



St. Alexander – Newsletter



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Principal:	Mr. M. Venzon
Vice Principal:	Mrs. C. Pozzobon
Superintendent:	Ms. Kim Kinney
Parish Priest:	Fr. Paul MacNeil

*St. Alexander Catholic Elementary is proud to be part
of the Notre Dame Catholic Family of Schools*

MAY 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Called by Name: "COME FOLLOW ME"

When Jesus says "Come, follow me," He's doing more than just asking us to walk with Him. He is asking us to become a part of something bigger. Imagine you're invited to join an adventure where you learn new things and grow in ways you never thought possible. Following Jesus means we get to learn from Him how to be more loving, forgiving, and courageous. It's like being part of a great story where each of us has a special role. As we follow Jesus, we discover our own strengths and talents and find joy in helping others. So, when we hear His invitation, it's a chance to embark on an exciting journey of faith and make a real difference in the world!

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will be celebrating and participating in Catholic Education Week (CEW) with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" and Mental Health Week (MHW), with the theme, "Unmasking Mental Health" from Monday, May 5, 2025 to Friday, May 9, 2025. This is an opportunity to highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health and wellness.

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together. Help us to accompany each other in our learning as we grow, living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world.

May your love speak to our hearts, helping us to bring hope to others and a commitment to justice in all we do.

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord and teacher.

Amen.

Sincerely,

Mr. Venzon

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Heavenly Father, we thank You for our mothers through whom Your gift of life begins and through whom we are nurtured into great human beings.

We lift up [all mothers to Your love and care](#). We pray for them, for their needs of strength and support to continue to nurture a family of love, in honor and love for You, our God.

Amen

This Year's Catholic Education Week Theme Is, "*Pilgrims of Hope.*"

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2025 was inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: <https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868>)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invites us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focussed on the future.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

Day 1:	By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine
Day 2:	By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création
Day 3:	By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés
Day 4:	By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité
Day 5:	By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Pilgrims of Hope* together.

Catholic Education Week – May 4–9, 2025: Activities for Our Students

We are excited to celebrate **Catholic Education and Mental Health Week** at St. Alexander from **Sunday, May 4 to Friday, May 9, 2025**. This year's theme, *"Pilgrims of Hope"*, will guide a week of meaningful activities that encourage our students to live out our Catholic values while supporting their well-being and sense of community.

Below is an overview of the planned activities for the week:

Sunday, May 4, 2025 – By Honouring Human Dignity

- First Holy Communion for Ms. Principi's Grade 2 students at St. Alexander Church
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Monday, May 5, 2025 – By Caring for Creation

- CEW prayers and announcements with Father Paul
 - Festival of Music with Ms. Paraskevopoulos
 - Grade 7 trip to see Mimi O'Bonsawin's performance: Mr. Boon and Mr. Major
 - Confirmation rehearsal: Mrs. Letourneau, Mr. Mari and Mr. Major's grade 8s
 - Classroom door decorating with positive, faith-filled messages of the Jubilee Year
 - Mental Health Week bulletin board display: Mrs. Roesch and Mrs. Loney
 - Act of Kindness Wall – students can leave kind notes for classmates
-

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 – By Responding to the Poverties in Our World

- CEW prayers and announcements with Father Paul
 - Catch the Spirit Award Celebration
 - Mindfulness and breathing exercises in classrooms
 - Pay It Forward Day – performing and sharing kind gestures
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Wednesday, May 7, 2025 – By Serving in Solidarity

- CEW prayers and announcements with Father Paul
 - Leadership Symposium participation by Student Senate Members
 - Confirmation at St. Alexander Church (7:00 p.m.)
 - Sidewalk chalk activity with inspiring messages
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Thursday, May 8, 2025 – By Serving in Solidarity

- CEW prayers and announcements with Father Paul
- Gratitude list posted in the school hallways
- Parent Observations and Visits:
 - Kindergarten: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - Junior/Intermediate (Grades 4–8): 9:00–10:00 a.m.

- Primary (Grades 1–3): 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9, 2025 – By Living as Peacemakers

- CEW prayers and announcements with Father Paul
- Peace and community-themed classroom activities
- Classroom reflection: “Things I am good at” and “Things I love about myself”

We hope these activities enrich your child’s understanding of our faith and foster a spirit of kindness, gratitude, and peace. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. Thank you for your continued support!

CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD

Every year across the Niagara Catholic District School Board each school awards a student with the “Catch the Spirit” award. The award is designed to celebrate a student who demonstrates outstanding qualities in the following areas: Catholic Leadership Qualities, Catholic Faith and Catholic School Philosophy, Family Commitment, School Community Relations (rapport with teachers and other students), Involvement in School Affairs and Activities, Involvement in Community Activities, Commitment to a Difficult Situation or Task, and a High Degree of Academic Excellence. **This year we are very proud to present the Catch the Spirit Award to Nelka Kazmirsky.** We are all very proud of you Nelka!



May is the Month of Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance."

Looking ahead - 2025/2026 - Class Placements

During the months of April and May, staff will be meeting to discuss and create student groupings for next year. Students will be placed with others whom they 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, vice principal 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: abilities, individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, class size and boy/girl ratio. We ask that you speak positively to your child about any placements given, and that you trust that we will make decisions that are best for your child and for the needs of the school.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We encourage all families to register as soon as possible. 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 school in September 2025.

We are very excited to have more students join our St. Alexander Family and the extended Family of Niagara Catholic.

We will be having a Kindergarten Orientation Night on June 3rd, 2025 from 6-7pm. During this time, families will visit the Kindergarten classrooms and get a feel for what a day looks like in Kindergarten!

At 6:45pm the new students will be able to ride the bus with their families to experience what September will be like. We hope to see all newly registered students there!

EQAO BEGINS IN JUNE

From May 26 – June 5th our Grade Three and Six students will begin to write the provincial EQAO test. Our students here at St. Alexander have been preparing for the test and are looking forward to showing all that they have learned. We appreciate all of the support from parents and staff. We continue to ask that you make every attempt to ensure that your child is at school on time, especially from May 26 – June 5th, and that you do not schedule appointments or vacations during this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. Thank you for your support.

DESIGNER PURSE BINGO

We are extremely excited to let you know that St. Alexander will once again be hosting a Purse Bingo Fundraiser at Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre on Thursday, May 15th.

Please see the details below and save the date for an evening of fun that will directly benefit the students of St. Alexander!!!

You can book on the Amici's website at:

<https://www.amicisbanquetcentre.com/social-events>

designer purse ^{18+ event} BINGO

Supporting St. Alexander Catholic School

**Join us for some shopping, sipping,
hors d'oeuvres and 7 exciting games
of BINGO for your chance to win some
amazing designer bags!**

*Thursday May 15 2025
Amici's Banquet Centre*

6:00p.m. Doors open to shop vendors

7:30p.m. BINGO starts



Tickets available at: amicisbanquetcentre.com/social-events
cash bar | dabbers supplied | additional sheets available for purchase

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMUNITY BBQ GATHERING

Our St. Alexander Catholic School Council will be hosting a year-end family get together and BBQ here at St. Alexander School on Tuesday, June 17th from 4:00 - 7:00pm. We will have burgers, hotdogs and refreshments for everyone, and cooking will be done by the Knights of Columbus. Pricing details for the food and drinks will be sent as we approach the BBQ, and there will be options to purchase in advance on School Cash.

Our hope is that families and staff members will gather, and kids can play and have fun together. We hope to see everyone there!!!



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026



The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) supports the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Diocese, the Director of Education, and the Board.

The NCPIC promotes active parent/guardian engagement within all schools for the improvement of student achievement and well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The NCPIC membership is made up of parents/guardians, community and student representatives, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines or his appointed representative, principals, teachers, support staff, the Director of Education or designate, the appointed Superintendent of Education and Trustees. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, on a bi-monthly basis (or as noted) at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is seeking to appoint up to three (3) community representatives for the 2025-2026 school year to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Interested parties are to complete and submit the Community Representative Form, along with a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to **Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

To be eligible for election/appointment as a parent/guardian representative to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, a person:

- must be a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a school of the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- must support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board; and
- must fully participate in the annual Commissioning Ceremony of NCPIC members.

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2025-2026 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Thorold/Merritton	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Niagara Falls	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland/Pelham	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative

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 click on the link: [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#).

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