

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)**

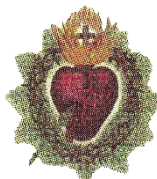
3718 Netherby Road
Stevensville



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, November 10, 2024
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, November 11 St. Martin of Tours Remembrance Day	8 a.m.: Holy Souls	
Tuesday, November 12 St. Josaphat	8 a.m.: Holy Souls	
Wednesday, November 13	8 a.m.: Holy Souls	
Thursday, November 14	7 p.m.: Holy Souls	
Friday, November 15	8 a.m.: Holy Souls	
Saturday, November 16	8 a.m.: Holy Souls	
	5 p.m.: Holy Souls	
Sunday, November 17 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9 a.m.: Holy Souls	
	11 a.m.: <i>pro populo</i>	

Deo Gratias – Aid for Our Retired Priests

This weekend, our parish is taking up a special collection for our priests' retirement, Deo Gratias. This collection will support the Clergy Aid Society, which provides a monthly benefit as well as health insurance to priests at age 75. As you may know, the retirement years can be difficult for our retired priests. No longer supported by their parish communities, they rely on minimal CPP benefits and Old Age Security, along with their benefit from the Clergy Aid Society to pay for basic needs including food, rent, and car expenses. Please show your gratitude to those priests who have cared for and ministered to our community by prayerfully reflecting on how you can best help support our priests' retirement with a gift to the Deo Gratias special collection.

LAST OPPORTUNITY

This weekend is the last opportunity to get tickets for the anniversary lunch next weekend. Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15 for ages 12 and under).

The Alpha program is still running on Monday nights, 7 pm at St. Joseph's Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you missed the first sessions.

Why is there a crucifix in the middle of the altar blocking my view?

The crucifix is there, not to block the view, but to remind people that the love of Jesus Christ on the cross is the centre of our Christian faith, and the centre of the Mass. We need to keep our focus constantly on him – and that includes the priest and why the crucifix is pointed toward him.

Catholic tradition speaks about “the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.” The Eucharist is **more** than a community meeting, **more** than a Liturgy of the Word, **more** than a communion service. It is also a sacrifice. But if Jesus died on the cross, and “by a single offering has perfected for all time those who are sanctified” (Heb 10:14), how can there be another sacrifice? Does it mean his death on the cross was insufficient? Are we still waiting for our salvation to be accomplished?

The Church teaches that the Mass is a true and proper sacrifice, not because it is independent of the cross, but because it **re-presents** the very sacrifice that Christ offered on the cross, and applies its power. We hear the language of sacrifice in the words of consecration that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. He said, “This is my body which is given for you”, and “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice.

Jesus cannot die again, but we can be brought sacramentally into the presence of his saving death on the cross. We are united with the offering of Jesus on the cross and therefore with his eternal offering. The Eucharist is a memorial in the most profound sense because it makes a past event present for us today – it’s not just remembering, but an actual making present again – and allows its effects to touch us today. This has so many implications.

It means we are brought close to the merciful love of Christ on the cross. We could not be there two thousand years ago but we **ARE** there through the Mass. This should fill us with awe and wonder. The Mass is the holiest place on earth. There is no distance between us and our loving Saviour.

It means that even though salvation has been won for us, once and for all, on the cross, the effects of this salvation – the benefits, the graces, the fruits – are shared with us today through the Mass. The new covenant is renewed in an “un-bloody manner”. The sacrifice of the Eucharist is an effective sacrifice, it allows our redemption to be accomplished, and brings graces for the living and the dead. It is a “sacrifice of propitiation” because it brings forgiveness for our daily sins.

It means that we can offer our lives, with Christ, to the Father through the Holy Spirit. I am here at Mass, not just to see friends, not just to hear a good homily, not just to praise God by singing, not just to ‘get’ Holy Communion (as if it is some sort of quantifiable product) but so that my life can become part of his offering on the cross. I unite my life – its joys, its sufferings – to Christ on the cross who is truly present in Mass. In this way my life can become a life-giving sacrifice of love.

Friday Penance and a Few Things

Church law requires us to fulfill the Lord's command to repent and believe the Good News by abstaining from meat on every Friday of the year, unless a particular Friday is a solemnity (i.e. a big feast), as just happened with All Saints Day on Friday, November 1. Everyone 14 and older must, under pain of mortal sin – because we are fulfilling a Divine command to do penance – abstain from eat meat. In Canada, the Bishops have allowed that we may substitute some other form of penance – either an act of charity or a pious exercise – in place of not eating meat. An act of charity could be visiting someone in hospital, or who is house bound. It could be making a donation to some charity, or even a beggar on the street. It could be offering someone a ride to a doctor's appointment. The possibilities are endless. A pious exercise could be saying a rosary, having a Mass said for someone's intention, attending Mass on Friday, visiting the cemetery and praying for the Holy Souls. Again the possibilities are endless. But what is important is that **every Friday** is marked by a deed of penance. To fail in this requires a visit to the sacrament of penance before receiving Holy Communion again.

Speaking of penance, do you have the act of contrition memorized? EVERY Catholic should have it memorized because it ought to be said every single day, just like the Our Father and the Haily Mary. Of course, we must not just mumble the words, we must pay attention to what we are saying and believe our words in our hearts. There are many examples of the prayer. Pick one and learn it. A popular and familiar one is:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offend You
And I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments
But most of all because they offend You, my God,
Who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace,
To do penance, to confess my sins and to amend my life. Amen.

Do you remember that you are to fast from all food and drink for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. Water and medication are allowed. Note that the one hour is before Communion, NOT before Mass – so you have to estimate when the hour begins. We do this out of reverence for the act of receiving our Lord's flesh and blood. It is a symbolic act of thirsting and hungering for him, which, of course, our souls do. To fail to do this is disrespectful to God. Please remember, as well, when receiving Communion on the hand to place one hand FLAT on top of the other one. Hands should not be side by side, leaving the priest or deacon to guess in which hand to place the host. If receiving on the tongue, please, please, stick OUT your tongue. Do not just open your mouth. It's the only time you're allowed to stick your tongue out to the priest!