



Notre Dame Catholic School



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Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

December 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As we prepare for Christmas, we recall that Advent is a time of hope, compassion and kindness, as we await the coming of Jesus. During this time it is important to take a moment to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us, but also to pray for those members of our school community and families that may be facing challenges during this time.

The birth of Jesus signifies a new beginning for all of us - a time for renewed hope, peace, joy and love. On behalf of the staff of Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful and peaceful Christmas, and a new year blessed with health and happiness. I would like to thank Our Lady of the Scapular Parish pastoral team, Fr. Greg and Fr. Ronnie, for their continuous spiritual leadership, especially during this season of Advent.

All the best,
E. Roussos

Theological Theme: Called by Name: Follow Me

God invites us to hear His voice. But, how do we go about hearing it? How do we learn to recognize it? God has blessed us with a priceless gift: the Bible. St. Jerome famously wrote that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." We recognize our loved ones' voices because of the many hours we've spent together. Should we expect it to be any different with Jesus? When we read the Gospels, we learn His ways and we hear His voice. Do you have a Bible that has been collecting dust? This is the sign you've been waiting for to pick it up, open up the Gospels, and give them a read. Jesus is waiting for you.



Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

- 5:00 PM (Children's pageant @ 4:30)
- 7:30 PM
- Midnight

Christmas Day

- 9:00 AM
- 11:00 AM

Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online on the [Niagara Catholic DSB webpage](#) or by clicking [here](#).

We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!

Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSION ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



Notre Dame Catholic School



ON THE CALENDAR



Family Advent Mass

Families, students and staff are invited to a Family Advent Mass for the Notre Dame Catholic School Community on **Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 PM**. The mass will be celebrated by Fr. Greg and Fr. Ronnie at the Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. A social with light refreshments and snacks will be held in the school library **before** mass from 5:45-6:30 PM.

Joy Day

On **Friday, December 6**, students will participate in classroom activities that promote the Advent and Christmas season that is upon us. Students are invited to wear **Red and/or Green** that day, as it is an out of dress code day.

Christmas Week Activities

Throughout the **week of December 16**, staff and students are invited to participate in the following activities to get into the Christmas spirit:

- **December 16 - Frosty the Snowman & The Grinch Day:** Wear white, blue, silver or any other snowy colors. Dress like Frosty or any other snowman, or the Grinch... or even wear them on your clothing. **Students will wear dress code bottoms.**
- **December 17 - Santa Clause is Coming to Town Day:** Dress like Santa or one of his helpers (elf, reindeer, etc) by wearing accessories. **Students will wear dress code bottoms.**
- **December 18 - School Spirit Day:** Wear school colors - blue, gold, white & green, and anything Notre Dame! **Students will wear dress code bottoms.**
- **December 19 - Polar Express Day:** Wear your warmest, most fun winter- themed sweater, hats, socks, scarves, etc. ... or feel free to wear an ugly Christmas sweater. **This is an out of dress code day.**
- **December 20 - Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree:** Wear items that would decorate a Christmas tree (bells, bows, etc). It is also red & green day. **This is an out of dress code day.**

No treats sent from home:

As per our Health and Safety guidelines, parents are asked not to send any treats for their child's class, as they cannot be shared with other students. The school will provide a treat for all students on Friday, December 20. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In December, we will offer the following alternate lunch days:

- December 4 - Little Caesar's Pizza
- December 11 - Swiss Chalet
- December 18 - Subway
- December 20 - Little Caesar's Pizza

All orders can be placed through SchoolCash Online. Thank you in advance for your participation.

French Immersion Sibling Registration

Families who already have a child or children in the NCDSB's French Immersion Program are invited to complete advanced registration for their child to enter as a new student to the French Immersion Program in September 2025.

Online registration starts **December 4** and continues until **December 18**.



ON THE CALENDAR

Saint Paul High School Transition Activities



Saint Paul High School Transition Activities

Our Grade 8 students have started their transition from being part of the Notre Dame family to joining the Saint Paul family. Students have been visited by school administrators Mrs. Majka, Mr. Folinazzo and Mrs. Pirosko to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul. Notre Dame students will begin experiencing the Patriot culture by attending a variety of events.

Saint Paul Roadshow @ Notre Dame

The Saint Paul musical ensemble will visit Notre Dame on **Thursday, December 5** and bring the Christmas joy with them as they play a variety of Christmas songs for our K-8 students.

Grade 8 Day

On **Friday, December 13**, our Grade 8 students will walk over to Saint Paul to participate in a variety of activities planned for them by the staff and students along with students from all the other feeder schools. The day will conclude with our students viewing a performance by the Saint Paul Christmas Roadshow.

Grade 8 Grad Photos

For everyone's advanced planning, our Grade 8 students will be having their graduation photos taken at school on **Tuesday, January 21**. A reminder will be sent to families closer to the date.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Advent Activity

On **Friday, December 6** from 1:15-2:30 PM, Kindergarten parents are invited to the school to watch our student perform a Christmas song for them. After the performance, parents can participate in a classroom activity with their child.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).



Elementary Standardized Dress Code



The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish December Events

Families are invited to join the Our Lady of Scapular community for 9:30 am Sunday mass on **December 8th** and then participate in the special Family Advent Adventure taking place in the church hall. This Family Faith & Fun event will feature special refreshments and activities for kids and their parents/guardians that will remind all involved that the birth of the baby Jesus is the reason for this Season!

A special Parish Family Skate will take place on **December 30th** from 2:30 -3:30 pm at the Gale's Centre. Non-obligatory cash donations for the Our Lady of the Scapular's Society of St. Vincent De Paul will be collected at the event, should you choose. Mark the date on your Christmas Break calendars!

Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff are thankful for all that Delta Bingo gives back to the school. Students have benefitted from recess and PE equipment, learning materials, as well as classroom technology. We look forward to continuing our school fundraising efforts through our partnership.



The school is always looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned time at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.

Student Consent Forms

Each year students have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms ([found on School Cash Online](#)), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students) - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only) - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc).

Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety while in our care.

SchoolCash Online Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for our students, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash Online. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

School Messenger - Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. **PLEASE** use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Aware Internet Filter

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called "Student Aware". This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The "Student Aware" program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Mass Times

- **Saturday:** 5:00 PM
- **Sunday:** 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Instagram to get the latest updates: **@notredamenf**