

SACRED HEART PARISH

www.sacredheartniagarafalls.com

Office: 3882 Main St, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 6B6 (905-295-4455)

Rectory: 3718 Netherby Road, Stevensville, ON L0S 1S0 (905-382-3826)

**St. Joseph's Church,
Snyder (1849)**

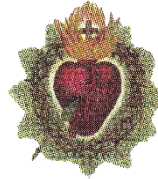
3718 Netherby Road
Stevensville



Mass:

Saturday 8 a.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m.



**Sacred Heart Church,
Chippawa (1924)**

3882 Main Street
Niagara Falls

Mass:

Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.,

Mon., Tues., Wed. 8 a.m.,

Thurs. 7 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.

Confessions: Thirty minutes before each Mass

Baptisms: Sundays. Contact the parish at least one month in advance.

Weddings: On any day except Sunday. Contact the parish at least six months in advance.
Preparation course required.

Anointing of the Sick: Do **NOT** wait until the last hours of life to call a priest: he may not be available immediately. If your loved one is in hospital, ask the nurse to call the priest on call 24/7.

Funerals: Contact the parish upon notice of death before going to the funeral home.

Pastor: Father Stuart MacDonald, JCL

Email: pastor@sacredheartniagarafalls.com

In Residence: Fr. Jean-Bosco Iyamuremye

Deacon: Mr. Anthony Calaycay

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Tina Bruzzese office@sacredheartniagarafalls.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

St. Joseph's Cemetery, Snyder

Mike Collee: 905-384-2505

If you wish to make an online donation, it may be done by e-transfer on your bank's website using either: donation@sacredheartniagarafalls.com or donation@stjosephchurchsnyder.com

Sunday, December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, December 9 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	8 a.m.: +Pietro Barbisan	Amabile Barbisan
	7 p.m.: +David Albers, jr.	His parents
Tuesday, December 10	8 a.m.: +Michael Hobberlin	David & Carole Whittey
Wednesday, December 11	8 a.m.: +Theresa Ladoucoeur	Sacred Heart CWL
Thursday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas	7 p.m.: +Speedy Palomares	family
Friday, December 13 St. Lucy	7 a.m.: Richard Gensens	David & Carole Whittey
Saturday, December 14 St. John of the Cross	8 a.m.: Fr. Stanislaw Ksciuk	Richard & Agnes Sekutowski
	5 p.m.: +Theresa Marinaccio	family
Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday	9 a.m.: <i>pro populo</i>	
	11 a.m.: +Shirley Palomares	family

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A solemn Mass will be celebrated on at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, in addition to the regular 8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

2025 Boxes of offertory envelopes are now available in the vestibules of the churches. I have tried to make sure the boxes are in the proper churches. If your box is not there, please let me know and I will bring it from the other church. Some parishioners have new numbers (everyone at St. Joseph's does) as the two sets of numbers have been combined in view of the merger. Please remember envelope numbers have NO significance other than as an identifier, just like a bank account number. If you would like a box of envelopes and one has not been assigned to you, please take one of the blank boxes available and write your full name, address, telephone number and email on the first few envelopes so that you can be put in the system.

In Advent, it is an ancient custom to celebrate what is called a Rorate Mass, which is a mass celebrated at dawn by candlelight. A Rorate Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 13 at 7 a.m. on the feast of St. Lucy, whose name means light.



Christmas Season Schedule

Wednesday, December 18	5:30 – 6:30 pm. Sacred Heart	Confessions
Friday, December 20	12 noon – 1 pm St. Joseph	Confessions
	5:30 – 6:30 pm Sacred Heart	
Saturday, December 21	9-10 am Sacred Heart	Confessions
	11-12 noon St. Joseph	
Confessions are heard every Monday through Friday throughout the year from 8-9 pm at St. Denis' Church, corner of Lake and Carlton Streets in St. Catharines, use the Carlton St entrance near the school. Parish confessions will also be heard at their regularly scheduled times.		
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	7 p.m. St. Joseph's	Mass
	12 midnight Sacred Heart	
Wednesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY	9 a.m. St. Joseph's	Mass
	11 a.m. Sacred Heart	
Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve	5 p.m. Sacred Heart	Mass
Wednesday, January 1 2023 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Day	9 a.m. St. Joseph's	Mass
	11 a.m. Sacred Heart	

As part of the diocesan effort to revitalise our parishes, and in light of my opinion that the celebration of Mass and its importance needs more attention in our lives, I have decided that on certain feasts (such as the upcoming solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) and on the last weekend of each month, at Sacred Heart Church, I will celebrate Mass *ad orientem*, that is with all of us facing the same direction at the altar. This will be on an experimental basis until Easter, at which point we can decide if it is something we wish to continue at all masses. The bishop has approved my proposal. As you know from homilies and things I have written in the bulletin, this is something that the 2nd Vatican Council did NOT change. It is my belief and experience that when the priest is facing the congregation at the altar, too much emphasis gets placed on him and his style, his actions, his voice and often results in performance or theatre. The Mass is supposed to emphasise Christ and his sacrifice. It is my intent that this change will lead us to deeper participation at Mass. It works well at St. Joseph's church and it is my hope that it will do so at Sacred Heart as well.

To assist parishioners in year-end tax planning, the Diocese is pleased to provide a Donation of Securities Form. Parishioners can make donations of securities to the Parish or Diocese and receive a receipt for income tax purposes for the full market amount of the securities donated. The Diocese covers all costs for the processing of the donation. The Donation of Securities form may be obtained from the parish office or by contacting John O'Brien, CFO, at 905-684-0154 x206 or jobrien@saintcd.com.

2025 is a Holy Year, also known as a Jubilee Year. “Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the yobel, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). It was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one can be granted a plenary indulgence.

The holy year begins on Christmas Eve when Pope Francis will open the Holy Door (an entrance to St. Peter's Basilica that is bricked up except for jubilee years and passage through which carries with it an indulgence) and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany 2026. The theme of this holy year is Pilgrims of Hope. **The opening Mass of the 2025 Jubilee Year will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, St. Catharines) on Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon by His Excellency, Bishop Gerard Bergie. Please plan to attend this Mass as we begin our journey as “Pilgrims of Hope”.**

In light of the holy year, please consider joining me and Deacon Anthony on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, and Santiago di Compostela in October 2025. We will be in Fatima for the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun when hundreds of people witnessed the sun dance in the sky. We will visit the tombs of the three seers of Fatima. We will also visit the healing waters of Lourdes and participate in the famous candlelight procession. Part of our travels will take us to the tomb of the Apostle St. James which is the site where so many people finish the famous “camino walk”. While we will not be walking, we will visit the sacred site and see the famous incense burner that swings from the ceiling of the basilica. Brochures can be found in the vestibules. An information meeting will be scheduled at the end of January for more information and to answer your questions. While I realise that the price might seem high at first glance, our itinerary is priced lower than most on the market and remember that it includes everything (airfare, hotel, 2 meals a day, tour guide, entrance fees, gratuities, taxes) unlike other tours.