

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)**

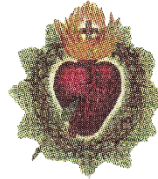
3718 Netherby Road
Stevensville



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 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, December 16	8 a.m.: +Kelly Lush	David & Carole Whitty
Tuesday, December 17	8 a.m.: Living & deceased of the Reid family	Richard Reid
Wednesday, December 18	8 a.m.: +Bernie MacDonald 5:30: confessions	Jose & Evelyn Kafie
Thursday, December 19	7 p.m.: Klara & Maya Milijasevic	Richard & Agnes Sekutowski
Friday, December 20	7 a.m.: +Daniel Duic	John & Julia Mein
	12 noon: confessions 5:30: confessions	
Saturday, December 21	8 a.m.: Sharon Alexander	Gail Bailey
	9 a.m.: confessions	
	11 a.m.: confessions	
	5 p.m.: Lily & Norbert	Danuta Olejnik
Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent	9 a.m.: Jessica Huayna	Richard & Agnes Sekutowski
	11 a.m.: <i>pro populo</i>	

The 2025 Jubilee of Hope will officially open on December 24, 2024, with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In his Bull of Indiction "*Spes Non Confundit*", Pope Francis decreed that, "...on **Sunday, December 29, 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year...**". In our diocese, Bishop Gerard Bergie will celebrate Mass at 2:00pm at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, St. Catharines) Sunday, December 29, 2024, The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. All parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend.

A Diocesan Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome will take place October 16-24, 2025. Bishop Bergie will be leading the group through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica and visiting the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who will be canonized on April 27, 2025, among other stops in Italy. A detailed itinerary is available on the [diocesan website](#). Anyone interested in joining is welcome to complete the booking form that is available there.

The Diocese of St. Catharines is seeking a full-time Financial Assistant. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of financial accounting (including accounts receivable, accounts payable, bank reconciliations, trial balances and unaudited financial

statements), payroll, employee benefits, pension plan, annual charity return and providing bookkeeping support to parishes. A Detailed job description can be found on the diocesan website at: <http://saintcd.com/employment>. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume by January 15, 2025 to John O'Brien, CFO (jobrien@saintcd.com).

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.

[and now that the diocese has finished pre-empting our bulletin ☺)

Today is Gaudete Sunday and the vestments change from violet to rose. The Introit (Entrance Antiphon) for the Mass states: "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always). On the Third Sunday of Advent, we are called to rejoice. The Second Reading from St. Paul to the Philippians sets the tone very beautifully: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice...Do not worry about anything...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ". The First Reading from Zephaniah echoes the same sentiments: "Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!" We rejoice because God is so good to us, and we should respond by being good to others. This is what John the Baptist speaks about in the Gospel of St. Luke. We must be generous, share our resources, act justly, and be content with what we have. This is sound advice as we prepare for the Feast of Christmas. Let us focus on what is most essential and promote goodness, always rejoicing in the Lord.

If your child has reached the age when he or she is allowed to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation, you are asked to see Fr. Stuart after one of the weekend Masses. Regular attendance at Sunday Mass and catechesis for the particular sacrament are necessary prerequisites.

We need volunteers for the roster of money counters. The commitment would typically be once per month after the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass. The process takes approximately 30 minutes. In conformity with diocesan policy, a police check (paid for by the parish) will be necessary. If you can help, please see Fr. Stuart.

Have we had it up to here with Christmas music yet? The barrage of Christmas music (rarely religious carols) often points out that the rest of the world is celebrating Christmas, while we're still in the season of Advent. One of the great hymns of Advent is "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." This song, with its longing for the coming of the Savior, genuinely belongs to Advent and not to Christmas. Its melody is based on Gregorian Chant, and its verses are all taken from the Church's "O" antiphons. These antiphons, which date from the 6th century, introduce the Magnificat, or canticle of Mary, at evening prayer (vespers) from the Liturgy of the Hours (the breviary), for the last seven days of Advent. They are

also used as the Gospel Acclamation at Mass on each of those days. Each of them begins with a traditional title for Christ. They are: "O Wisdom," "O sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of all the nations," and finally, "O Emmanuel" which means "God with us." Each of these traditional titles for the Messiah connects the coming of Christ with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. December 17 marks a shift in the emphasis of Advent from the second coming of Christ to preparation for the celebration of Christmas, His first coming among us. The antiphons are as follows.

December 17: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18: O Adonai, Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

A good spiritual exercise for these days is to look up the Old Testament prophecy/citation from which the titles of Christ in the antiphons are taken.

Christmas Season Schedule

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	