

# SACRED HEART PARISH

[www.sacredheartniagarafalls.com](http://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)**

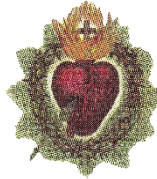
3718 Netherby Road  
Stevensville



**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.

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**Pastor:** Father Stuart MacDonald, JCL

Email: [pastor@sacredheartniagarafalls.com](mailto:pastor@sacredheartniagarafalls.com)

**In Residence:** Fr. Jean-Bosco Iyamuremye

**Deacon:** Mr. Anthony Calaycay

**Secretary/Bookkeeper:** Tina Bruzzese [office@sacredheartniagarafalls.com](mailto: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](mailto:donation@sacredheartniagarafalls.com) or [donation@stjosephchurchsnnyder.com](mailto:donation@stjosephchurchsnnyder.com)

# Sunday, December 29, 2024

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass Schedule		
Masses at St. Joseph's	Intention	Requested by
Masses at Sacred Heart		
Monday, December 30 <b>Octave of Christmas</b>	8 a.m.: +Oscar Eugene	Richard & Loretta
Tuesday, December 31 St. Sylvester <b>Octave of Christmas</b>	8 a.m.: Ursula	Danuta Olejnik
	<b>5 p.m.:</b> +Leona McPhail	Sacred Heart CWL
Wednesday, January 1, 2025 <b>MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> <b>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b> <b>Octave Day of Christmas</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>9 a.m.:</b> <i>pro populo</i>	
	<b>11 a.m.:</b> +Gregory Trebilcock	Jean Cunnane & Irene Albers
Thursday, January 2 Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen	7 p.m.: John Michael	Richard & Loretta
Friday, January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus	8 a.m.: +Bernie MacDonald	Dave & Irene Albers
Saturday, January 4	8 a.m.: <b>NO MASS</b>	
	5 p.m.: +Marion Maxner	Elsie Chang
Sunday, January 5 <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9 a.m.: +Lawrence Durliat	His family
	11 a.m.: +Gerry Haymes	Sacred Heart CWL

Pictures of the Anniversary Mass of Dedication at Sacred Heart Church last October can be viewed on the parish website: [www.sacredheartniagarafalls.com](http://www.sacredheartniagarafalls.com)



The Holy Father, Pope Francis, inaugurated the Jubilee Holy Year of 2025 on Christmas Eve when he passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. The Holy Year in the rest of the world begins today as every diocesan bishop celebrates Mass with a special Jubilee Rite. Bishop Bergie is doing so in our diocese this afternoon with Mass at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (corner of Church and Lyman Streets in St. Catharines – parking is available behind the cathedral). Everyone is encouraged and warmly invited to join me there.

Join Fr. Stuart and Deacon Anthony on a Holy Year Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Santiago de Compostela in October 2025. More information can be found in the brochures available in the vestibules of the churches. **An information session will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 12 noon in Sacred Heart Hall.**

Several thank you's are in order:

1. to Cecilia Kim, our organist and cantor; Katherine Lostracco, the soloist at St. Joe's; Gil Castro, the guitarist at Sacred Heart and the choir of Sacred Heart, for the beautiful music they sang for us at Christmas. I asked them to learn some music, and they accepted the challenge. Thank you for your effort and your dedication to augmenting the beauty and solemnity of our Masses.
2. to Mike Eagan and Colin Chisholm at St. Joe's and to Loretta Gensens and her family at Sacred Heart for setting up the outdoor nativity scenes – a beautiful public witness to our faith and what we celebrate these days.
3. to Catherin Graber, Elsie Smith, Sylvie & Barry Smith at St. Joe's, Josie & Willie Mendoza, and David Whitty at Sacred Heart for decorating our churches SO beautifully this Christmas.
4. to a host of volunteers who clean the church EACH WEEK, whose work is often shamefully taken for granted but whose generosity is keenly appreciated. Scripture tells us that the work they do in secret is seen by their Heavenly Father, for which they will be richly rewarded!

The willingness of so many people to assist in the chores of the parish is a testament to your devotion and faith. Thank you sincerely! -- Fr. Stuart

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](mailto:jobrien@saintcd.com)).

### **Epiphany House Blessing**

Traditionally, priests would visit their parishioners during the Christmas season to bless their homes. This is not possible for most priests today because we are fewer in number and parishes are larger. However, someone in the family—ideally the father or head of household—sprinkles holy water in each room of the house and says a blessing prayer.

Normally, the house blessing is coupled with the blessing of the doorway by making an inscription with chalk. On the top of their front door frame they mark with chalk:

**20 + C + M + B + 25**

This combination of letters and numbers holds a special meaning. The letters represent two different things. First, they stand for the names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Secondly, they also represent the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates to "May Christ bless this house." The crosses between each figure signify our salvation

through Christ. The numbers, obviously, are the year of blessing. Begin by gathering members of the household in front of the house and recite the following:

**Priest/Leader:** Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all who dwell herein.

**Leader:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

*After these prayers are recited, journey throughout your home and sprinkle each room with holy water—you can get some in the vestibule. Then the blessing continues.*

**All:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**Leader:** Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead and lead us not into temptation,

**All:** But deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** All they from Saba shall come.

**All:** Bringing gold and frankincense.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**All:** And let my cry come unto Thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee— Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

**All:** And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Following the series of prayers, return to the front entryway and write the Epiphany blessing on the door frame.