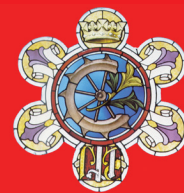




# THE VINEYARD



VOL. 36 NO 1

THE JOURNAL OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

CHRISTMAS 2023







Copyright © 2023 Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines.

Publisher: Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines

Managing Editor: Sr. Mary Kay Camp, IBVM

Executive Assistant: Rose Marie Brown

Copy Editor: Robert J. Foley

Vineyard Volume 36 No. 1 Christmas 2023

**COVER ART:** The Nativity, a painting in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

**THE CATHOLIC CENTRE OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES**  
3400 Merrittville Hwy. Thorold, Ontario, Canada  
P.O. Box 875, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z4



# CONTEMPLATE THE SIMPLICITY AND LOVE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

On Christmas Eve, 1223, St. Francis of Assisi assembled the first living nativity scene in Greccio, Italy. This Christmas marks the 800th anniversary of this significant event.

The context is simple. When St. Francis was returning to Assisi from Rome, he stopped in the town of Greccio. St. Francis had previously visited the Holy Land and noticed that the countryside around the small town reminded him of Bethlehem. Here he was inspired to create a scene of the first Christmas. St. Francis found a cave and had it prepared with an ox, donkey and a manger full of hay. The people then gathered around the cave and Mass was celebrated. We are told that everyone went home filled with joy because of what they had witnessed. (**Thomas of Celano, First Life 84: Franciscan Sources, 470**)



Bishop Gerard Bergie

*photo by Denis Cahill*

In 2019, Pope Francis visited the Shrine of the Nativity in Greccio. To mark this event, he wrote a beautiful reflection on the meaning and importance of the Nativity scene. In this Apostolic Letter, entitled **Admirabile Signum (An Admirable Sign)**, the Holy Father acknowledges that the nativity scene has the power to touch hearts and strengthen faith. He writes, "Why does the Christmas crèche (manger) arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life." (**Admirabile Signum**, p.3)

Unfortunately, like so many other aspects of Christmas, the manger scene is being eclipsed by secular symbols. The nativity scene is disappearing from the public square and in private homes, where it once was prominently displayed. This powerful sign of love is being muted by a mis-guided understanding of inclusivity and diversity and a lack of faith. The truth is that Jesus came to save all people, not just a select few. The manger scene offers a universal message of hope and love.

On this 800th anniversary of the first manger scene in Greccio, take the time to contemplate this beautiful scene of simplicity, mystery and love. When you are at your parish church for Christmas Mass, kneel before the Holy Family in the manger and ask that they intercede for your family. As you gaze upon the infant Jesus, contemplate the fact that he became so little so that you could love Him and experience His profound love for you. If you do this with an open heart, then, like those people in Greccio so many years ago, you too will return home filled with joy because of what you have experienced.

May the joy of Christmas be with you always.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

*A VERY MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY AND GRACE-FILLED NEW YEAR*

# MIDNIGHT MASS BROADCAST HAS LONG TRADITION

by MIKE SAUNDERS

December 24, 2023, will mark the 91st consecutive broadcast of Midnight Mass from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria in downtown St. Catharines. It all began in 1933 and has not missed a single year since. I began hosting the broadcast in 1989, taking over from Johnny Morrison who himself had done it for many years. So that means this will be 35 years for me.

I began with great trepidation back in 1989, not really knowing how I would do. Time and experience has taught me much over the years and now the stress is gone and I actually enjoy the experience, providing there are no unexpected technical issues.

It's hard to believe in nine short years we will reach a real milestone with these broadcasts as we hit the 100 mark. I am sure we are already the record-holder for longest continuous radio broadcast at 91 years but surely when we reach the 100

mark there really will be no doubt.

For me I hope to still be hosting the broadcast nine years from now. At that point it will be only another six years I guess before I hit 50 continuous years as host. If so it will be an honour to have served in this capacity for such a long period of time.

I hope you will listen come Christmas Eve on 610/CKTB Radio. Or better still, be part of the congregation at the Cathedral. Together we'll all be part of history in the making.

One of the highlights of the Christmas celebration is the impressive presentation of the choir, under the guidance of Tim Marrie, choir director, and Lucas Chorosinski, organist. Merry Christmas.



Mike Saunders

## Catholic Centre announces staff retirements

Peter Michaud retired in October 2023 after 22 years of service to the diocese. This is Peter's second retirement; he had a distinguished career at General Motors before joining the staff at the Diocesan Catholic Centre as business manager. Peter's first major assignment was the diocesan Harvest of Hope Campaign which he managed and monitored. Some other duties also encompassed—policies and procedures; annual budgets; finances/investments; property purchases/sales; human resources; maintenance; representative at Ontario Catholic Bishops business meetings; the continuation of the screening program; staff training of government mandated issues. Thank you Peter. Happy retirement!



Colleen Walsh will retire at the end of December 2023 after 20+ years of service to the diocese. She was employed as auditor and administrative assistant at the Marriage Tribunal Office. Over the years, her roles and responsibilities increased to include—assisting the Chancery Office; refugee ministry; archives; Responsible Faith Ministry; and relief receptionist at the front desk of the Diocesan Catholic Centre. Gratitude is extended to her for the service she provided to staff, clergy and parishioners across the diocese and beyond. Thank you Colleen. Happy retirement!



## MIDNIGHT MASS

The annual broadcast from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria



Christmas music by the Cathedral choir

directed by Lucas Chorosinski  
choir conducted by Timothy Marrie

Begins at 11:30 p.m.

*UNA MUY FELIZ Y  
BENDECIDA NAVIDAD  
Y  
UN PRÓSPERO Y LLEÑO  
DE GRACIA AÑO NUEVO*



‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those  
whom he favours!’ Luke 2:14



Nativity scene outside City Hall, St. Catharines, sponsored by the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus.

*Heavenly Father,  
as we gaze upon this  
nativity scene, which  
commemorates the  
Advent of your Son  
amongst us, we ask  
that you may fill our  
hearts with the joy of  
Christmas.*

## A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you  
for calling men and women to  
serve in your Son's Kingdom as  
priests, deacons and consecrated  
persons. Send your Holy Spirit  
to help others to respond  
generously and courageously to  
your call. May our community  
of faith support vocations of  
sacrificial love in our youth and  
young adults.

## Rite of Election

the First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

at the

**Cathedral of St. Catherine  
of Alexandria**

in St. Catharines at 2 p.m.

**Bishop Gerard Bergie**  
presider

Catechumens and candidates who have  
been journeying in the RCIA program in  
parishes across the diocese  
will gather with

their sponsors, families and friends  
Catechumens will inscribe their names in  
the

**Book of the Elect**

Candidates will also be recognized



## A DEACON'S CHRISTMAS

by FRANK BERARDI

Is there anything special about what a permanent deacon does at Christmas time? The short answer is yes and no. What do I mean. The deacon's role doesn't change at Christmas time. But deacons do have an important role in the Christmas liturgical celebrations. Like everyone in the Church, we have been preparing and waiting during the Advent season for the joyous celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

As always, permanent deacons assist the priest at Midnight Mass and at the Masses celebrated on Christmas Day. They read the gospel, the Prayers of the Faithful and prepare the sacrifice on the altar. They help to distribute Communion, purify the sacred vessels, and dismiss everyone at the end of Mass. There is a special joy and majesty to these Christmas Masses

## LITURGY AND SERVICE

as the Lord pours out his grace into all the hearts of the faithful.

Then, the deacon, spiritually nourished and strengthened at the altar of God by the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, is sent by the Lord, out into the community to bring the love, mercy and compassion of the servant Jesus to families, relatives, friends and those who are at the margins of society.

The permanent deacon is a sacramental sign of the servant Jesus. Jesus served the poor and disenfranchised of society and this is what the permanent deacon is called to do. The call by God to the permanent diaconate is a gift to the Church. Perhaps he is calling you. Please be generous and answer his call.



Deacon Frank Berardi



Serrans are Catholic lay men and women who vigorously respond to the call to promote and support vocations to the ministerial life in the catholic church.

New members are always welcome. Come and join us.

Deedee Alexandre  
905-732-4782  
President

*UN TRÈS JOYEUX ET BÉNÎ NOËL  
ET  
UNE BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNÉE  
REPLIE DE GRÂCE*

*UN NATALE MOLTO FELICE  
E BENEDETTO  
E  
UN ANNO NUOVO FELICE E PIENO  
DI GRAZIA*





# CWL HOLDS ADVENT RETREAT



by DEEDEE ALEXANDRE

On November 11 and November 16, 2023, the diocesan Catholic Women's League held Advent Retreats at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Retreat & Conference Centre, Niagara Falls, on two different days. The days were identical in format and presentation, just a matter of preference which day members could attend. Attendance was 60 and 62 respectively.

After a few brief welcoming remarks, the day began with the recitation of that day's rosary mystery. Keynote speaker was Linda Dirks, Star of the Sea parishioner. The topic, **Look to the Sparrow**, referenced Matthew 6:26-27. Jesus says: *"Look at the birds (sparrows) in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"*

Dirks gave a very heart-warming and informative discourse on embracing womanhood. Her personal stories enlivened the presentation and her referencing the film, **Women Talking**, put the points into perspective. She

had arranged for Eileen McAuliffe to guide members in making their own craft reminder that they are, indeed, loved by God.

Fr. Richard Kowlachuk, diocesan CWL spiritual advisor, was available for confessions before Mass. He presided at Mass the first day while Fr. Chris Kulig, O.Carm, presided the second day.

The day concluded with a delicious lunch that Mt. Carmel is famous for. After such a spiritually edifying retreat, it was nice to mingle with friends—both old and new. The diocesan CWL executive thanks everyone who took time out of their schedules to relax and re-energize at the retreat.

The 2024 Lenten Retreat days are scheduled for February 17 and February 21. Keynote speaker will be Fr. Michael Basque.



Deede Alexandre

## NFCE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

by JIM MARINO

Best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas and all that is good in the New Year from the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE). Sincerest thanks for your kindness and generosity during 2023 in supporting students in need and for scholarships to students attending Niagara Catholic District School Board schools.



Jim Marino

Poverty is often associated with developing countries when in fact it exists in our own backyard. Contributions from a kind and caring community have assisted the foundation in its mission and goals to alleviate problems and concerns for students as they strive to achieve a rewarding Catholic education. That support is sincerely appreciated by both the foundation and the students and families who benefit by assistance.

One student wrote, "When I graduate, I hope I can make a difference in people's lives like you have in mine."

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is a registered charitable foundation. Receipts are issued for tax purposes. Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. mail to: Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario, L3C 7C1. Visa

and MasterCard accepted or donate on-line using PayPal. View the foundation's video at [www.nfce.org](http://www.nfce.org) or contact 905-735-0247 ext 210, email [jim.marino@nfce.org](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org)

# save the date

## Thursday, March 21, 2024

Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

# Annual Benefit Gala

CLUB ROMA, 125 VANSICKLE RD, ST. CATHARINES

Are a local business owner?  
Would like to donate to the  
silent auction or grand prize table?

Contact Jim Marino at the Foundation office

[jim.marino@nfce.org](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org)  
905.735.0240 ext 210



## ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED IN THE NIAGARA AREA

### OUT OF THE COLD ST. CATHARINES

November 1, 2023 — March 31, 2024

#### Meals

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday	Knights of Columbus Hall 235 Church Street
Monday	Silver Spire United Church 366 St. Paul Street
Tuesday	Cathedral of St. Catherine 67 Church Street
Wednesday	St. George Anglican Church 83 Church Street
Thursday	St. Alfred Roman Catholic Church 5 – 6:30 p.m. 272 Vine Street (take out only)
Friday	Knox Presbyterian Church 53 Church Street
Saturday	Queen Street Baptist Church 57 Queen Street

### THE SOUP KITCHEN- NIAGARA FALLS

November 1, 2023— March 31, 2024

4865 St. Lawrence Avenue

Open 7 days a week for take out

Hot bagged lunch

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[www.nfsoupkitchen.ca](http://www.nfsoupkitchen.ca)

### NIGHTTIME COLD WEATHER RELIEF

Overnight accommodations for unhoused ages 18+

7:30 p.m. – 7:30 a.m. 9 p.m. curfew

### START ME UP NIAGARA

5925 Summer Street

Pre-registration recommended

### EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER

for men, women, families: **Call 211**

### NIGHTLIGHT YOUTH SHELTER WOMEN'S PLACE SOUTH NIAGARA YWCA NIAGARA REGION

### HARVEST KITCHEN — WELLAND

November 1, 2023 — March 31, 2024

#### Meals

Sunday	Central United Church
Take out 5 – 6 p.m.	12 Young Street (no meal first Sunday of the month)
Monday	Sacré-Coeur Catholic Church
Dine in 5 - 7 p.m.	72 Empire Street
Tuesday	Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Take out 5 – 6 p.m.	77 Division Street (rear entrance)
Wednesday	St. Kevin Catholic Church
Dine in 4 – 6 p.m.	303 Niagara Street
Thursday	Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Dine in 6 – 7 p.m.	77 Division Street (front entrance)
3rd Thursday of month	
Take out 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	77 Division Street (rear entrance)
Friday	Southridge Community Church
Dine in 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.	414 River Road

### *Help me to Remember*

*O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those  
who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for  
what we take for granted.*

*Amen*





The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



If you would like to get involved in the work of the Society contact the store in your area, or your parish.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORES

116 Lock St. E., Dunnville 905-701-9999

36 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie 905-871-0203

5970 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls 289-296-3807

67 Queenston Street, St. Catharines 905-684-2042

51 East Main Street, Welland 905-788-3413

Your St. Vincent de Paul store needs you to

<b>Shop</b>	enjoy our excellent prices
<b>Volunteer</b>	your time at a local conference
<b>Donate</b>	your gently used items
<b>PRAY</b>	for the success of our missions

### Our Mission

To live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

*"Go to the poor:  
you will find God."  
St. Vincent de Paul*

*Happy are those who  
consider the poor;  
the Lord delivers them  
in the day of trouble.  
The Lord protects them  
and keeps them alive;  
they are called happy in  
the land.*

*Psalms 41:1-2*

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



Holy and Gracious God  
We pray for the people of Ukraine  
and the people of Russia;  
for their countries and their leaders.  
We pray for all those who are afraid;  
that your everlasting arms hold them  
in this time of great fear.  
We pray for all those  
who have the power over life and death;  
that they will choose for all people life,  
and life in all its fullness.  
We pray for those who choose war;  
that they will remember that  
you direct your people to turn our swords into  
ploughshares and seek for peace.  
We pray for leaders on the world stage;  
that they are inspired by the wisdom  
and courage of Christ.  
Above all, Lord, today we pray  
for peace for Ukraine.  
And we ask this in the name  
of your blessed Son.  
Lord have mercy.

Amen

## PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

God of mercy and compassion,  
of grace and reconciliation,  
pour your power upon all  
your children in the Middle East:  
Jews, Muslims and Christians,  
Palestinians and Israelis.  
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust,  
despair to hope, oppression to freedom,  
occupation to liberation,  
that violent encounters may be replaced  
by loving embraces and peace  
and justice could be experienced by all.

Amen



# FAMILY GATHERINGS ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS

by PATRICIA WATERS

When my father, Lou Cahill, was alive family gatherings were a must. To him, it was very important that the family gather regularly, to enjoy each other's company, to meet the new members who had joined the family through birth and marriage or just to maintain very strong ties. To this end he would plan very elaborate reunions every few years, that always took place in the summer when it was easier for people to travel and when backyards and parks were available to accommodate the large number of family members who attended.

Although most of the family members lived in Ontario, there were a few American relatives, so the family reunions always included a bus tour showing off the sites of the Niagara area with a stop for a picnic at either Queenston Heights or MacFarlane Park.

There were always lots of photos taken and of course one photo of the entire family group which Dad had reproduced to make sure everyone got a copy as a remembrance. These family gatherings were legendary and always came up in conversation whenever family gathered; even years later, someone would say "remember when...."

On the in-between years, Dad would make sure that those who could, gathered during the summer in the backyard of the family home for a BBQ as well as Christmas and Easter gatherings for those who were available.

As I look back on those special occasions, I realize my dad had the right idea; he understood the importance of families maintaining close ties with each other.

Unfortunately, we have not had one of those wonderful family reunions now for several years and even smaller family gatherings are getting harder and harder to plan. Of course, we had three years of COVID when gathering was impossible, but even without that, people nowadays just seem to be too busy. Trying to come up with a date that suits everyone is next to impossible. But we must try because as my father so rightly knew, family is important.

Christmas is here. Have you planned a family gathering for a day during the holiday season? It is a perfect time to bring together family and friends. Perhaps some homes in your circle of acquaintances, or maybe even your own home, will feel empty this year because adult children will be spending Christmas elsewhere. Or parents may be absent due to having moved to a retirement or nursing home, or a family member is in the hospital.

You may also know of someone who has lost their home due to fire, flood or other unforeseen circumstances. Reaching out with a card, a phone call, an invitation to go for coffee or a listening ear to those whose family circle is broken would be greatly appreciated. It may help them and yourself through a difficult time.

I know my father's spirit will be felt this Christmas as we maintain the tradition of togetherness he began so many years ago.



Pat Waters

## Every face has a place

niagaracatholic.ca

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**  
**DATES AND TIMES COMING JANUARY 2024**

# A CHRISTMAS SEASON FOR FAMILIES

by TERRI PAUCO

The liturgical season of Christmas is one of the shortest in the church year but for families, it can be the time for parents to prioritize faith in daily life. The break from school and extra-curricular activities might open up the space to relax and to talk about things that matter. Talking about faith seems easier when the symbols of the crèche and Christ Candle within the Advent wreath are there to remind us that Christ – our Emanuel – is with us. He is an ever-present part of the family.

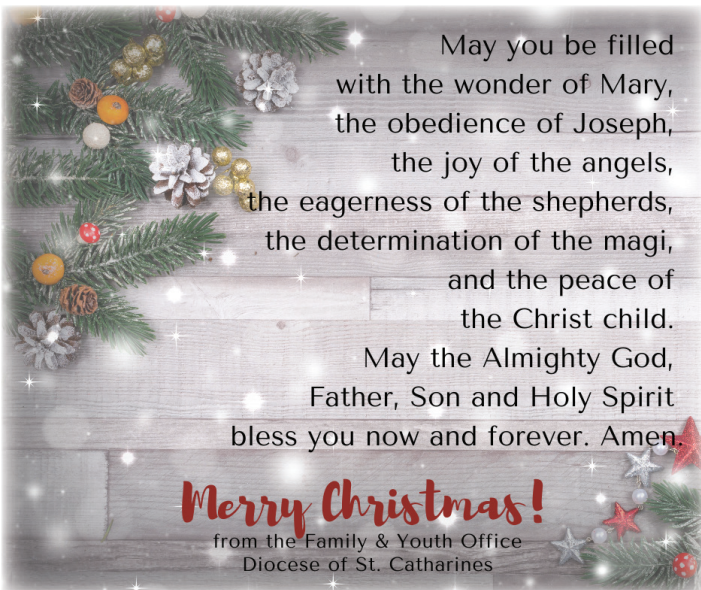
Here are some simple ideas that your family may want to embrace this Christmas:

- go to Christmas Mass and sing like the choir of angels;
- participate in the Mass of the Holy Family on December 31, 2023, and afterward, light an offertory candle for your own family;



Terri Pauco

- fulfil the family's holy day obligation by attending Mass on January 1, 2024, to honour Mary and to pray for peace;
- make Jesus a birthday cake;
- cuddle together and watch a favourite Christmas movie and later discuss its life lessons;
- make a cozy winter fort and say a spontaneous prayer inside;
- bake some cookies and share them with the neighbours...and your pastor;
- while playing with new toys, games and crafts from Santa, ask questions about what they think Jesus' childhood was like;
- bundle up and get outside to explore God's wintery creation...and make lots of snow angels;
- share the legend of the candy cane while enjoying candy canes, noticing their 'J' shape for Jesus;
- practice gratitude and make thank you calls or write thank you cards/emails in appreciation for gifts received over the holidays.



*"Christmas is the feast of love incarnate and born for us in Jesus Christ. He is the light of mankind shining in the darkness, giving meaning to human existence and to the whole of history." Pope Francis*

## The Legend of the Candy Cane

*Look at the candy cane.  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red like  
the blood shed for me.  
White is for my Savior  
who's sinless and pure.  
"J" is for Jesus, my Lord,  
that's for sure!  
Turn it around and  
a staff you will see.  
Jesus, my shepherd,  
was born for me!*

*author unknown*





# MARRIAGE MINISTRIES IN THE DIOCESE



**Marriage Preparation:** Engaged couples planning to be married in the Catholic church are expected to participate in a Marriage Preparation or Engaged Encounter weekend. At the present time, most of these weekends are held virtually. Parishes have the 2023 schedule with dates. For information contact [jennstoop@gmail.com](mailto:jennstoop@gmail.com)



**Catholic Engaged Encounter:** Couples preparing for marriage need to have realistic expectations of the challenges they will face. Catholic Engaged Encounter provides quality preparation for marriage in a weekend format, giving them the opportunity to discover the deep meaning of the sacrament of marriage with the Catholic Church. Couples are offered a unique experience focusing strongly on fostering good communication in marriage.



**Natural Family Planning:** Learn Natural Family Planning Online with an Ontario Physician. Natural Family Planning (NFP) involves using signs of fertility to avoid or achieve pregnancy. **Totally Yours Family Medicine** is a virtual clinic that has taught hundreds of couples across Ontario the Marquette Method of NFP which uses a both fertility monitor and natural signs of fertility.

NFP is easy to learn, effective, and allows couples to live with their God-given gift of fertility. To learn more, visit [www.totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com](http://www.totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com) or e-mail [info@totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com](mailto:info@totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com)



**Marriage Encounter:** For married couples looking to restore communication and rekindle romance, this program is designed to help share concerns, feelings and expectations in a non-confrontational way. A very private experience called a Weekend of Discovery, leading to a lifetime of love. Visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for information and registration.



**Rétrouvaille:** If your marriage needs help, Retrouvaille could be a lifeline. This is a process designed to heal and renew troubled marriages. The focus is on communication and provides couples an opportunity to rediscover themselves and their marriage relationship. For information, contact Angelo and Chiara 905-664-5212 or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)



**Separate & Divorced:** The diocesan Divorced & Separated group holds meetings the second and fourth Monday of the month at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, 7:00 p.m. For more information or to register for virtual attendance contact 905-356-4113, 905-684-0154 or [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)



**Marriage Tribunal:** If you are considering remarriage in the Catholic Church at some point, or hoping to enter a marriage with someone previously married, you should speak to a priest or contact the diocesan Catholic Marriage Tribunal in St. Catharines, 905-687-8817 or [tribunal@saintcd.com](mailto:tribunal@saintcd.com)

## LAY CARMELITES

Lay Carmelites, a group of Roman Catholic men and women who seek to enrich their spiritual lives by following the Carmelite tradition, hold a monthly meeting every 2nd Friday at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, at 6:30pm. For information, contact Trudy Bretzler 905-732-0670 or [trudybretzler9@gmail.com](mailto:trudybretzler9@gmail.com)

## JERICHO HOUSE

Located in Wainfleet, Jericho House is an ecumenical and inter-faith youth leadership, justice (social and ecological) and spirituality centre rooted in the Catholic tradition. It provides programs and experiences in a respectful, supportive and inclusive environment. It also provides hospitality to individuals and groups who wish to facilitate their own programs. It is ideal for retreats, conferences, workshops, seminars, luncheons and other occasions. For information contact 905-834-0553 or [www.jerichohouse.org](http://www.jerichohouse.org)

## Franciscan Third Order Fraternity (ofs)

Meeting schedules for this Fraternity are: Welland area, the 4th Sunday of the month, St. Kevin, 1 p.m.; St. Catharines area, the 1st Tuesday of the month, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 1 p.m. For information contact [deborahatessier57@gmail.com](mailto:deborahatessier57@gmail.com)

## SALT + LIGHT TV

Salt + Light is available in Ontario on Rogers Digital Cable (395), Cogeco Digital Cable (185 in specific areas) and Mountain Digital Cable (387). For information visit [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org) or call 1-888-302-7181.

## WILLS

Have you made your will? When you are estate planning please do not forget your parish and diocesan family. A bequest to the Diocese of St. Catharines helps continue God's work in your name.

For information call 905-684-0154.



A support group for anyone with the desire to become well emotionally. EA is a 12-step organization that meets weekly with the purpose of working towards recovery from emotional difficulties. Meetings every Tuesday evening at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, 7-8 p.m. For information contact Fr. Chris 905-356-4113 or [www.emotionsanonymous.org](http://www.emotionsanonymous.org)

## VINEYARD SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Vineyard, our diocesan journal, has gone digital. To enrol for a free online subscription, send an e-mail to: [vineyard@saintcd.com](mailto:vineyard@saintcd.com).

## REFUGEE CENTRES

within the

Diocese of St. Catharines

### Casa el Norte

281 Central Avenue

Fort Erie, Ont

905-871-4483

### Chez Marie Refuge

16 Pelham Road

St. Catharines, Ont

905-682-5795

## Holy Cross Cemetery

Operated by the Diocese of St. Catharines  
50 Woodlawn Road, Welland.

We offer a comforting atmosphere in which the Catholic faith is celebrated and love for family and friends is remembered.

A selection of burial services is available including ground burial, cremation and above ground cremation placement.

For further information call: 905-734-4172



# Let's fill their hearts with *hope* this Christmas

"In this Child,  
God invites us  
to be messengers  
of hope."

— Pope Francis

Your  
gift can  
create  
*hope.*



Development  
and Peace

CARITAS CANADA  
CARITAS CANADA

devp.org

1-888-234-8533

Follow us:



@DevPeace



*Wishing God's  
blessings for you  
this Christmas and  
throughout  
the New Year.*



Niagara Catholic District School Board

## UPCOMING SECONDARY OPEN HOUSES

**Denis Morris**

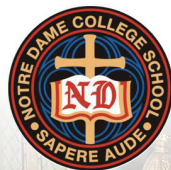
**Notre Dame**

**Saint Michael**

**Blessed Trinity**



**JAN. 11 • 6:30PM**



**JAN. 16 • 6:30PM**



**JAN. 17 • 6:30PM**



**JAN. 18 • 7:00PM**



## UPCOMING SECONDARY OPEN HOUSES



# *Perpetual Adoration*



OUR LADY OF THE  
SCAPULAR CHURCH

*stay awake  
with me for  
one hour*

**6557 THOROLD STONE ROAD  
NIAGARA FALLS, ON L2J 1B2**

**Phone: 905-358-7611 Fax: 905-358-7679**  
**[www.scapular.ca](http://www.scapular.ca)**