

# ST MARK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS

A member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools



## Prayer to the Holy Family

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, IN YOU WE CONTEMPLATE THE  
SPLENDOUR OF TRUE LOVE;  
TO YOU WE TURN WITH TRUST.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, GRANT THAT OUR FAMILIES TOO  
MAY BE PLACES OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER, AUTHENTIC  
SCHOOLS OF THE GOSPEL AND SMALL DOMESTIC CHURCHES.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, MAY FAMILIES NEVER AGAIN  
EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE, REJECTION AND DIVISION;  
MAY ALL WHO HAVE BEEN HURT OR SCANDALIZED FIND READY  
COMFORT AND HEALING.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, MAKE US ONCE MORE MINDFUL OF  
THE SACREDNESS AND INVIOABILITY OF THE FAMILY, AND ITS  
BEAUTY IN GOD'S PLAN. JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, GRACIOUSLY  
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

AMEN.

(POPE FRANCIS, AMORIS LAETITIA, 325)

# December Happenings

## Donation for Gently Used Winter Items December 2nd - 13th

St Mark will be collecting Gently Used Winter items this month starting December 2nd until December 13th. If you have any winter coats, snowpants, boots, hats, mitts and gloves that you would like to donate please bring them into the school before December 13th. Thank you for your continued support,  
St. Mark Student Council



## Christmas Themed Out-of-Dress Code Day , December 20th.

Friday, December 20th, 2024 is an out-of-dress-code day - Christmas themed. Students are encouraged to wear their favourite Christmas-themed clothes (no pajamas) to school to celebrate the last day of school before the Christmas Break.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year (children must be 4 years of age as of December 31, 2025). To register, [click here](#). We encourage all families to register by February 2025. This helps to ensure proper staffing is in place for the new school year. Please share this information with any friends, family and/or neighbours who have a child that is ready to start in September 2025.



For registration, you will have to bring the following original documents to the school office for verification:

- ☑ Birth Certificate;
- ☑ Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate and/or Baptismal Certificate of the child(ren)'s parents and/or guardian (if applicable);
- ☑ Proof of Residence with school boundaries, for example utility bill.

If applicable, original Landed Immigrant/Permanent Residence documentation, and the passport of the country of origin, indicating the date of entry into Canada.

## Inclement Weather and School Closures

The Niagara Catholic District School Board will make every effort to keep the schools open during periods of inclement weather. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will schools be closed partway through the day. In these rare cases, we will follow the procedure you have selected on the





Emergency Form completed in September. Should School bus transportation be cancelled, parents are asked to use discretion in making the decision about whether or not to send children to school. If you decide to keep your child at home please use the Safe Arrival system to call in your child's absence.

Announcements concerning school closures or bus cancellations will be made on all local radio stations beginning at 7:00 a.m. or you can check our website at <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca>.



## **BRRRR! COLD WEATHER IS HERE!!**

Colder weather is here again! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, especially outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots, labeled with their names. Health officials indicate that fresh air is beneficial, as long as students are dressed appropriately. On extremely cold days, we limit the amount of time that students spend out of doors. We obtain our weather information from the Environment Canada Weather Information Line and follow Board guidelines. With the exception of these occasions, it is our expectation that all children will go out for recess.

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## **November Happenings**

### **Girls Triple Ball**

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Triple Ball team on their Gold Medal win. Mrs. Morawek and Mrs. Dionne would like to thank the girls for their hard work, hustle and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all the girls on an amazing season.



Congratulations to Junior Boys Triple Ball team.

Job well done to the boys who came in 2nd place in their division. Thank you to Coach Federici



### **Intermediate Girls Volleyball**

Congratulations the Girls Intermediate Volleyball team who placed 1st at NCDSB Volleyball Tournament. The girls displayed hard work, determination and sportsmanship throughout all their games. Mr. Costantini and Miss Sirianni would like to thank all the players for



their dedication and commitment to attending all volleyball practices and representing St. Mark with pride at the tournament.

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## Intermediate Boys Volleyball

Congratulations to our Intermediate Boys Volleyball team who advanced to the semifinals of the tournament. The team represented St. Mark with pride and enthusiasm. They are commended for their efforts.



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## Remembrance Day Ceremony

This year on Remembrance Day, Mrs. Cormier's Grade 6 class prepared and presents a Remembrance Day Liturgy to the whole school. The liturgy was led by the students and included prayers and readings on the theme of peace. Mrs. Semple's class was invited to read a Prayer for the 21st Century during the liturgy. The students ended the liturgy by signing to the song A Pittance of Time. A special thank you to Luca Giammarco who held the Canadian flag during the liturgy.



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## BT Corner for December

The month of November has flown by and has given us another very busy month at Blessed Trinity. Our fall sports came to an end with many great performances and memories from all of our teams. Many of our teams qualified for NCAA championship games and events, highlighted by our Senior Boys Volleyball and Junior Boys Football team winning NCAA Championships and our Novice Girls Cross Country team qualifying for OFSAA. Many of our winter clubs and co-curricular activities are now in full swing and each day is busier than the next here at BT.



Some other highlights from November included our AP Night on November 12th, parent-teacher interviews and Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Our Safe Schools team put on a number of fun activities to remind us to be kind to each other.

December will be upon us shortly and a representative from our Student Services will be visiting our grade 8 classrooms to give a presentation on the courses students will be selecting for high school next year. This begins the process of course selection and the registration of our grade 8 students into Blessed Trinity – a very exciting time for us as we look forward to our newest class at BT

## Niagara Region Public Health

Niagara Region



### NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH NEWSLETTER December 2024

#### ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS



Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

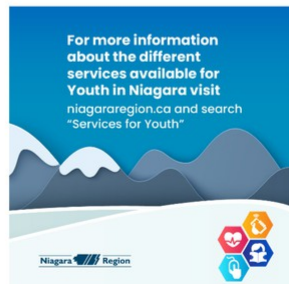
All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

*Please note, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*

#### HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:



1. **Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. **Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. **Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

### DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).

### GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

A charitable organization affiliated with your church  
[St. Vincent de Paul Community Care](#)  
[Newark Neighbours](#)  
[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)  
[The HOPE Centre](#)  
[Project SHARE](#)  
[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)  
[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)  
[Open Arms Mission](#)  
[United Way Niagara](#)  
[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)





# St. Mark Catholic

## December 2024

A Member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools						
1 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m.&11:00 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent	<b>Day 1</b> 2 Art & You in the Classroom-KA,KC, KD 6pm CSC meeting	<b>Day 2</b> 3 Art & You in the Classroom -KB, KE 	<b>Day 3</b> 4 	<b>Day 4</b> 5 PIZZA	<b>Day 5</b> 6 Kindergarten Fluoride Clinic	7 Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.
8 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m.&11:00 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>Day 1</b> 9 11am Choir Seaway Mall	<b>Day 2</b> 10 Vex Competition @ St. Mary's 	<b>Day 3</b> 11	<b>Day 4</b> 12 Confession  PIZZA	<b>Day 5</b> 13 	14 Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.
15 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m.&11:00 3rd Sunday of Advent	<b>Day 1</b> 16	<b>Day 2</b> 17 	<b>Day 3</b> 18 Grade 4-Christmas in the Country Balls Falls Kindergarten Christmas Concert KA,KB,KE-9:30 KC, KD-12:00pm Shawarma by SHELBY'S	<b>Day 4</b> 19 Grade 6- The Nutcracker Play Grade 2- Christmas in the Country Balls Falls PIZZA	<b>Day 5</b> 20 Out of Dress code Christmas Theme Advent Ceremony 12:00 pm—Jr 1:45 pm—K,Pr,Int	21 Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.
22 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m.&11:00 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent	CHRISTMAS BREAK					28 Mass: St. Helen Church 5:00 p.m.
29 Mass: St. Helen Church 9:00 a.m.&11:00 a.m.			JAN 1 	2	3	Happy New Year, see you back Monday January 6th!



December 2024 Calendar.pdf

Download  
1.5 MB

### St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

J. DeCoff  
Principal

A. Vilella  
Vice-Principal

Email: [st.mark@ncdsb.com](mailto:st.mark@ncdsb.com)

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stmark/>

Location: [4114 Mountain Street, Beamsville, ON, Canada](#)

Phone: [905.563.9191](tel:905.563.9191)

Twitter: [@StMark\\_Catholic](#)



Jennifer DeCoff

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



