

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)**

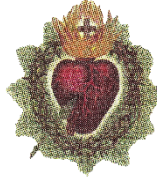
3718 Netherby Road
Stevensville



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@stjosephchurchsnnyder.com

Sunday, December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, December 23	8 a.m.: Marilyn Urechko	Gail Bailey
Tuesday, December 24 Vigil of Christmas	8 a.m.: +Luz & Juan Blanco	George & Henedina Mavromamatis
	7 p.m.: +Diane Rame	Gary Rame
Wednesday, December 25 THE NATIVITY OF the LORD CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	Midnight: <i>pro populo</i>	
	9 a.m.: special intention	
	11 a.m.: special intention	
Thursday, December 26 St. Stephen Octave of Christmas	7 p.m.: +Norma Poitras Bradley	David & Carole Whitty
Friday, December 27 St. John Octave of Christmas	8 a.m.: +Marie Patenaud	Richard & Loretta
Saturday, December 28 Holy Innocents Octave of Christmas	8 a.m.: for an end to abortion	
	5 p.m.: +Martin Bederski	Joel Brochu
Sunday, December 29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Octave of Christmas	9 a.m.: <i>pro populo</i>	
	11 a.m.: special intention	Trudy Misk
	2 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral for the opening of the Jubilee	

A reminder that next Sunday, the bishop will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral for the opening of the Jubilee Holy Year. Everyone is invited to attend.

Merry Christmas!



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
Christmas 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas Eve 2024 marks the beginning of a Holy Year that will last until January 6, 2026. It starts with the opening of the Holy Year Door at St. Peter's Basilica. This happens once every twenty-five years. Pope Francis has asked each diocese throughout the world to officially begin the Jubilee Year on December 29, 2024. We will mark that day with a Mass at our Cathedral at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The theme that Pope Francis has chosen for this Jubilee is, "Pilgrims of Hope". In the document initiating this year (*Spes Non Confundit* - Hope Does Not Disappoint), the Holy Father states, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. ... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope." (SC 1)

Another significant reason to hope is the feast of Christmas. This is the hope that is found in the birth of a child which is always a joyous event. What makes this birth so unique is that the child is Jesus, the Son of God.

New life is always a sign of hope; however, this becomes even more significant when it is connected to our salvation. In the beautiful Advent Hymn, "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" we hear these words: "Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring."

God became a little child in order to save us so that we could be with Him forever. This means that on our pilgrimage of life, we have a future. It is rooted in a belief that good things will come to us because Jesus was born in a simple stable in Bethlehem.

Please be assured of my sincere prayer that this Christmas will be a source of hope for you. May any disappointments that come from anxiety and doubt be overshadowed by the bright hope found in the birth of the Christ child.

May the coming Holy Year also bring us closer to Jesus as we take to heart the words of Pope Francis: "may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as 'our hope'." (SC 1)

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Bishop of St. Catharines

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