



# St. Joseph NEWS

*We are proud to be a part of the Lakeshore Catholic and St. Michael Family of Schools.*

# JANUARY 2025

## We are all called by name to grow with God!



### *January Reflection:*

*In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven"*

*Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus IS the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!: He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "come, follow me!"*



It's hard to believe that 2024 has come to an end, and along with it, four months of the school year. It has been a very busy time, with many successes to be proud of as a Catholic school community. The blessings we shared with others were many! The kindness shown for others, from the new comers who have joined the St. Joseph family, to those who we do not even know but support through prayer and charity, is heart warming!

Throughout the month of December students and staff experienced the spirit of the Advent and Christmas season in many ways. THANK you for your support of our ***Deck the Halls with Toiletries Drive (with over 600 donations) and our Family Christmas Cheer Event (with 300 family and friends attending)!*** It was a busy but memorable way to end the month of December! Your continued generosity and support of our Advent traditions was inspiring! For our students, we modelled what faith in action truly looks like! As

2025 begins, all the staff at St. Joseph CES would like to welcome everyone back for another year full of excitement and personal growth. We will continue to focus on living our Catholic Graduate Expectations, highlighting what it truly means to live and love in the image of Jesus. May we enter the New Year remembering God's action in our lives and cultivate gratitude for His love for us as individuals, as families and as a school community. As we begin this new year, we thank God for the gift of Catholic education and ask

for His mercy and grace. May 2025 be filled with many blessings!

*Mrs. S. Walsh ~ Principal*



## The Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on the 6th of January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Churches who have Christmas on the 7th of January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (also sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus. The precious gifts which the Magi brought to the Lord this day are threefold, and they are signs of divine mysteries. By gold the power of the King is signified, by frankincense His great priesthood, and by myrrh the burial of the Lord.



*May the Epiphany bring you the wisdom of the wise men, the inner child of baby Jesus, and the light of God to lead your way.*

*Let the feast of the Epiphany bring you abundance, joy, and peace.*

## A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

*God, thank You for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that You are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.*

*As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values, gifts and talents. Help us to live in the goodness and the kindness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside our worries about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with You now, one day at a time!*

*Amen*

## Special Education Advisory Committee - SPOTLIGHT

### Autism Niagara or Autism Ontario South Region

Autism Niagara/Autism Ontario South Region is a reliable source of information and support for all community members who have a connection to autism, including families, children, adults, caregivers, support workers, and teachers. Autism Niagara offers quality programs and activities for autistic children, youth, and adults, and resources webinars and/or training workshops that promote advocacy, provide support, and offer the latest news in autism research.

Autism Niagara/Autism Ontario South Region strives to work with community partners to promote and enhance autism acceptance and advocacy. Check out the agency's website for more information on how to access services or get involved with fundraising events throughout the year.

## BUS CANCELLATIONS

On days when there are bus cancellations, parents/guardians of students who normally ride the bus are to report, using the electronic **Safe Arrival program**, their child(ren) as absent if they are not sending them to school. 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 Niagara Catholic website – **a red banner appears on the main page when buses and/or schools are cancelled**, the Board's social media pages, local radio and TV stations and newspaper websites. It is only if schools are closed, by the Director of Education, due to inclement weather or any other reason that student absences do not need to be reported.



## From Public Health

### Grade 7 Vaccines Catch Up

Niagara Region Public Health has completed all fall school-based immunization clinics for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):

- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Grade 7 students who missed their school immunization clinic can receive these vaccines through the following options:

- **Niagara Region Public Health vaccination clinics** – book an appointment at a community clinic by calling the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7425
- **Family doctor or Nurse Practitioner**– Contact your health care provider to discuss vaccine availability. If you do not have one, you can check with a local walk-in clinic.



### Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick

Respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19 are spreading in our community. Since these viruses can have similar symptoms, it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone.



If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- ✓ They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
- ✓ Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea **and**
- ✓ They don't develop any new symptoms

By keeping your child home when sick, you help prevent them from spreading whatever infection they have to others.

### Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Opt for designated tobogganing hills that are free from obstacles like trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!



Visit [Niagara Families](#) for places your child can toboggan.

