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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
Canada L0S 1J0

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 905/905-1051
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: _____

Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2025 [World Day of Consecrated Life]



JESUS CHRIST, A SIGN THAT IS OPPOSED

He will sit as a refiner and purifier. (Malachi)
Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters. (Hebrews)
The Lord's salvation my eyes have seen. (Luke)

Pope Francis points to the presentation of Jesus as a story of people being drawn together in Jesus, and reminds us that Jesus calls us to an encounter that "takes place within the people of God, in its concrete history, in its living traditions: in the temple, according to the law, in the context of prophecy, in young and old together" (Feb. 2, 2019 Homily). Do we see Jesus drawing people together to encounter him through our own Church community? How can we make this encounter more alive?

-- Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays



'WEEKENDER PROGRAM'

Your Society of St. Vincent de Paul has launched the "Weekender Program," whose aim is to assist families with school-aged children. Once a week, during the school year, we provide non-perishable food bags to those families in need of assistance. Parishioners interested in supporting this effort are asked to place food donations in the labelled food container at the rear of the church. Ongoing specific needs include: small packets of rice, macaroni and cheese, cookie boxes, cereal, juice boxes, canned chicken / tuna / ham, and canned vegetables. Thanks, everyone!

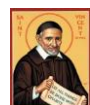
PARISH MISSIONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Bishop Gerard Bergie is asking clergy and as many parishioners as possible across the diocese to complete the Parish Missional Health Assessment. This is a tool to help define a clear, realistic picture of every parish's strengths and growth areas. Prior to Christmas, Fr. Peter handed the form to a number of parishioners and many have responded (anonymously); if you have yet to complete yours, please do so a.s.a.p., and if you are interested in obtaining a form, they are kept in the church library.

THE POPE'S FEBRUARY INTENTION: for vocations to the priesthood and religious life



Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

January 26

\$ 2,933.15

Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

These are now in the church, in a labelled box near the doors. Parishioners are asked to please pick theirs up a.s.a.p. Those not picked up will be mailed (given the cost of mailing everyone's cooperation is needed).

Monday, February 3

8:30 a.m. Mass (+ blessing of throats) † Christine Sauriol-Bruce
[St. Blaise (Blaise), bishop, martyr]
[St. Ansgar, bishop, Benedictine religious, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, "apostle to the North of Europe"]
[St. Claudine (Marie of St. Ignatius) Thévenet, religious founder]

Tuesday, February 4

8:30 a.m. Mass † Richard Wiecek
[St. Andrea Corsini, bishop]
[St. John (João) de Britto, Jesuit priest, missionary, martyr of Goa]

Wednesday, February 5

St. Agatha, virgin martyr

8:30 a.m. Mass ♥† liv. & dec. of Wagner and Surgent families

Thursday, February 6

St. Paul (Pauro) Miki, priest, Jesuit religious, missionary & companions, martyrs of Japan

8:30 a.m. Mass + Holy Hour of Adoration (to 10:00) † Peggy Grand

Friday, February 7

8:30 a.m. Mass † Mary Shinerock
9:00-10:00 a.m. Reconciliation
[Bl. Pius IX, pope]

Saturday, February 8

[St. Jerome Emiliani (Girolamo Miani), priest, religious founder, patron of orphans and abandoned children]
[St. Josephine (Giuseppina) Bakhita, "Madre Moretta," former slave, religious founder, first Sudanese saint]
[International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking]

5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) ♥ int. of Helen Data

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 9

9:00 a.m. Mass † Mary Morgetano / Frances Piuanno
11:00 a.m. Mass ♥ people of the parish

[Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police, and Security Officials]

A NOTE OF THANKS

Westview Centre 4 Women would like to thank you all for another year of incredible support! Every kindness, great or small, is appreciated. We look forward to a new year with less upheaval and more settled for the beautiful community we serve. We could not do it without the ongoing support of friends like you.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Although not until March, we are hoping that someone from St. Vincent de Paul Church would be willing to assist in this event, to be held at Grace United, NL. They need to know by February 10 if they can count on us, with a planning meeting to be held later in February. The contact is Pauline Miller (289/213-5359; pjmiller9@sympatico.ca).

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS (all in the hall unless otherwise indicated)

Heritage Committee: Wed., Feb. 5 (6:30 p.m.)
Adult Catechumenate (O.C.I.A.): Thu., Feb. 6 (3:30 p.m.)
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: meets Wed., Feb. 12 (4:00 p.m.)
Pastoral Council: meets Wed., Feb. 12 (6:30 p.m.)
Finances Council: meets Thu., Feb. 13 (1:00 p.m.)
First Communion Orientation 2: Thu., Feb. 13 (4:00 p.m.)



ALPHA – IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT

We are proceeding with the launch of a "pilot Alpha" for our parishioners! Alpha provides a "refresher" for committed Christians to look at the basics of the faith. It's all about the guests: helping them feel loved and cared for in a genuine way. Once they feel loved and cared for sets the stage for them to be open to the videos and the ensuing conversations afterwards. 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. We will be assembling a core team of hosts and helpers.

The pilot runs for seven sessions and includes an all-day retreat. We are aiming to host this Alpha experience on Thursdays:

Feb. 27 (training in small group facilitating)	Mar. 20 (video "how do I have faith?")
Mar. 6 (video "who is Jesus?")	Mar. 27 (video "why and how do I pray?")
Mar. 13 (video "why did Jesus die?")	Apr. 3 (video "why and how do I read the Bible?")

The retreat day will likely be on Saturday, April 12 (videos "who is the Holy Spirit? what does the Holy Spirit do? how can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? how can I make the most of the rest of my life?"), and two last sessions are held after Easter.

Those interested in participating (and we hope many of you will!) are asked to add their names and best contact info to the sign-up sheet near the church doors (or else notify the parish office) by **no later than February 10**.



WORLD DAY OF MARRIAGE: celebrating significant anniversaries

All married couples, especially those celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60th+ anniversary in 2025 are invited to attend a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bergie on Sunday, February 9 (2:00 p.m., Cathedral). All are then welcome to a social at Knox Presbyterian Church (53 Church St.), where the bishop will be available for a photo opportunity (bring your own camera) with these couples. This "Anniversary Mass" will become an annual event in our diocese. A congratulatory certificate will be mailed to couples who register and who are celebrating the above-mentioned special anniversaries. To receive this certificate, please contact the parish office.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

An important "heads of our subcommittees" meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 5 (6:30 p.m., hall) and all are asked to make an effort to attend. The following subcommittees have been established already and are progressing steadily in planning ahead for bicentennial of the parish in 2026:

- (1) anniversary festivities
- (2) anniversary liturgies
- (3) publicity (invitees, sponsors, etc.)
- (4) history & memorabilia (incl. photo directory)
- (5) restoration (statues, stations, etc.)

It's not too late to consider becoming involved in one (or more) of those areas of focus.



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: mobilizing together

A signature collection is taking place this Sunday and next, following upon the action sheet "Create Hope -- Reaping Our Rights." Essentially, we are raising awareness about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP); we call upon the Government of Canada to adopt mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation to compel Canadian companies to prevent, report, and remedy human rights abuses and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains.

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; ibrinkman@dt.com).

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).



UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (2025)

Invitation: Simeon and Anna saw God's promise fulfilled in their lifetime, and our eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord. Let us make known our needs -- trusting in God's faithfulness.

response: *Lord, shine on us!* or *Lord, be our light!*

Intentions: For vocations, the Pope's prayer intention for this month: may the Church community welcome the desires as well as the doubts of all young people who feel a call to serve the mission of Christ in the priesthood and religious life, we pray...

For the sick to know healing and wholeness; for increasing respect for the aging in our families and community, we pray...

For an end to acts of violence against women, girls, and all children; also, for world leaders to protect refugees fleeing economic, racial, ethnic, political, and religious oppression, we pray...

For those who have been gifted with the ability to reveal God's beauty to the world through artistic expression: in this Jubilee Year, may God inspire them to use their creativity and talents on earth for the benefit of his kingdom, we pray...

For anyone who doubts their faith to assess their lives in the light of the Gospel and rediscover the joy of being Christian, we pray...

For all of us gathered in this holy temple: refined by God's word and purified by the Lord's sacrifice, may we bear the light of Jesus Christ shining forth from within us to others,

we pray...

For all the dead, freed from death's power, to rejoice in eternal light,
especially: *[5:00 Mass]* in memoriam (priest names them)... *[11:00 Mass]* Adelina Micieli...
[each Mass] Pat Twaddle / Lina Pavan / Halina Dulas...

we pray...

Conclusion: God ever-faithful, may the prayers we offer and our work to bring them to fulfillment bring the light and peace of Christ into the day-to-day lives of others. Through Christ our Lord.

Mass in memoriam (Feb. 1)

Visnja Haramina-Perkov

Jacqueline Boyce

Theodorus (Ted) Van de Laar

David Bell

Viva Norton

Clara Phillips