

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)**

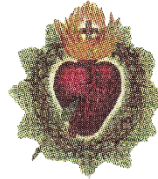
3718 Netherby Road
Stevensville



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 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, December 2	8 a.m.: +Eugenia Castro (rescheduled from November)	family
Tuesday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier	8 a.m.: +Ron Bryant (rescheduled from November)	friends
Wednesday, December 4	8 a.m.: +Pietro Barbisan (rescheduled from November)	Amabile Barbisan
Thursday, December 5	7 p.m.: +Howard Biondi (rescheduled from November)	family
Friday, December 6 St. Nicholas First Friday	8 a.m.: +Ron Bryant 8:30 Eucharistic Holy Hour	Friends
Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose First Saturday	8 a.m.: Don Taddeo	David & Carole Whitty
	3 p.m.: Eucharistic Holy Hour for Peace	
	5 p.m.: +Bernie MacDonald	Jose & Evelyn Kafie
Sunday, December 8 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9 a.m.: +Stephen & Yolande Tykolis	Tykolis family
	11 a.m.: <i>pro populo</i>	

Offertory

St. Joseph's: November 3: **\$815.**; November 10: **\$1095.**; November 17: **\$1408**; November 24: **\$1630.**; Cemetery: **\$470.**

Sacred Heart: November 3: **\$1538.**; November 10: **\$1500.**; November 17: **\$1695.**; November 24: **\$892.**

Thank you for your generous support of the annual ***Deo Gratias*** collection. Your gifts already total **\$2125.** (Sacred Heart) and **\$555.** (St. Joseph's).

As we begin to prepare for the feast of the birth of the Prince of Peace, our thoughts and prayers turn to our brothers and sisters who live in the land of our Lord's birth. Israel and Palestine are still at war; many innocent people are suffering. We think, as well, of the continuing war in Russia and Ukraine. There are nations in Africa where internal strife is causing untold suffering to innocent people, many of them Catholics. Please join us for a **Eucharistic Holy Hour to pray for peace at St. Joseph's Church on Saturday, December 7, at 3 p.m.** We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, sing hymns pleading with our Lord to bring peace to these troubled lands.

Mark the Date: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which usually is celebrated on December 8, is transferred this year to Monday, December 9, because the Sunday of Advent takes precedence on the 8th. A solemn Mass will be celebrated on **December 9 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church**, in addition to the regular 8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Please plan on attending Mass that day to honour our Lady.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make our anniversary luncheon such an enjoyable event. To everyone who helped gather prizes for the raffle, set up the hall, and sold tickets, to our choir director Cecilia and the choir members who sang so beautifully for us. Thank you to Willoughby Fire Hall and their crew for preparing and serving the delicious lunch. **The winner of the Father's Feast Raffle was Peter Taras, ticket # 28. Let's hope they survive my cooking!**

Today, we begin to sing the Marian antiphon *Alma redemptoris mater* (Loving Mother of the Redeemer). It is the traditional antiphon for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, which we will sing until the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord on February 2. Traditionally considered to have been authored in the 11th century, it has been recited as part of the priest's breviary almost continuously since then. A translation of the beautiful hymn is found on the pew music sheet.



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	

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Today is the first day of Advent. Christmas is less than four weeks away. Already, we are surrounded by decorations, lights, and music that would make us think we are in the full swing of celebrating this religious feast. For many in our culture, Christmas is nothing more than a secular event – a chance to decorate, party, and exchange gifts. For most, it is no different from the exaggerated emphasis placed on Halloween (another religious feast coopted by the culture) or the celebration of July 4 for our American friends. For most people, the religious aspect of Christmas has faded into the background, if it has not even disappeared for them. For us, as Catholics, practising Catholics –not just those in name – Advent needs to be different. But how?

1. Advent, like Lent before Easter, is a season of preparation, even penitential in nature. The purple vestments and decorations in the church reflect that this is a season of sobriety and penance as our focus concentrates on the fact that Jesus will come again in history to judge all of us, just as He came once before, as a baby, to tell us of God's plan for forgiveness and redemption.
2. Perhaps we can hold off on decorating our houses and listening to Christmas music until much closer to December 25. Christmas BEGINS on December 25; it doesn't end on that day. Maybe we could have a nativity scene take prominence in our houses until we place our trees up closer to the day. Do you have an Advent wreath on your table that you light before your meal together? It doesn't have to be fancy, even just four candles of any colour lined up in dollar store holders would suffice as a reminder of the season.
3. Have you begun to prepare for a good confession before Christmas? Not just the usual repetition of the laundry list of sins, but a real examination of your faults, your deliberate sins. How have you advanced in rooting out just one sin from your life since last Christmas?
4. People often confess something like: "I put other things before God in my life." What does that mean? Concretely? Exactly how do you put Christ second? Well, one of the ways that we do that is by throwing ourselves headlong into Christmas, just like the secular culture around us. If we are serious about confessing that sin, then why not try to do something concrete about it? If you don't have an advent wreath, get four candles and make a point of lighting them. Why not delay putting your tree up even by a week? Why not turn off the Christmas radio station at least until the middle of the month? Why not just do something to remind yourself that we are in Advent, that we are PREPARING for Christmas, and that we are not celebrating it yet?
5. Have you thought of the poor? Our gift tree is an excellent way to brighten a child's Christmas by donating a gift to one of the many who come to us at Christmas seeking help.
6. Can you give one hour of your time to sit before the Lord in adoration, even just sitting there before Him, if nothing other than to take a deep breath and put the frenetic activity aside for an hour? Allow Him to calm your mind and soul? To pray slowly and with sincerity, repeating over and over: "Lord, I believe; Lord, I love You; Lord, come into my heart." Come on December 7 to the holy hour for peace.
- 7.