

St. Thérèse Catholic School

May 2025

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Anoquot-Smith - Secretary

Website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

Address - 530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON

Phone - 905-835-8082

Instagram - @st.therese.pc

Email - st.therese@ncdsb.com



School Bell Times

8:40-8:55 - Student Arrival

8:55 - 9:05 - Entry Bell - Prayers, Announcements, Attendance

10:25-10:45 - Recess

10:45-11:05 - Nutrition Break

1:05-1:25 - Nutrition Break

1:25-1:45 - Recess

3:05 - Prayers, Announcements

3:15 - Dismissal Bell

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We begin this month by celebrating **Catholic Education Week** from **May 5 - May 9**. This is also **Mental Health Awareness Week**. We have planned many activities for our students to enrich their learning and look forward to welcoming parents and guardians into our school at the end of the week.

During this month of May, we focus on our Blessed Mother, Mary. Mary is everyone's mother and she cares for all of us each day, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. One of the ways we can honour Mary this month is by attentively praying the rosary. We invite you to join us at our school mass at the parish on Wednesday, May 7th at 10am for the **Crowning of Mary** where we will place a crown of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue.

We also celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11th. Wishing all Mothers, Step Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, God Mothers and anyone in a motherly role a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for all that you do! May God Bless You.

Looking forward to another fun-filled month at St. Thérèse.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Turcotte

A Mother's Day Prayer

Lord, thank you for all mothers.

For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.

For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.

For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.

For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.

For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.

For the mother aunts, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews.

For all grandmas, who love and support their precious grandchildren.

For the foster moms that are called to father and cover the fragile ones.

For the Sunday moms who care for our children and lead them in faith.

For the moms who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.

Thank you Lord for all our beautiful mothers.

Helps us to support them and keep them in our prayers.

St. Thérèse, pray for us. Amen.



Theological Theme - Called By Name - Come Follow Me

Our Monthly Reflection

When Jesus says "Follow Me," He is 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!



SPRING FEST

SPRINGFEST is BACK - Thursday, June 5th 4:30-7pm

Our Catholic School Council is hosting a Spring Fest - a community event to bring our families together! You can expect a BBQ, music, penny sale, gift basket raffle and community partners. We look forward to gathering together! Keep an eye out at the end of the month for BBQ items available for pre-purchase through School Cash Online.

This event isn't possible without the support of our school community. Interested in volunteering and supporting Spring Fest this year? Please contact the main office to let us know you would like to contribute.

CATCH THE SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT

The Niagara Catholic "**Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence**" has been established to honour representatives of leadership within our student population as we continue to work together to "nuture souls and build minds" throughout Niagara Catholic.

Each year all schools across Niagara Catholic select one student as their award winner! We are delighted to recognize **Gracie Greenan** as a shining example of this award's criteria, which include:

- Parish involvement
- Catholic Leadership
- Family Commitment
- Positive School Relationships and Involvement
- Academic Excellence



She will be celebrated on **May 6th**, at the **Celebrating Excellence** ceremony held at the Central Niagara Community Centre. Gracie not only meets the criteria but goes above and beyond in our

school community are very proud of grads and look forward to celebrating their accomplishment!



Grade 8 Graduation

Save the Date - Our Grade 8s are graduating on **Thursday, June 19th** at Lakeshore Catholic!

All are welcome to attend our Graduation Ceremony!

Sacraments

This month our Grade 2 students will be celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation on May 1st and First Communion on May 10th. We are looking forward to celebrating this important milestone with our students on their faith journey.

Our Grade 8 students will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 11. These students have made the heartfelt decision to renew their baptismal promises and deepen their relationship with God.

We are thankful for the guidance of Father Danielle of St. Thérèse of Liseux Parish.

Thank you to Father Danielle, our parents, Mrs. DiBartolomeo, Mrs. Saltarelli, Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Frey for preparing our students on their faith journey.

Annual Big Red Fundraiser

We are pleased to announce that St. Thérèse has once again teamed up with Big Red Markets for our annual fundraiser which will run **Wednesday, May 1-Wednesday, May 8**. An electronic order form will be emailed out on May 1st and can be used as a guide to those who would like to sell to extended family and friends. The order form is for your use only. Please do not send it back to the school.



Orders are available to be picked up at the school on **Wednesday, May 14**.

Time will be communicated closer to the pick-up date once Big Red Markets gives us our confirmation time.

We look forward to families participating in this opportunity, as Big Red Markets will donate a portion of sales back to our school. All orders must be submitted through school cash on-line.



BIG RED MARKETS FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

"THE BEST VALUE IN FUNDRAISING"
Quality foods that will be profitable & help achieve
your fundraising goals!

\$59  SLICED BACON 11LB BOX APPROX. 160-180 SLICES	\$45  SLICED PEAMEAL BACON 11LB BOX APPROX. 70-80 SLICES	\$56  PUB STYLE CHICKEN FINGERS 4KG BOX APPROX. 80-80 PIECES
\$60  HAMBURGERS 4 OZ (42 BURGERS) 6 OZ (30 BURGERS)	\$30  JUMBO HOT DOGS 3 KG BAG (APPROX. 35 PIECES)	\$45  BREAKFAST SAUSAGES 11LB BOX (APPROX. 130 PIECES)
\$53  PIZZA ROLLS 3.25 KG BOX (APPROX. 80 PIECES)	\$55  CHICKEN CUTLETS 4 KG BOX (APPROX. 27-29 PIECES)	\$55  WINGS, RAW, IQF 4 KG BOX (APPROX. 70-90 PIECES)



Grade 3 & 6 EQAO

Our students in **Grade 3 and 6** will be taking part in the provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics known as EQAO. These assessments, developed by Ontario teachers and assessment experts, are administered to all Grade 3 and Grade 6 students in Ontario's publically funded school system by the

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO).

Each assessment includes a language and mathematics component, along with a voluntary student questionnaire. During the assessment, students will complete four language sessions and four mathematics stages that each take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Each session or stage will be completed in one continuous sitting, and the sessions and stages may be administered throughout the administration dates.

Students will have the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions on the assessment and its platform through EQAO's online sample test. The EQAO assessment

thinking and reasoning, which are what the teachers teach in the classroom every day. However, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will be encouraged to do their best and show what they know.

This year our students will be writing over two days, our **Grade 3s will be writing on May 26 and 27**. Our **Grade 6s will be writing on June 2 and 3**. Students will have the opportunity to complete the assessment and do their very best.

In the Fall, EQAO will share individual reports for all students. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of their achievement in relation to Ontario's provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from B- to B+. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that they will be ready for the next grade. The results of the assessment do not affect your child's grades or report card in any way.

Class Organization for September 2025

We are currently starting to look toward next school year to plan for class placements for staff and students. During the month of May, staff will be meeting to discuss and place students in classes where they feel students will be most successful. When organizing the classes, attention and diligence is required on behalf of the classroom teachers, resource teacher and principal. Many factors are considered when establishing classes.

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

As parents and guardians, you can help your child by talking positively about next year and discussing the value of new friendships and fresh starts.

Catholic Education & Mental Health Week

Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools are excited to celebrate 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 week provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health and wellness.



Throughout the week, we will explore five inspiring sub-themes:

1. Honouring Human Dignity
2. Caring for Creation
3. Responding to the Poverties in Our World
4. Serving in Solidarity
5. Living as Peacemakers

than students and staff will engage in a variety of learning activities within our school community and classrooms to celebrate Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week.

We invite you to participate our **school mass on Wednesday, May 7th at 10am** at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, we will be walking over - weather permitting, and come visit us at school on the afternoon of **Friday, May 9th beginning at 2pm.**

On Friday afternoon, our students invite you to join them for our **Pilgrims of Hope: Catholic Education Showcase!** Our students will be walking you through our transformed gym to show off their learning, participate in activities with you and celebrate at the end with a couple surprises!

We hope to see many of you during our school mass on Wednesday morning or during our Friday Afternoon Showcase!

Kindergarten Registration for September 2025

Online registration for September 2025 is open! Students who have reached the age of four by December 31, 2025 are eligible for our Kindergarten Program (YEAR 1).



Online registration for NEW KINDERGARTEN students is available online at www.NiagaraCatholic.ca/Join-Us.

Students currently in school are not required to register again for next year. If you know of families in our school area who have young children, please invite them to register their child. When online registration has been completed, families will be contacted by the school.

Please be ready to scan and submit the following documents electronically:

- Copy of child's Birth Certificate or Birth Registration Form
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate (Parent's Certificate is acceptable)
- Proof of full address (eg. Utility bill)
- Any relevant custody order documents



New Kindergarten Family Orientation Night

You and your child(ren) are invited to attend our **New Kindergarten Family Orientation Night on Monday, June 9th 5-6pm.** The Kindergarten Team will be presenting important information to support parents/caregivers regarding their child's transition to

Kindergarten in September 2025. This will also be a great time for our new Kindergarten students to see our beautiful Kindergarten playground area and serve as another transition opportunity for our new students.

the date.

Gift Card Calendar Raffle

THANK YOU to our school community for supporting our Grade 8 Gift Card Calendar Raffle!
It was a HUGE success and our Grade 8's enjoyed taking turns doing the draw each day!
Here is a list of our winners (also available on our school website)

St. Thérèse Gift Card Calendar Raffle Draw Winners
April 2025

Date	Prize	Winner
April 1, 2025	\$35 Our Corner Cafe \$50 Cineplex \$50 Joe Feta's	#186 • Mariel Gadula
April 2, 2025	\$100 Ultimate Dining Card \$25 Nintendo	#352 • Camie Jennings
April 3, 2025	Falls Chevrolet Oil Change (\$120) \$10 Tim Hortons	#274 • Kathryn Beacham
April 4, 2025	\$25 Tim Hortons \$75 Ultimate Dining \$30 Subway	#559 • Kathy Loney
April 5, 2025	\$50 Skip the Dishes \$50 Golf Town \$25 LCBO	#830 • Robyn VanGeemen
April 6, 2025	\$65 Ultimate Dining \$50 Swiss Chalet \$25 Super Marios	#604 • Alison Sneek
April 7, 2025	\$50 Creative Knitter \$100 Benedict's Breakfast & Lunch	#999 • Lori Sijter
April 8, 2025	\$25 A&W \$25 Beer Store \$50 Petro	#213 • Erin Pace
April 9, 2025	\$250 Over the Rainbow Dog Academy \$25 Toys R Us	#342 • Dorothy Murtaugh
April 10, 2025	\$100 Walmart \$50 Canadian Tire	#596 • Henry Loewen
April 11, 2025	\$50 LCBO \$50 Esso \$25 Drifters	#596 • Henry Loewen
April 12, 2025	\$50 McDonalds \$50 Tim Hortons \$25 LCBO	#171 • Tara Soo Lum
April 13, 2025	\$20 McDonalds \$50 Cineplex \$50 The Keg	#924 • MacKenzie McMahon
April 14, 2025	\$100 Benedict's Breakfast & Lunch \$25 SIR Dining Card	#215 • Erin Pace
April 15, 2025	\$50 Starbucks \$50 Joe Fetas \$50 Petro	#753 • Angie Clare
April 16, 2025	\$50 Any Card (E Gift Card) \$50 Market Cafe \$25 Sephora	#604 • Alison Sneek
April 17, 2025	\$50 Cineplex \$100 Amazon	#1027 • Madison Cassar
April 18, 2025	\$100 Lottery \$25 MasterCard \$25 Pizza Pizza	#49 • Dorothy Murtaugh
April 19, 2025	\$100 Petro \$25 Dollarama \$25 Tim Hortons	#465 • Jan Bradley
April 20, 2025	\$100 Amazon \$25 PlayStation \$25 Tim Hortons	#842 • Julie Puchalski
April 21, 2025	\$25 Starbucks \$250 Beyond the Willow Photography	#168 • Scott Kelley
April 22, 2025	\$25 Dollarama \$50 LCBO \$40 McDonalds	#680 • Kelli Ryan
April 23, 2025	\$25 Manicure \$30 Tim Hortons \$50 Food Basics \$30 Netflix	#429 • Vanessa DiFelice
April 24, 2025	\$100 Benedict's Breakfast & Lunch \$50 Indigo	#464 • Brian Charters
April 25, 2025	\$25 Indigo \$50 Starbucks \$60 Bath & Body	#159 • Lauren Robins
April 26, 2025	\$25 Old Navy \$50 Cineplex \$50 Axe Throwing	#693 • Bonnie Dickson
April 27, 2025	\$50 Sephora \$50 Walmart \$50 Cineplex	#474 • Janet Roy
April 28, 2025	\$30 Tim Hortons \$250 Shirley Cove Photography	#28 • Mark Sirianni
April 29, 2025	\$50 Red Lobster \$100 Bass Pro Shops	#399 • Craig Thibeault
April 30, 2025	\$30 Subway 2 Adult Helicopter Rides	#51 • Melissa & Paul Ostrihan



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Instagram

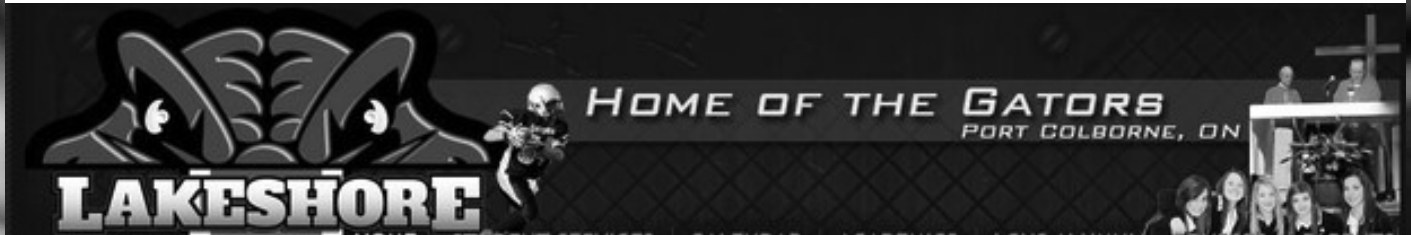
@St.TheresePC



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear is available for purchase year round! Items are shipped directly to the school with your child's name on the package for easy delivery!

Please check out [Big Bear Spiritwear's website](#) for more information - Click on Schools to find our shopping link!



We are a proud member of the Lakeshore Catholic Family of Schools

Ice Bucket Challenge for Mental Health

Have you heard of the viral ice bucket challenge trending on social media?

Originally done in 2014, the challenge was launched to raise awareness and funds for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) a deadly neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. There is no known cure. The ice bucket challenge helped raise more than \$220 million dollars globally.

The ice bucket challenge is back and this time with a new cause! Members of the MIND (Mental Illness Needs Discussion) club at the University of South Carolina rebooted the challenge to encourage people to normalize talking about mental health.

During his ice bucket challenge on April 30th, Mr. Markovich, the principal of Lakeshore Catholic has nominated Mrs. Turcotte to participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge! Mrs. Turcotte has accepted and we will be raising funds for both ALS and Mental Health during this challenge!

Families can donate any amount through school cash online. Every dollar earns students a ballot into the draw to see which students will be dumping ice cold water on Mrs. Turcotte! Our challenge will take place on the afternoon of **Tuesday, March 6th!** So don't delay - donate today for two very good causes!

We are so excited to participate in the ice bucket challenge as part of our Mental Health Week Activities - what a fun way to begin the week!

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support this year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks.



Thank you to all of our families who generously donated to our daily Nutrition Program - we raised \$234 for our students!

What Are Our Students Involved in This Month?

May is going to be a great month with many opportunities for our students to enrich their school life! Here is a quick overview of some of the activities our students are involved in!

- Student Council
 - Eco Warriors
 - Healthy Heroes
 - Spirit Squad
 - Faith Ambassadors
 - Eastside Fresh Market (2 markets left!!)
 - Scientists in the School
 - Intermediate Flag Football
 - Grade 4-8 Track and Field - St. Thérèse School Meet and the Lakeshore Catholic FOS Meet.
 - PALS (our older students run games and activities for our younger students at recess)
-

Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails. As we continue our Eco Schools Initiatives we will be moving away from single-use plastics and want to educate our students about sustainable actions they can take as stewards of our earth.

Standardized Dress Code

Reminder that students are expected to follow dress code expectations daily. We have provided a graphic below as a reminder of the colour and items of clothing that students can wear to school. Our Grade 8 Students are also able to wear their GRAD Hoodies!

All students can also wear St. Thérèse Spirit Wear or Lakeshore Catholic Spirit Wear!



NIAGARA CATHOLIC Standardized Elementary Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear

The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms

- At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:
- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes

For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

Morning Drop Off

Please remember - staff supervision begins at **8:40 a.m.** each morning. Students should not be dropped off or arriving to school earlier than this time.

Starting at 8:40 a.m. we have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:55 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors of the school.

Safe Arrival - Reporting Your Child's Attendance

To report your child absent, 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 on file with the school. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the School Messenger App (blue logo) from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. 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.

3. The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Please do not send Pokémon cards to school as students are not permitted **to trade** playing cards of any kind.

Thank you for your support!



Melissa Turcotte

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters