

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC

December 2024



School begins at 8:35 a.m. Please remember that children learn best when they are on time. Thank you

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School

Home of the Tigers

Mission Statement: To educate each student to his/her full potential in a community formed and guided by Catholic beliefs and traditions.

Motto: "Journey Together On The Road To Discovery"

St. Nicholas Catholic is proud to be a part of the Denis Morris Catholic High School Family of Schools.

Go Tigers Go!

Principal: Mrs. Jackie Watson

Secretary: Mrs. Kim Winstanley

Catholic School Council Chair: Ms. Paprzycki

Superintendent: Mrs. Forsyth-Sells

Parish: Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Father Benjamin Weber, Father Paul Mc Donald

Email: st.nicholas@ncsb.com

Location: [149 Church St, St. Catharines, ON, Canada](#)



Called By Name - Come Follow Me: Reflection #4

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.



School, Home, Parish

St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools is associated with the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Parish Priests are Father Ben Weber and Father Paul McDonald.

Weather pending, we walk to church once a month for mass with Father Ben, usually the third Thursday of the month for a 10:00 a.m. start. Each class is responsible for the readings and for celebrating mass along side Father.

Our current masses are as follows:

December 6th (Feast Day of St Nicholas): Thank you to St. Nicholas Catholic's Student Council who will be celebrating this mass with Father. ***Please note that this mass is on Friday to coincide with the Feast of St. Nicholas.

January 23rd, February 20th, March 5th (Ash Wednesday), March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and June 19th.

We will also host in-school liturgies for Advent and Catholic Education Week. These dates and times will be posted on the monthly calendars.

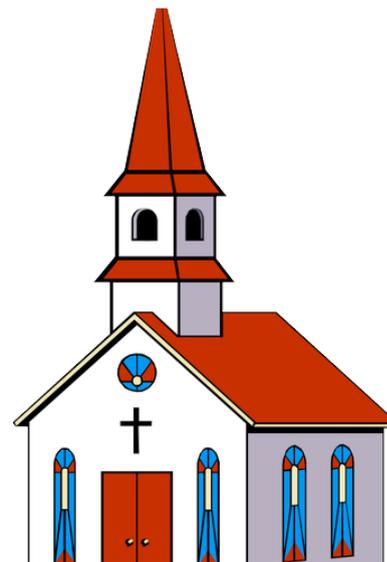
First Advent - Monday, December 2nd 12:45 a.m., gym Grade 2/3

Second Advent - Monday, December 9th 10:45 a.m., gym Kinders

Third Advent - Thursday, December 12th 9:00 a.m., gym Kinders

Fourth Advent - Monday, December 16th 9:00 a.m., gym Grade 1

All are always welcome to join in our celebrations, both at church and the school.



School-wide Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on December 13th and again in March/April.

These will be held at school for students only who have already received.

Grade 8 Confirmation will be held on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th at the 11:30 a.m. mass.

Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation will be explained by Father directly and is to be received prior to the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be on a Saturday mass at 4:30 p.m., either May 10th or May 17th.

Grade 2 and 8 parent information regarding the Sacraments is released directly from the church.

Grade 8 Graduation - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Club Roma. Information to follow later.

Please understand that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, the St. Nicholas Family community will be notified whenever possible.

Feast of St. Nicholas - Friday, December 6th

Feast of St. Nicholas



Who is St. Nicholas?

Nicholas of Myra (modern day Turkey) was born during the time of the Roman Empire. His exact birthdate is unknown but he is thought to have been born on the 15th of March, 270 AD. Nicholas died December 6, 343 AD.

After returning from the Holy Land around 317 AD, Nicholas was consecrated Bishop of Myra in a very unusual way. As the story goes, the Bishop of Myra had recently passed away and the priests were set with the task of finding a new one. They decided that the first priest to enter the church on a certain morning, would be declared Bishop. Having just arrived back from his extended travel, Nicholas awoke early one morning to visit the local church for morning prayers. Having entered the church first that day, Nicholas unknowingly became the new Bishop of Myra.

Bishop Nicholas was said to have miraculous powers and was known for routinely selling his possessions and giving the money to the poor. Bishop Nicholas was also known for his secret gift giving in the middle of the night. Although people knew it was Bishop Nicholas leaving gifts, he himself did not want any recognition.

Bishop Nicholas was recognized as a saint in the 800s. By the 1200s, people were celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas Day on the 6th of December - to coincide with his death.

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, travelers, clergy and thieves, having devoted his life to serving the less fortunate and those in need. As we all know, St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children - especially school aged children.

On Friday, December 6th, we will be celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas with a mass beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral, followed by a luncheon for the children in the afternoon. Students do not need to bring a lunch, but they do need to bring snacks on the 6th of December. December 6th is also Joy Day Please remember to dress in Christmas Festive Wear.

To Report Your Child Absent, Please Do Not Call The School

SafeArrival:

To report your child absent prior to the start of the school day (before 8:25 a.m. of the day being called in for), please use one of the 3 methods listed below:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in,

select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.
3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Not Feeling The Greatest?

Flu and cold season is upon us and many of our students are already feeling a little under the weather. If your children are not feeling well, it may be a good idea to keep them home. This way they can rest, get better faster and rejoin their classmates and friends.



Thank you for keeping everyone healthy, happy and illness-free.

Snow Day/Bus Cancellations

As a reminder for families who are familiar with the process outlined in our [School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure AOP](#) – and as information for those who are new to the school in Niagara or Niagara Catholic – the decision to cancel buses is made by Niagara Student Transportation Services very early in the morning, based on the current and forecast conditions to ensure students are safe throughout the day. NSTS makes its decision with bus companies and consults agencies such as Niagara Regional Police about whether buses are safe on the roads. They communicate the decision to the local school board directors of education, who decide whether to open schools or keep them closed for the day. Niagara Catholic communicates decisions about bus and/or school cancellations by 6 a.m. You will find the information in the following places:

- On the Board website – a red banner appears on the main page when buses and/or schools are cancelled
- The Board's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages
- Local radio and TV stations and newspaper websites

Most often, buses are cancelled but schools remain open. If you choose to keep your child at home due to inclement weather, **you must report their absence using the appropriate code through Safe Arrival**. We advise parents that Niagara Region Public Health continues to caution against mixing cohorts, which means that we cannot put classrooms together this year to ensure proper supervision of students. If, for some reason, a school does not have adequate coverage in place to ensure the safety of students while at school, an individual school **may** be closed.

Please keep in mind that driving a car is much different than a bus, and even though roads seem fine to drivers in personal vehicles, the conditions (such as snow drifts) may make it impossible for school buses to navigate through neighbourhood streets, particularly if they are not ploughed. As well, we remind families that buses can be cancelled if the temperature falls to a point where stop arms and other mechanical parts required for the safe operation of the vehicle may freeze. We understand that may be frustrating for parents on a bright, cold, snow-free day, but the safety of

students is the top priority of the school bus companies, NSTS and Niagara Catholic and if the buses cannot operate safely due to the cold, transportation will be cancelled.

Living between two lakes can mean completely different weather in parts of Niagara. Occasionally, that leads to bus cancellations or school closures in one part of Niagara due to weather, while the rest of the region is unaffected. We encourage you to please check our website and social media feeds for accurate information to ensure that what you are reading online applies to you.

If the entire system is shut down, we will call, email and text your family using School Messenger by 6 a.m. to advise you it's a snow day. You do not need to report your child's absence from school, as schools are closed.

French Immersion On-Line Open Pre-Registration 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. Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten

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.

French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2024: 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 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.

St. Nicholas Catholic's Annual Gingerbread Night, Wednesday, December 11th

Last call to join us for a fun and festive vent for the entire family, in support of our St. Nicholas Catholic School Council.

Come and decorate a Gingerbread House in the gym on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00/family which includes one Gingerbread House and all of the fixings. There will be hot chocolate, snacks and Christmas music throughout the night.

Want to purchase more than one Gingerbread House kit? Of course you can. The cost remains at \$20.00/kit/

Please purchase your Gingerbread House(s) through school cash on-line by December 3rd. Gingerbread Houses will not be sold at the door, nor will extra be brought in.



Catholic School Update

Our Catholic School Council has been very busy in organizing various fundraisers to help support all of our students.

We are very proud to state that our Big Box Card Fundraiser was a success. Sixty-five boxes were sold for a total profit of \$715.00.

On deck now is our always delicious and desired COBS gift cards.

With every card sold, St. Nicholas Catholic makes a profit of \$12.50. Cards can be purchased on school cash until December 15th and all cards will be distributed before Christmas Break.

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Flowers will happen in the Spring.

Below read below for information on our annual Christmas Shoppe.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

St. Nicholas Catholic's Second Annual Christmas Shoppe

Dear Parents,

Catholic School Council is happy to host the Christmas Shoppe once again this year for the students of St. Nicholas Catholic.

The Christmas Shoppe will run for two days - the afternoon of Thursday, December 12th and all day on Friday, December 13th and will offer a wide variety of items that can be purchased for \$2.00.

Please see the letter attached for more information regarding this year's Christmas Shoppe.



COBS Bread



Catholic School Council would like to offer a fundraiser that is delicious, fresh and mouth-watering. That's right, the COBS Bread fundraiser is back once again! All cards can be purchased through School Cash On-Line until Sunday, December 15th and cards will be handed out just before Christmas Holidays.

We thank Marko for this wonderful opportunity. Not only is this a wonderful way to raise money for our school, but we also get to eat incredibly delicious bread as well! Thank you Marko. Please read below and see attachments.

Again, all cards purchased will be handed to the families mid December.

Sale starts through school cash on-line: Monday, November 25th

Sale concludes on Sunday, December 15th

Cards distributed to families by Wednesday, December 17th

My name is Marko Bukovec and I am the proud owner of COBS Bread Ridley Square in St. Catharines. As part of my commitment to the local community I would like to offer your school students/parents/teachers the opportunity to participate in our Dough Raiser program. The Dough Raiser program is how we help raise money for your school!

We offer a "Loaf a Month" Card for students to sell. The card is typically sold for \$25 with \$12.50/card being refunded to the bakery and \$12.50/card being retained by the school to raise funds for a specific project. The card is valid for one free loaf of any kind in the bakery every month for a year (12 free loaves). The purchaser of the card gets to choose any loaf they desire each and every month for a year. The cost per loaf works out to just over \$2/loaf with the school earning half that back!

Sports Corner



Tis the season for Volleyball - and what a showing we have had. Congratulations to our Junior tripleball teams who played very well at their tournaments on the 14th and 15th of November.

Way to go Payton A., Elnata A., Sacia B., D'Janae D., Genevieve S., Miah St-V. and Abby T.

And way to go to Subomi A., Billy C-D., Tysen M., Baraka M., Gabriel M., Loic M., Mason S. and Devante S.

And congratulations to both of our Intermediate teams who made it to their semi-final matches. So very impressed with your sportsmanship and general play.

Congratulations go out to Landon B., Ronan B., Daniel D., Lincoln M., Alex M., Yadiel O., Trevor P., Andy L., Cayden M. and Juan Carlos M. As well as, Phoneix A., Teena A., Emma B., Lola B., Ashlynn B., Nevaeha C., Brandy M., Khloe P., Maya Q. and Tai'yha H-L.

A big thank you goes out to our coaches Mrs. Diemer, Mrs. Marotta, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Ruberto. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Congratulations Tigers. Way to play!!

On deck in the new year will be Junior and Intermediate Basketball.

Denis Morris Catholic High School Open House - Thursday, January 9, 2025



To all Grade 8 Students/Parents and Guardians,

Denis Morris Catholic High School, 40 Glen Morris Dr., will be hosting their fabulous Open House the evening of January 9th for both parents/guardians and students.

Future Reds - come spend the night getting to know staff, looking some sports and clubs the high school has to offer, as well as sitting back and being entertained by the DM Cheerleaders, band members and perhaps even a few members of the Drama Club.

Hot Lunches

We have posted all of our hot lunches from January to March on school cash.

January 10th - Pizza

January 24th - Firehouse Subs

February 7th - Pizza

February 21st - Chicken Fingers

March 7th - Pizza

March 28th - Meatball Subs

Please note that all lunches need to be paid by their due dates. Hot lunches cannot be paid for on the day of delivery.

Ice Cream Days - Friday, January 10th to Friday, MARCH 28th

Every Friday at lunch, the Grade 8s will be selling ice-cream for \$2.00. All ice cream sold will be peanut free.

All proceeds will be directed into the Grade 8 Graduation fund.

Thank you in advance from all of the Grade 8s.



Block two is now open to school cash on-line:

January 10th - March 28th : 11 weeks = \$22.00

We will also still be accepting cash on the Fridays.

Joint Presentation Between St. Nicholas Catholic and St. Denis Catholic

Join us for an evening with Jon Hansen: Learning Outcomes for Parents.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

At St. Denis Catholic

175 Carlton Street St. Catharines

Students from both schools, grades 5-8 will have the privilege of hearing Jon's message throughout the day of the 4th.

Come and listen to the empowering message given to your children.

All parents and/or guardians of students that attend St. Denis Catholic or St. Nicholas Catholic are welcome to attend.



Jon Hansen - Parent Learning Outcomes.pdf

[Download](#)
106.6 KB

Public Health's December Newsletter for Families



December- Elementary Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)
201.4 KB

Kiss And Ride: Please Park Only In A Designated Parking Spot

Please remember that you are asked not to park or get out of your car when in the Kiss 'n Ride line up. The Kiss 'n Ride is exactly that - a quick kiss as your child(ren) quickly get out of the family car. Or the quick ability for your child(ren) to get into the car and do up their own seatbelts. Please ensure that you have pulled up to the front of the line prior to your child(ren) getting out of the car. After school, staff will support students by getting them to their car safely. If you need to help your child(ren) get in and out of the car, or to assist with the seatbelt, or to help with the putting on or taking off of backpacks, we kindly ask that you park your car in a designated parking spot - away from the flow of traffic.

Our parking lot is small, however the traffic is able to flow well when expectations are followed. We thank everyone for their cooperation when it comes to the safety of our students and staff when in the parking lot and in the Kiss 'n Ride.

PPM 128 Cell Phone Use in Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Elementary

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Please note that all cell phones need to remain in backpacks or lockers. If your child does have a locker, it is suggested that s/he bring a lock. Cell phones are not to be kept in back pockets, in the pouch of hoodies, in desks, or anywhere visible.

If a child does have his/her cell phone out, they will be directed by the classroom teacher to go to the office where the phone will be locked in the safe. The cell phone will either be returned at the end of the day, or will be returned to the parent/guardian when they come to pick it up.

Thank you

Elementary Dress Code

NCDSB has a dress code of navy and white for all Elementary schools and their students within. Below is an excerpt from the Elementary Standardized Dress-Code Policy 302.6.10:



1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3; ☒ Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted); ☒ Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or ☒ Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts. ☒ Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers. Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following items: ☒ Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve); ☒ Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or ☒ School designed spirit wear polo shirt. The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white. In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

Please see below the policy attached in its entirety.



302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy.pdf

[Download](#)
227.6 KB

Big Bear Spiritwear

St. Nicholas Spiritwear is now being offered through Big Bear Spiritwear. Please click onto



<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/st-nicholas/> to see the options available for purchase. All St. Nicholas Spiritwear can be worn throughout the year as it is an extension of the school dress code.

Orders placed through Big Bear Spiritwear can either be picked up at their Niagara Falls store or can be delivered to the school for a \$3.00 charge. Items delivered to the school will be sent home with the student in his/her backpack.

Anaphylaxis Awareness

All schools within Niagara Catholic are peanut and tree nut free. At St. Nicholas Catholic, we have students with life threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to peanut and/or tree nut products. We ask that you please read labels carefully ensuring that all lunch products are peanut and tree nut free. That includes products that 'may contain' or are packaged in a facility that uses peanuts and/or tree nuts. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit www.anaphylaxis.ca.

We work very hard at preventing accidental exposure. We ask that you please ensure that your child has thoroughly washed his or her hands after eating peanuts or peanut products for breakfast/lunch while at home. It is also very important that we have common rules throughout the school. The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

- 1) Wash hands with soap and water/hand sanitizer before and after eating,
- 2) Do not bring in food that contains, or possibly contains peanuts/tree nuts
- 3) Do not share food with other students
- 4) Do not accept food from other students, especially if you have an allergy
- 5) Dispose of all food waste properly

If your child has an allergy or is anaphylactic, please ensure that the office is aware and that the proper medical forms have been completed. All medication signed off on by a doctor will be housed safely at the school during the duration of the school year. Please check the expiration date of all medication prior to bringing in.

Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools

Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2015 is an important step to support the health and well-being of students diagnosed with asthma in Ontario schools.

If your son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma, please contact the office to provide information about your son/daughter's asthma medication.

You will be required to complete and submit the Niagara Catholic Student Asthma Management Plan for your student.

Any student under the age of 16 years will be permitted to carry and administer his/her asthma medication at school with your consent. A student 16 years or older is not required to have his or her parent's or guardian's permission to carry his or her asthma medication.

The Ministry of Education website has resources on asthma that can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/anaphylaxis.html>.

Please Keep us Updated

Communication thru emails:

A reminder that information and updates will be regularly sent out via email. Please ensure that your current email address is on file at the office. Likewise, monthly calendars, newsletters and on-line paraphernalia such as class trip information can be found on our school's website.

Allergy Aware School



***Please understand that if we do not have your current email address, you will not receive information, you will not be able to access information such as report cards, through the parent portal, nor will you be able to access school cash on-line.**

Always keep us apprised of email changes.

Thank you

Respectful Interaction Framework

St. Nicholas Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated.

While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.



Thank you



Christmas holidays begin Saturday, December 21, 2024. We will see all of you back on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 8:25 a.m.

From our families to yours, have a blessed, safe and joyous Christmas vacation.

Jacqueline Watson

Jacqueline is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

