



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

This space is available	<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>	This space is available
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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>

**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.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**December 22, 2024**



**GOD'S PROMISE OF SALVATION NEEDS  
 OUR ACCEPTANCE AND COOPERATION**

She who is in labour. (*Micah*)  
 Christ, coming, said, "I have come to do your will." (*Hebrews*)  
 The visitation of Mary and message to Elizabeth. (*Luke*)

Sacrifices of the old Law could never atone for sin; that needed Christ himself, God made man, to accept death in perfect obedience and become the one true sacrifice. And Christ could only embark on this redeeming work if Mary were prepared, in perfect obedience, to become his mother. She was prepared; she did believe: God could become man and the way was opened for our salvation.  
 -- Susan Sayers

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

The Christmas Mass continues to be the principal way for us to express our joy and gratitude for the mystery of the Incarnation. Catholic practice observes the eucharistic liturgy at the four "cardinal points" of the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord: sunset, midnight, dawn, noonday. Get to know the spirit proper to each of the Christmas Masses...

5:30 / 8:00 / 10:30 p.m. Dec. 24: "the seeing of light" -- the Christmas of light and shadow. The people who walked in darkness see the great light for all peoples heralded to the shepherds. We join Bethlehem's shepherds in nightwatch.

9:00 a.m. Dec. 25: "the celebration of seeing" -- the Christmas of treasure and giving. The shepherds arrive to see the infant Jesus, the great hope of salvation, and they glorified and praised God. We go with them to Bethlehem.

11:00 a.m. Dec. 25: "the celebration of inner seeing" -- the Christmas of joy, of manifesting the glory of God. The fuller meaning of the Word become flesh becomes manifest as a reflection of the Father's glory and being, which will ultimately be seen to the ends of the earth.

"O come, all ye faithful" -- ye not so faithful, welcome too!  
 Whether you're here once a week, once a year, or never before,  
 we'd love to have you join us in celebration and song this Christmas! Hope to see you here!

**JUBILEE 2025**



The Jubilee of Hope will officially open on December 24 with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In our diocese, Bishop Gerard Bergie will celebrate Mass at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria on Sunday, December 29 as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. All parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend! Also, all parishioners are invited to visit the beautifully-restored Nativity scene in front of St. Catharines City Hall -- a stunning display to see day and night, sure to inspire! It will be up until January 7.

**Monday, December 23** [*"come, O Emmanuel!"*]  
 8:30 a.m. Mass † Gerald Mackay  
 [St. John Cantius (Jan Kanty), priest, philosopher, physicist]  
 [Bl. Elena Guerra, religious, founder]

**Tuesday, December 24**  
 note: no a.m. Mass  
 [St. Paola Elisabetta Carioli, spouse, mother, religious]  
 [Bl. Bartolomeo Maria Dal Monte, priest]

**CHRISTMAS EVE / NATIVITY OF THE LORD:  
 Christ our Saviour is born / The Word was made flesh**  
 5:30 p.m. twilight / sundown Mass (5:00 children's tableau)  
 † Ed & Marg Dale  
 8:00 p.m. mid-evening Mass (7:30 readings, carols prelude)  
 ♥ people of the parish  
 10:30 p.m. pre-midnight Mass (10:00 readings, carols prelude)  
 † Raphael Pereira

**Wednesday, December 25 (solemnity)  
 CHRISTMAS DAY / NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
 9:00 a.m. dawn Mass † William Scarselletta  
 11:00 a.m. daylight Mass † Frank & Helen Margolatti

**Thursday, December 26  
 ST. STEPHEN, deacon, first Christian martyr (feast)**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass † Peter Van de Laar  
 [Bl. Secondo Pollo, priest]

**Friday, December 27  
 ST. JOHN, apostle, evangelist (feast)**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass ♥ int. of Peter & Elizabeth Gauthier and family  
 note: no a.m. Reconciliation  
 [St. Fabiola, married woman / widow, nurse]

**Saturday, December 28  
 HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs (feast)**  
 5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) † Patrick, Karla, Andrew Galvin /  
 † Aurel & Gabrielle Ouimet

**Holy Family Sunday, December 29**  
 9:00 a.m. Mass ♥ people of the parish  
 11:00 a.m. Mass ♥ int. of Ted van der Zalm

**CHURCH CLEANING**  
 All hands on deck! Let's chip in and help spruce up our church for the Christmas-Epiphany feasts! Bring your favourite cleaning gear (certain supplies will be provided). We're looking at this Monday (December 23), in the early afternoon.

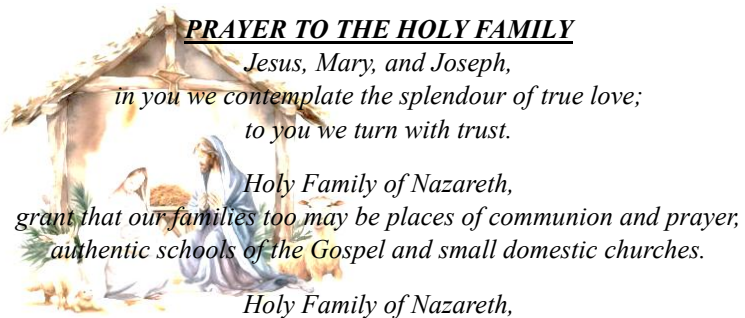
**MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!**  
 December 15 \$5,128.50  
 Credit / Debit TAP donations now available at the door.

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph**  
**December 29, 2024**

**AT CHRISTMAS, JESUS BECAME  
 A MEMBER OF A FAMILY**

God's creative love. (*1 Samuel*)  
 Children of God. (*1 John*)  
 Jesus among the teachers in the temple. (*Luke*)

The holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus is an example and inspiration for all families. The qualities of mutual respect and understanding, affection, and security which we see there are the qualities which provide the best conditions for children to grow and develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The effects of a good, stable, and accepting family life spread out into the whole of our society.  
 -- Susan Sayers



**PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**  
*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
 in you we contemplate the splendour of true love;  
 to you we turn with trust.*  
*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
 grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,  
 authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.*  
*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
 may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division;  
 may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
 find ready comfort and healing.*  
*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
 make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability  
 of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.*  
*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.*  
 -- Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia, 325)

**HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE**  
 A diocesan Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome and other stops in Italy has been arranged for October 16-24, 2025 -- led by Bishop Gerard Bergie. A detailed itinerary is on the diocesan website, along with a booking form.

**REVERENCE AT COMMUNION**  
 The Church has asked all Catholics to practise utmost reverence at the time of receiving holy Communion by making a sign of reverence upon approaching the priest or minister: a simple bow of the head is sufficient. The normative posture for receiving is standing -- kneeling draws unnecessary attention to oneself and disrupts the flow of the procession. Besides, receiving the Eucharist is not a private action but rather a communal one. If you are receiving Communion in your hand, place your hands in the form of a "throne," one hand flat over the other. When "The Body of Christ" is said, we answer "Amen": a way of saying, "Yes, I believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist" -- so let your "Amen" to Jesus coming to you be heard!

**Monday, December 30**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass † Gerald Mackay  
 [Bl. Eugenia Maria Ravasco, religious]  
 [Bl. Giovanni Maria Boccardo, priest, religious founder]

**Tuesday, December 31**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass ♥ int. of Carmine Giordano  
 [St. Sylvester I, pope]

**NEW YEAR'S EVE / MATERNITY OF B.V. MARY:  
 Through Mary, God's Son was born**  
 5:00 p.m. Mass † Edward Cushing

**Wednesday, January 1 (solemnity) [World Day of Peace]  
 NEW YEAR'S DAY 2025 / MATERNITY OF MARY**  
 10:00 a.m. Mass (note time change!) † Arlene Marian  
 [St. Vincenzo Maria (di San Paolo) Strambi, Passionist religious, bishop]

**Thursday, January 2  
 St. Basil of Caesarea & St. Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, doctors of the Church ("Cappadocian Fathers")**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass ♥ liv. & dec. of Geary and Oblak families  
 note: no a.m. Holy Hour of Adoration

**Friday, January 3**  
 8:30 a.m. Mass † Christine Sauriol-Bruce  
 note: no a.m. Reconciliation  
 [Most Holy Name of Jesus (Yeshua, "God saves")  
 [St. Genevieve of Paris, virgin]  
 [St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, priest, co-founder (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate)]

**Saturday, January 4**  
 7:30-8:30 a.m. Reconciliation  
 8:30 a.m. Mass † Mary Shinerock  
 [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, married woman / widow, mother, founder (Srs. of Charity), educator (first American-born saint)]  
 5:00 p.m. Mass (for Sun.) ♥ people of the parish

**Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 5**  
 9:00 a.m. Mass † Jerry Slak  
 11:00 a.m. Mass † Richard Wiecek

**THE VINEYARD** A special Christmas issue of "The Vineyard" is available on the diocesan website ([www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)). If you would like to subscribe to receive issues by e-mail, please send your request to [vineyard@saintcd.com](mailto:vineyard@saintcd.com)

**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.)

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Dec. 24 through to Jan. 2.

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

FOURTH ADVENT (C)

Invitation: **By offering our prayers and petitions, the greatness of God shall reach to the ends of the earth; and God shall be peace.**

response: *Lord, come to us!*

Intentions: **For the Church and its ministers to be inspired by Advent's message, to perform prophetic works of justice for the poor, we pray...**

**For the hearts and the lives of our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrating Hanukkah this week to be filled with God's light, we pray...**

**For world leaders to be better able to read the signs of the times, and to work ever harder to satisfy humanity's longing for peace, we pray...**

**For the sick and the aged to be relieved of their ailments as the festival of Christmas nears: may Christians haste to the aid of those who are in any anguish of body, mind or spirit, we pray...**

**For those facing important life decisions this season to be inspired by Mary, who longed to do God's will in her life, we pray...**

**For those who are occasional visitors to this parish church to receive a hearty welcome at Christmastime, and always, we pray...**

**For the faithful departed to be surrounded by the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints in eternity,**

**especially:** *[9:00 Mass] Harry Van de Laar... [11:00 Mass] Alan Goodman... [each Mass]*

Doug Hunter / David Bell / Ken Dowd / Frances Mestek / Jake Breeve / Peter Dirks, sr....

**we pray...**

**God knows our needs before the words are on our lips.**

**Now let us pray for our own personal needs, in silence.**

**Conclusion: Ever-loving God, you come to us in others and you come to others through us. Have us carry you with joy and bless all persons whom we shall welcome. Through Christ our Lord.**

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

CHRISTMAS 2024

Invitation: In union with every man and woman in search of hope, let us raise our common prayer to the One who wished to accept our poverty, in order to clothe us in his riches.

response: *Lord, be close to us!* or *Lord, give us peace!*

Intentions: For the Word, who took on our flesh, to assist Francis our Pope and the whole Church, making them signs of God's mercy: may all believers be bearers of hope for humanity, we pray...

For our Redeemer, who was entrusted to a human family, to enlighten all who govern nations, and open the boundaries of land and sea to those who are seeking a welcome, we pray...

For the Messiah, who made us his brothers and sisters, to defend children from all forms of violence, convert the Herods of our day, and free women who are exploited or maltreated, we pray...

For the Only-Begotten of God, who came to heal broken hearts, to give health to the sick, soothe the restless, comfort the lonely, and console those who have lost all hope, we pray...

For the Light of this world, who gives meaning to time and history, to make Christian communities witnesses of his love, prompt all people of good will to welcome him, and raise a new song of joy in every human heart, we pray...

**For the Risen One to embrace all the dead with the light of eternal life,**

**especially:** *[5:30 Mass]* Ed & Marg Dale... *[10:30 Mass]* Raphael Pereira... *[9:00 Mass]*  
William Scarselletta... *[11:00 Mass]* Frank & Helen Margolatti... *[each Mass]*  
all relatives and friends of our own who have died in the Lord during 2024...

**we pray...**

**Conclusion: Father, hear the prayers we offer to you. Recognizing your immense goodness in your Son's Nativity, may we become luminous witness of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.**

# UNIVERSAL PRAYER

HOLY FAMILY (C)

Invitation: Recalling the joys and sorrows of the Holy Family at Nazareth, let us pray together for the needs of families on earth.

response: *Lord, bless our homes!*

Intentions: For our worship of God and the celebration of the Lord's birth to deepen our bonds of unity as one family in faith, we pray...

For the world's governments and organizations to more fully commit themselves to the protection and support of families, we pray...

For the poor of the earth and the sick of our parish to be released from their bonds and all sadness be turned into joy, we pray... [(11:00 Mass) int. of Ted van der Zalm]

For family harmony to be preserved through the willingness of every member to be an instrument of peace and good will, we pray...

For respect owing to parents to take root in young children; for adults to look after their aging parents with tenderness, we pray...

For children to find security and blessing in stable families; for children whose home life is broken to be well cared for, we pray...

especially: For the dead to be granted eternal rest and perpetual light, [5:00 Mass] Aurel, Gabrielle, Leon Ouimet & Patrick, Karla, Andrew Galvin...

*[each Mass]* Gordon Morgan...

**And we pray, in silence, for the intentions personal to us...**

Conclusion: **Father of us all, bless our own and each family, and provide for their every need. Give them divine assistance to be holy families, open to your grace and committed to your purpose. Through Christ our Lord.**