






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

<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>		
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

page 1 | cover

# 1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 [liturgical cycle C: "Year of Luke"]



## GET READY STRAIGHT AWAY

A righteous Branch. (Jeremiah)  
May you be blameless at Jesus' coming. (1 Thessalonians)  
Be on guard! Be alert! (Luke)

We have no way of knowing exactly when Christ will come in glory. We can be ready only by living the kind of life he means us to live. If Christ comes upon us while we are unprepared, we will see him, through our guilt, as terrible and threatening. If we are already walking towards him, we shall be able to greet him with confidence and unbounded joy.  
-- Susan Sayers



### "YEAR OF LUKE"

Luke is the primary evangelist for Year C of the three-year lectionary cycle. This Gospel, together with its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles, presents a breathtaking narrative of early Christianity, from Gabriel announcing the birth of John the Baptist in Jerusalem to the apostle Paul announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Rome. This majestically-conceived, magnificently-crafted epic makes up about a quarter of the New Testament. Luke was a second-generation Christian who may have been a Gentile admirer of Judaism before his conversion. He was well-educated, travelled widely, wrote excellent Greek, and was influenced by contemporary modes of writing history. He echoes the atmosphere, the language, and at times even the style of the Old Testament. Luke tells us directly that he is handing on what contemporaries of Jesus have reported (1:1-4). Writing about fifty years after Jesus' time, he incorporates many stories and sayings from Mark, from a source also known as Matthew, and from his own traditions. Nevertheless, he shapes the traditions according to his own rich perspective. Luke is a theologian with a historical bent, possessing a strong sense of the salvation's story development through three phases of time: the time of Israel, the time of Jesus, and the time of the Church.

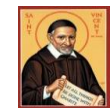
-- Michael Cameron. (Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays)



### POPE'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: for pilgrims of hope

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

"CATHOLIC UPDATE" (June-July, August 2024)  
"The Mass Before and After Vatican II" (in two parts)  
-- Fr. Matthew O'Toole (located at the literature carousel)



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

November 24 \$3,455.05

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

## Monday, December 2

8:30 a.m. Mass † Arlene Marian  
[St. Bibiana (Viviana), virgin martyr]  
[Bl. Rafa (Melchor) Chylinski, Franciscan priest]

**Tuesday, December 3** [Clergy Advent Day of Recollection]  
**St. Francis Xavier (Francisco de Jasso y Azpilcueta, de Javier / Frantzisko Xabierkoa), priest, Jesuit religious, missionary ("apostle to the East")**

note: no a.m. Mass

## Wednesday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Mass † Peter Penkarski  
[St. Barbara, virgin martyr]  
[St. John of Damascus (John Damascene), monk, priest, doctor of the Church, teacher of the faith (Chrysorroas, "golden speaker")]

## Thursday, December 5

8:30 a.m. Mass+ Holy Hour of Adoration (to 10:00)  
† Christine Sauriol-Bruce  
[St. Sabas / Sabbas the Sanctified, venerable father, abbot]  
[Bl. Filippo Rinaldi, Salesian priest]

## Friday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Mass † Mary Darte / Sheila Kennedy  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation  
[St. Nicholas (the Wonderworker) of Myra, bishop]

**Saturday, December 7**  
**St. Ambrose of Milan, bishop, doctor of the Church**

7:30-8:30 a.m. Reconciliation  
8:30 a.m. Mass + Anointing of the Sick † Joe Raposo  
10:30 a.m. First Reconciliation (gr. 2s)

5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) ♡ int. of Mary Gleeson /  
† Michael Gleeson

## 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 8

9:00 a.m. Mass ♡ people of the parish  
11:00 a.m. Mass † Antonio & Elizabeth Rocca /  
Zvonko Polich

[this year the liturgical celebration of the Immaculate Conception of B.V. Mary is transferred to Monday]

### 2025 ENVELOPES

If you do not have donation envelopes and would like to receive a box for 2025, please contact the church office (905/468-7272) or send an e-mail (office@svdpparishnotl.ca). The boxes will be ready for pick-up next weekend.

### St. Michael Men's Speaker Series

Thursday, December 5 (7:30 p.m.)  
Cathedral of St. Catherine -- with Bishop Gerard Bergie

### UPCOMING HAPPENINGS (all in the hall unless otherwise indicated)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Wed., Dec. 4 (4:00 p.m.)  
Catechumenate (OCIA): meets Thu., Dec. 5 (3:30 p.m.) (church)  
Finances Council: meets Thu., Dec. 12 (12:30 p.m.)

### ADVENT 2024

The word "Advent" (Coming) indicates how Christians view the four-week period preceding the Nativity of our Lord. It is a time of preparation for an ever more intimate coming of the Lord to all of us. By preparing for the Lord's coming time and again at Christmas, Christians prepare for his final coming, which will be decisive for all human beings. "When he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, [may] we who watch for that day...inherit the great promise in which we now dare to hope" (Preface 1 of Advent).

### 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.



### SPECIAL SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Already we are receiving inquiries from parents with children attending public schools who will need to be prepared for first Communion/ Reconciliation and Confirmation. Besides, there are children in gr. 2 (and older) requiring preparation for Baptism and Reception as Catholics. Hence, we are seeking two or three willing parishioners to assist with the preparation: please consider this and speak to Fr. Peter or the parish office (a.s.a.p. please).

### COMMUNION MINISTRY TO PARISHIONERS SICK OR SHUT IN AT HOME

While we have parishioners who have stepped forward to serve in this valuable ministry, definitely we could use three or four more. There are parishioners who have not been joining us at Mass in person lately, for whatever reason, and who would love to be connected with the parish through the reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion. Ministers come forward to receive the pyx with the host once Communion is finished. From the church they go forth to give Communion to those who have requested the Lord.



### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: Saturday, December 7 (8:30 a.m. Mass)

The Anointing of the Sick is not only for the physically sick. It is a sacrament for those who are suffering with an infirmity or a long-term illness; those facing surgery; those experiencing a need for healing and strength -- be it physical, emotional, or psychological. If a person is anointed and the illness later becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated. It is fitting to receive this sacrament prior to a serious operation; the same holds for the elderly when frailty becomes more pronounced. If you wish to receive the sacrament, inform the office or priest in advance (that is to say, not at the last moment).

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are aiming to start up a Children's Liturgy here, after too many years of absence -- but we need both leaders willing to assist on Sunday mornings (9:00 Mass) and parents keen of attending Mass with their children. If you think this to be a worthwhile endeavour, do let Fr. Peter or the office know.

### MISSALS

The "Living With Christ" missals are being made available yet again this year, and we are asking that you take yours home with you instead of leaving it in the church. A recommended offering of \$5 would be appreciated (place it in the collection basket) -- your old missal can be disposed of in your recycling container. We remind everyone that the purpose of having a missal is to allow you to prepare for Mass at home, which is more beneficial than "following along" during Mass -- especially considering that we have very good proclaimers of the Sunday word in this parish who deserve to have all eyes and ears attuned to their proclamation.

### SUPPORTING NIAGARA REGION CHARITIES



The annual "Giving Tree" is set up and ready to accept donations until December 15. Donations will be distributed to the Ozanam Centre, NF Soup Kitchen, and Start Me Up Niagara.

### ROTARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR



Our church is community stop 7 on the Tour this year, hosted by the parish Catholic Women's League and the Holy Name Society. The decor will depict the Advent theme: paths of enlightenment towards hope, joy, love, and peace (Adveniat Regnum Tuum, "Your Kingdom Come"). We welcome all parishioners and the public to the church (no charge for viewing) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And lunch is part of the Tour (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Davy St. hall). Please join us for lunch!

### STATUES

In preparation for the parish 200th (2026), the same restoration experts that masterfully restored the statue of St. Anthony are working on three more: St. Joseph (above the organ), angel (kept now in the rectory cellar), and the 12th Station (a soldier's arm is missing). Our thanks to Joseph Sitko for lining up the project, and to Patrick and Monique Portello for transporting them to Ottawa!

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

FIRST ADVENT (C)

Invitation: Let us pray that, through our prayers and apostolic work, the Lord, our justice, will be made present to all who are in need.

response: *Lord, come to us!*

Intentions: For the Church to steadfastly proclaim the sure and certain hope of God's promised redemption -- and may Christians, with ever increased love, work within the world like yeast, we pray...

For the power of God's love to so embrace peoples of every race, nation, and disposition as to overcome conflict -- may all leaders, too, speak and act in a way that promotes peace, we pray...

For people who are anxious -- especially those without work, those who are expecting the birth or adoption of a child, and those living with serious illness -- to be preserved from fear, we pray...

For the light of Christ to shine for persons who live without faith in God and who are going through a season of despair, we pray...

For our own witness and example to help raise up our youth as Christian adults overflowing with love for God and neighbour, we pray...

For all who wait for the Lord's coming with expectant hearts to spend this time of waiting committed to works that bring justice to the oppressed and courage to those who are afraid, we pray...

**For those who have died to rest in Christ's redeeming love,**  
**especially:** *[9:00 Mass]* Mary Morgetano... *[11:00 Mass]* Sean Kirlin / Emelia Nugent...  
*[each Mass]* Fr. Ron's twin brother Richard Wiecek...  
**we pray...**

Conclusion: **God of justice, as we await the coming of your Son, may we  
be comforted amid our fears. You who make all things new,  
turn life's troubles into triumphs. Through Christ our Lord.**