 5: The Holy Spirit, the giver of life and joy
day 6: The Church: Community of believers
day 7: Baptism into the Death and Resurrection of the Lord
day 8: Waiting for the Kingdom and the life to come



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR
FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

January 12

\$2,645.95

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

Monday, January 20

8:30 a.m. Mass † Henry White
[St. Fabian, pope, martyr & St. Sebastian, martyr]
[St. Basil Moreau, priest, religious founder (Congreg. of Holy Cross)]

Tuesday, January 21 St. Agnes, virgin martyr

8:30 a.m. Mass † Richard Wiecek
[St. Meinrad of Einsiedeln, Benedictine priest, hermit, "martyr of hospitality"]

Wednesday, January 22

8:30 a.m. Mass † Carole O'Neil
[St. Vincent (Vicente) of Zaragoza, deacon, protomartyr of Spain, patron of Lisbon & Algarve]
[St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, religious founder (Pallottines), "apostle of the infinite"]

Thursday, January 23

8:30 a.m. Mass † Michael & Gail Dietsch
[St. Emerentianus, catechumen, martyr]
[St. Ildephonsus of Toledo, bishop]
[St. Marianne Cope (Barbara Koob) (of Moloka'i), religious]
[Bl. Henry Suso, Dominican mystic]
[Bl. Nikolaus Gross, married man, journalist, martyr]

Friday, January 24

St. Francis (François) de Sales, bishop, religious founder, doctor of the Church ("Doctor of Divine Love")

8:30 a.m. Mass † May Ellison
9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation

Saturday, January 25 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends]
CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, apostle (feast)

[St. Ananias, martyr, "evangelizer of Damascus"]

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

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 26

[Sunday of the Word of God] [World of Communications Jubilee]

9:00 a.m. Mass † Agnes Grebenc / James Wanamaker
11:00 a.m. Mass † Elizabeth Rocca

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS (all in the hall unless otherwise indicated)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Wed., Jan. 22 (4:00 p.m.)

Adult Catechumenate (O.C.I.A.): Thu., Jan. 23 (3:30 p.m.)

Confirmation Enrollment: Sun., Jan. 26 (11:00 a.m. Mass)

Holy Name Society: meets Thu., Jan. 30 (6:30 p.m.)

Heritage Council: Wed., Feb. 5 (6:30 p.m.)

Pastoral Council: meets Wed., Feb. 12 (6:30 p.m.)

Finances Council: meets Thu., Feb. 13 (1:00 p.m.)

ALPHA -- IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT



Having been introduced to Alpha last Sunday by Nick Ali, Director of the diocese's Office of Evangelization, we are proceeding with the launch of a "pilot Alpha" for our parishioners in the coming weeks. The pilot runs for seven sessions and includes an all-day retreat. We are aiming to host this Alpha experience on Thursdays (Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10). Those interested in participating (and we hope many of you will!) are asked to submit their names and best contact info either to the parish office or Fr. Peter directly by no later than February 10.

Alpha is an interesting, fun, and non-threatening way to explore Christianity. It provides a "refresher" for committed Christians to look at the basics of the faith. The topics explore the "big issues," addressing questions like "is there more to life than this? who is Jesus? why and how do I pray? how does God guide us?" It is "tuition-free;" however, free will donations to cover the cost of the meals will be accepted.

Typically, each Alpha session (of two-and-a-half hours max.) begins with a meal and continues with a half-hour video and small group sharing afterwards. We will be assembling a core team (leader, administrator, small group hosts and helpers, task force, prayer team).

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOORS OF ROME

October 16-24 -- with Bishop Gerard Bergie

The pilgrimage visits Assisi, Lancia, San Giovanni Rotondo, Montecassino, ending in Rome and its basilicas. Cost \$4,590 per person, based on double occupancy, including flights and taxes (single supplement \$865). For information and/or to confirm your participation, visit www.saintcd.com or contact Ineke Brinkman of Direct Travel (905/988-1313; ibrinkman@dt.com).

THREE MORE PILGRIMAGES

- (1) to Austria, Czech Rep., Poland, Slovakia, Hungary -- with Fr. Ronnie Tagnines (Apr. 25 - May 6)
- (2) to Poland, Hungary, Austria, Czech Rep. -- with Fr. Stephen Bruzzese (Apr. 29 - May 10)
- (3) the Meuse to the Seine: Benelux, Germany, North of France -- with Fr. Peter Rowe (May 12-23)

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL: "She Rises Up"



Thursday, January 23 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

-- in partnership with Development and Peace

The screening and discussion will be hosted on-line via Zoom; register at Reel Justice Film Festival. This film is a revealing look at the power of women's economic participation, following radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are working to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities.

SALT+LIGHT VIDEO

"Behold: The Making of a Cardinal" provides an insight into the journey of Cardinal Leo of Toronto, exploring the responsibilities, process, and significance of his role within the Catholic Church. [S5 E4 / behold, The Making of a Cardinal / Salt+Light Media]

MT. CARMEL SPIRITUAL CENTRE, NF

- (1) "The Times They are A-Changin'" Fri., Jan. 24 to Sun., Jan. 26; \$350
 - (2) "I Am...The Joy of Knowing Yourself" Sat., Feb. 9 (9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.); \$70 (includes lunch)
 - (3) "Walking the Sacred Path Retreat: Finding Your God-given Purpose in Life" Fri., Feb. 21 to Sun., Feb. 23; \$350
- Programs led by Anna Racine, Adjunct Faculty, Spiritual Director (www.annaracine.org); 905/356-4113; www.carmelniagara.com



WORLD DAY OF MARRIAGE

To commemorate this day, Bishop Gerard Bergie will celebrate a special Mass on Sunday, February 9 (2:00 p.m., Cathedral). All married couples, especially those celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60th+ anniversary in 2025 are invited to attend. This "Anniversary Mass" will become an annual event in our diocese. A congratulatory certificate will be mailed to couples who register and who celebrate the above-mentioned special anniversaries. To receive this certificate, please contact the parish office.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: January 26

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world" (Pope Francis, Aperuit illis, 2).

"100 SCARVES" GROUP



We invite you to join our knitting and crochet group meetings on Fridays, January 24, 31, and February 7 (1:00-4:00 p.m., in the hall). Our projects will include: baby blankets (we have lots of baby wool); adorable animals (some patterns provided); scarves; and more! Whether you're a "seasoned pro" or a beginner, come and share the joy of crafting with us. We look forward to seeing you there!

WORD on FIRE

"CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS"

This DVD series explores the creative outpouring of some of the greatest writers, artists, and spiritual minds in Christian history. Their lives are animated by Bishop Robert Barron (Word on Fire Catholic Ministries), and they can motivate each of us to live the adventure of our faith in new and unexpected ways. A viewing of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Theologian will take place in the hall on Monday, January 27 right after the morning Mass (approx. 9:15) -- in anticipation of his memorial the next day. Tea/coffee/light snack will be available.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

SECOND ORDINARY (C)

Invitation: Let us not be silent when there is suffering in our world. Let us not be quiet when people in our midst cry out for mercy. Therefore, let us turn to the Lord with our needs.

response: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

Intentions: For Christian unity: may they all be one, as Jesus prayed, we pray...

For "Pilgrims of Hope" in this Holy Year to become signs of that hope, anchored in the love of Christ, for everyone in this world who are overwhelmed by evil and violence, we pray...

For an end to the bloodshed in Gaza and a release of the hostages: may this ceasefire hold, a swift delivery of aid occur, and both sides agree to pursue long-lasting peace, we pray...

For all the sick to be relieved of their pain and get well; for the unemployed or underemployed to find work with a living wage, and for homeless Californians to be looked after, we pray...

For married couples, in time of trial, to know Jesus' presence and drink deeply of the God-given wine of delight, we pray...

For us here in this faith community to heed Mary's call to do whatever Jesus tells us, and may our parish be blessed with a generous outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray...

May the dead rejoice in the eternal wedding feast of heaven,

especially: *[9:00 Mass]* Frances Piunno / Mary Morgetano... *[11:00 Mass]* Josie & Kitty McGrath...
[each Mass] Maureen Walsh, Gary Comerford's sister / Jim Donald, Patricia Donald's brother /
Jack McDonald, Fr. Paul McDonald's brother / Connie Flowers / Ed Vandenberg...

we pray...

Conclusion: **Triune God, you bestow every good gift according to your will. Grant that we may apply our gifts in selfless service, glorifying you in all that we do. Through Christ our Lord.**