



Mary Ward Catholic School

April 2025

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

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

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221

Principal's Message

As we enter into the first full month of spring, may we focus on being witnesses of faith through our stewardship of God's gifts. Caring for the environment is the first thing God asks of humanity. As we focus on continued hope for the world, may we be mindful not only of our responsibility to care for and protect the environment, but also our responsibility to share that hope with those around us.

With the changing seasons and the spiritual celebration of Easter upon us, may each family of Mary Ward, share a hopeful spirit and the joy of Jesus' resurrection with family and friends.

Have a Blessed Easter Season!

Mr. A. Cardamone
Principal

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish News

Mary Ward Family Mass

Join us for our monthly mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. Each month, two classes and our Faith In Action Team are invited to mass to deepen our faith and strengthen our triad connection - school, parish and home.



This month, Mr. Cottinger and Mrs. Rufrano / Ms. Picard's classes and our FIAT team are hosting the mass on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

A reminder that attending mass is a fundamental aspect of Catholic life and as Catholics, we are asked to attend mass weekly and on holidays.

Our Lady of the
Scapular
Roman Catholic Church

LENT 2025

Deepen your experience of Lent by considering these suggestions.



Ash Wednesday

March 5 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations

Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.,
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday Evening Mass 7:00 p.m.
New During Lent - Friday Evening 7:00 p.m.
March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 & 11



Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent @
9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11
Good Friday April 18
@ 7:00 p.m.



Day of Reconciliation & Adoration

in every parish in the diocese
**Saturday, April 5
10 a.m.—2 p.m.**
at every parish in the diocese a priest will be available to
celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession)

Parish Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, April 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
followed by individual confessions

Blessing of Easter Baskets & Food

Saturday April 19 @ 12:00 p.m.



scapular.ca

Confessions

Monday 8:30—8:45 a.m.
Tuesday 6:15—6:45 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30—8:45 a.m.
Thursday 8:30—8:45 a.m.
Friday 8:30—8:45 a.m. (except Good Friday)
Saturday 8:30—8:45 a.m. (except April 19)
Saturday 9:30—10:00 a.m. (except April 19)
Saturday 4:30 to 4:45 p.m. (except April 19)



Holy Thursday April 17 8:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.
Good Friday April 18 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Saturday April 19 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.



Palm Sunday

Saturday April 17 @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday April 18 @
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday

Thursday April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday April 18 @ 3:00 p.m.



Easter Vigil

Saturday April 19 @ 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 20 @
8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Lenten Food Drive

In the spirit of Lent, and in keeping with one of the pillars of Lent, Almsgiving, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, is accepting food donations for a Lenten Food Drive.

The proceeds of this food drive will be donated to Our Lady of the Scapular Church. From there, these donations will be placed in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and distributed to those in need. The food drive will run until April 11, 2025.

We are asking families to donate a variety of breakfast items such as peanut butter/wow butter, nutella, fruit cups, nutrition bars, cereal, cereal bars, canned fruits, oatmeal, fruit snacks, go go squeeze apple snacks, pop tarts, pancake mix, rice, and granola bars.

These donations will provide the church with multiple food options for families in need.

Your continued generosity is both valued and appreciated.



Easter Cookie Grams

The Mary Ward Student Council is excited to launch an Easter Cookie Gram initiative, offering delicious spring sprinkle cookies to brighten up the season!

From April 14 to April 16, students can purchase a cookie for just \$2.00, which will be delivered to their peers on April 17.

The cookies are 55g each (approx 4 inches in diameter) and are individually wrapped. They are peanut and nut free and are PPM 150 Compliant.

This sweet gesture is a fun way to spread some joy and celebrate the Easter season while supporting the Student Council's efforts.

Don't miss out on sending a cookie to a friend or treating yourself!

Mary Ward School Cannoli Fundraiser - Sponsored by Four Brothers Cucina

Indulge in a delicious treat while supporting Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School! Four Brothers Cucina is hosting a Cannoli Fundraiser, with all proceeds going directly back to the school. Funds will be used to purchase additional technology for classrooms.

How to Order: Cannolis are available in packs of 5 or 10.

- o 5-pack: \$10.00
- o 10-pack: \$20.00

All purchases can be made through School Cash Online.

- Pick-up Date: April 25th
- Pick-up Location: Mary Ward Elementary School

A special thank you to the Marinelli family for their generous donations in making this fundraiser possible.

Order your cannolis today and help support Mary Ward Elementary!

Looking Ahead - 2025/2026 - Class Placements

During the month of May, staff will meet to discuss and create student groupings for next school year.

Students will be placed with others whom will be most successful. A great deal of time and effort is spent determining the composition of classes. When organizing class groupings, attention and diligence is required by the classroom teachers, resource teacher and principal.

A variety of factors are seriously considered when establishing classes. Creating a successful learning environment for all students is a goal we aim to achieve.

Some of the criteria considered include: ability, individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, and class size.

At this time we are accepting friend requests limited to 1 or 2 friends. Any parent requests, must be submitted in an email to mary.ward@ncdsb.com titled, "Friend Request 2025-2026, to the attention of Mr. Cardamone, no later than Friday, April 25, 2025.

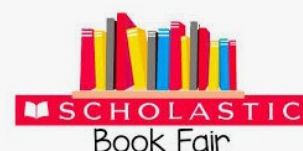
Please note that requests for specific classroom teachers will not be considered.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP? Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students, please discuss relationship building and new friendships.

Thank you for your support.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School. What better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literary event!



We invite your entire family to participate in the Book Fair by purchasing the latest children's books. Your support of this vital literary event is a key part of helping us obtain new books and resources for our library.

The book fair will begin on Tuesday, April 8 until Friday April 11. Students will have the opportunity to purchase books with their class during the day.

We will be open from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm. (Closed between 11:30-noon). On Friday, the book fair will close at 11:30.

You will be able to pay by using CASH, DEBIT or CREDIT CARD.

Don't forget to mark the dates on your calendar! Thank you for believing in books and the impact of reading on your child's future.

We look forward to seeing you during our Scholastic Book Fair and thank you, in advance, for supporting this great literary event.

Alternate Lunch Days/Milk Program

Alternate lunch days and the milk program will continue in March!

Milk will be available on every Tuesday and Thursday.

There will be 2 alternate lunch days in April

☒ April 10 - Substantial Sub Day

☒ April 29 - Pizza Day from Carmine's Pizzeria



You can participate and place your orders using School Cash Online.

Eco-School News

School Ground Clean Up

School grounds and community clean up events make a difference. These actions, although small, have significant positive impacts on the environment and demonstrate the power of working together.

Mary Ward students will be participating in a School Grounds Clean Up campaign on April 22nd to demonstrate our commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable world.

Teachers will take their students outdoors to pick up litter on the school grounds. Students will be provided with gloves and bags. Students will be informed of safe and proper procedures for collecting and disposing of litter.

If you do not want your child to participate in this action, please inform your child's teacher.

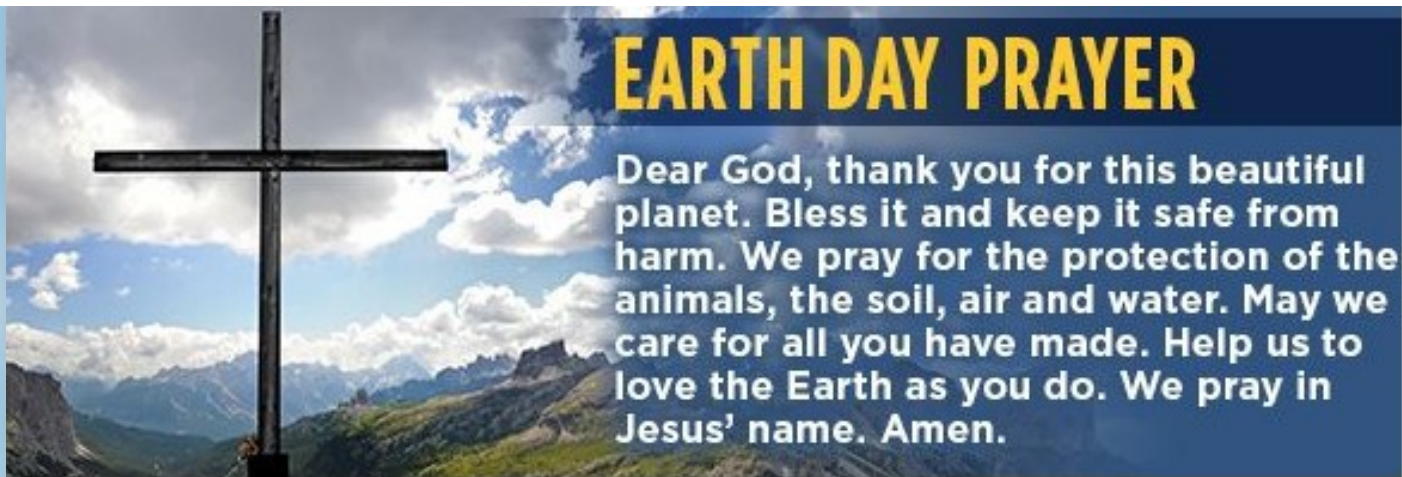
Gently Used Clothing Drive

Did you know that the clothing industry creates [2.1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions](#) globally each year? It also uses 342 million barrels of oil a year to make our synthetic clothes.

Much of the plastic waste in our landfill comes from our synthetic clothes. In Canada, each household throws away an average of 81 lbs of textiles per year, making up for 10% of municipal landfills.

Mary Ward families are encouraged to help take action to divert textile waste by donating gently used clothes beginning April 22 - 25, 2025.

All clothes collected will be donated to The Diabetes Association. Donations will be accepted at the main office of the school.



Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement (NCPIC) Membership 2025-2026

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee acts as an advisory committee to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board and school levels in order to build strong Catholic identity and community, nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, and improve student achievement and well-being for all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three community representatives and to fill the available parent/guardian positions on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the 2025-2026 school year.

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025. Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website.

Please send nomination forms to: Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON L3C 7C1
Attention: Yvonne Anderson
or by email to: yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com

Spirit Wear Wednesdays

Wednesday's are spirit wear days at Mary Ward Catholic School. Check out the new Navy Jogger for students in Kinder thru Grade 3 and swag for Mom and Dad.

All orders will be delivered to Mary Ward. Please remember to note your child's name and classroom teacher on the order.

To order spirit wear please go to Maddalena's website <https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/>

Niagara Region Public Health

Connecting the Curriculum to Home

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- Watch here: [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

Happy Oral Health Month!

The Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers FREE dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.



Appointments are available at the following locations:

[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).

Let's Talk Vaping

Even for elementary students, there's a good chance that kids have been exposed to vaping—whether at school, through friends, on social media, or in movies and TV shows. From one parent to another, learn the basics about vaping in just 12 minutes.

<https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents/>

Be Safe for Niagara

It can be overwhelming to try to navigate mental health supports in Niagara. With the [Be Safe app](#), you can get the help you need, when you need it most. Be Safe is a free mobile app that offers information and links to mental health, addiction and suicide prevention resources in Niagara. It helps support you through the process of reaching out when life feels overwhelming.



The Be Safe App in Niagara:

- Allows users to create a digital safety plan
- Informs users about mental health and addiction resources in Niagara
- Helps you be prepared if you find yourself in a crisis

For more information, please visit <https://besafeapp.ca/>

You can download the app on the [App Store](#) or [Google play](#).



Mr. A. Cardamone
Principal

