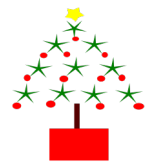




# CANADIAN MARTYRS NEWS



# DECEMBER 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December is upon us and the hustle and bustle has begun. We begin to feel the warmth of the season of Advent. During this very special month of December, this most sacred season of Advent, we embark on a time of waiting. This season comes with the struggle between the busyness of the season and the holiness that leads us to our most precious day, the birth of Jesus. How will you prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent season? Let us all remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the spirit of giving.

Let us pray during Advent....

*O Lord, the Advent candles, with their familiar, glowing light, help us to turn to you. May we stay alert in these weeks, anticipating the joyful celebration of your Son's arrival into the world. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wondering from your ways. Help us to stay ever watchful, like the gatekeeper, and hold your mercy in our heart as we prepare for the coming of our infant Saviour. Amen. (taken from Living Faith Advent Daily Catholic Devotions, 2020)*

Thank you for your continued support of Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School and we wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas! When we return in the New Year, we hope we will all be well rested, feel revived and rejuvenated.

*Yours in Catholic Education,  
Mrs. L. Incaviglia, Principal  
Ms. W. Wilson, Vice Principal*

### A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
That we may share in the song of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds,  
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
And open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
And good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which  
Christ brings  
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us  
Happy to be thy children  
And Christmas evening bring us  
To our beds with grateful thoughts  
Forgiving and forgiven  
For Jesus' sake, Amen.  
- Robert Louis Stevenson

## PREPARING THE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Advent School Mass will be taking place on **Wednesday, December 4th at 10:30am at St. Alfred Church. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend.**

### Reflection

In the Gospel we hear the calling of Jesus' Apostle Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and, just like now, tax collectors weren't especially popular. But this didn't stop Jesus from calling Matthew to be His disciple. Jesus saw the potential in him and this was enough for Matthew to leave his job and immediately begin following Jesus.

Jesus sees the potential in each of us, despite the mistakes we make. By choosing to follow Jesus, we are turning away from sin and striving to become the saints He calls us to be.



## DISMISSAL REMINDERS

Out of much care for the safety of students and their parents, we would like to provide a friendly reminder with respect to the dismissal procedure. Parents picking up their child(ren) will continue to meet their child(ren) at the **east field** during dismissal. Please know that parking spaces in our parking lot are limited; therefore, parents are encouraged to arrive early and park at the church that is next door to the school as there is ample space there.

Parents are reminded to please **use the sidewalk** when walking to and from the east field, regardless of whether they parked their vehicle at the school or church next door. Please know that walking across the parking lot, especially with children, is not advised as this presents a great concern for safety with vehicles coming in and out. In addition, once the snow arrives and the parking lot is plowed, there will be snowbanks along the edge where the east field and parking lot meet. Again, we remind families to please be safe and utilize the sidewalk. We thank everyone for their continued support and flexibility and for working with the school as we endeavour to keep everyone safe. Please know that we will communicate with families via School Messenger should the dismissal procedure need to be adjusted in any way to account for the challenges of winter.

*We are proud to be a part of the Holy Cross Family of Schools.*



### INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

As the winter months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to review the procedure:



1. If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, it means that the children will not be picked up at the end of the day. If you drive your child to school on the day transportation is cancelled, it is then your responsibility to pick your child up at the end of the day.

When transportation services are cancelled, only the school remains open, and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school.

**If your child is not coming to school, please report the absence using Safe Arrival System.**

2. Procedures Relating to Inclement Weather AFTER the School Day starts in this case either:

- Transportation is cancelled and school is kept open.
- Transportation is cancelled and the school is closed.

The safety of our children is our primary concern; the school will attempt to contact you by phone should an emergency closing be necessary after children have arrived at school. This will be done solely for the purpose of informing you that classes have been cancelled. The option you, as a parent, have chosen on the Emergency School Form will apply to all emergency dismissals. If this form has yet to be completed, please be sure to do so and send it to your child's teacher.

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER CHECK Niagara Catholic District School Board website at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca).**

### One Can at a Time

This Christmas season, the Canadian Martyrs Student Council is excited to collaborate with **Community Care for our Advent Food Drive**. We will be collecting non-perishable food items from **December 2nd to December 18th**. Our goal is to collect at least two items from every student and staff member at Canadian Martyrs. You are welcome to bring as many donations as your family wishes to contribute.



### French Immersion for September 2025

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an **optional** program.

All 5 French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten for September 2025.

#### Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca).

#### French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- ⇒ On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2025: Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered.
- ⇒ There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- ⇒ Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- ⇒ Please visit [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and click the first thumbnail-Registration. Then, click the **Let's get you registered!** link at the bottom of the page.
- ⇒ An account must be created first through edsembli CONNECT to access the registration forms. This account can be created ahead of time.

#### Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by Monday, March 3rd, 2025 to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program OR if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by March 3rd, 2025 are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.



# CANADIAN MARTYRS

## *Christmas Market & Mingle*

Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:00pm to 7:00pm



*There will be local artisans, a craft for the kids  
and even a visit from Santa Claus!*

*Soups & Things Food Truck*

*There will also be pizza and treats for sale.*



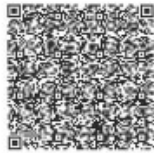
*We look forward to celebrating the season with you!*





# 2025 PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS

**Nomination Deadline:**  
**January 15, 2025**  
(11:59 PM Pacific  
standard time)



## NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR TODAY!

- Teaching Excellence
- Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Excellence in Early Childhood Education

VISIT  
**CANADA.CA/PM-AWARDS**  
**#PMAWARDS**



**Sarah Cote**, 2024 Certificate of Excellence Recipient, Maniwaki, Quebec  
**Margaret Burke**, 2024 Certificate of Excellence Recipient, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia