



February 2025

Called by Name: Come Follow Me

Dear St. Elizabeth Families,

February, the month of "Love." Love is the driver of all great stories, such as, the love of parent for child, for family, for friends and for God.

Jesus gives us the greatest story of Love, Sacrifice and Life Everlasting. We live this story daily through our Catholic teaching, sacrifice and everlasting love are deeply intertwined, reflecting the selflessness and enduring nature of God's love for humanity.

Everlasting love, in the context of Catholicism, is understood as the eternal love of God, who loves humanity beyond time and space. God's love is steadfast and unchanging, never failing, regardless of human flaws or failures. It is through Christ's sacrifice that this eternal love is made accessible to all, offering forgiveness, grace, and the hope of eternal life.

As a Catholic School Community, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and tell our story daily through our commitment to serve God and one another as We Are Called by Name.

Ultimately, Catholic teaching shows that sacrifice and love are not separate; they are the very means through which God's everlasting love is made manifest.

Many Blessing,
Mrs. J. Mangiacasale
Principal



Act of Love Prayer

Jesus, my God,
Thou art infinitely good and perfect.
I love Thee above all things and with my whole heart.

I desire to receive Thee in Holy Communion that I may love Thee more and serve Thee better.

Come to me and strengthen me, so that I may never be separated from Thee on earth and that I may live with Thee eternally in heaven.

Amen



Speakers often ask, "Do you follow me?" to make sure you understand. You can hear someone speaking, but to truly understand them, you have to listen. We often hear the words of Jesus in the Bible, at school, and during Mass. But are we taking the time to really follow what Jesus is saying? Jesus calls each of us to follow Him. Part of following Jesus means listening to His words, understanding His message, and living it out each day. What's one way you can follow Jesus more closely? How will you start building that habit today?



St. Elizabeth News

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities. No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history. The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: **“Black Resistance.”** We can understand this theme to mean celebrating the ways in which Black people have resisted oppression, discrimination, and prejudice over history.

In Niagara Catholic schools, we foster, inclusive, equitable and safe school communities where all are welcomed and ‘called by name’, supporting all students aligned with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Board. The implementation of equitable and inclusive educational practices improves student outcomes within a culture of respect, acceptance and a sense of belonging.

All students will experience Catholic education through culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy, programs, resources and supports for student success. All students will experience equitable and inclusive school and classroom practices to improve student achievement, engagement, representation and voice.

You are welcome to visit the Government of Canada website for more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

REPORTING TO PARENTS



Report Cards for Term One will be available in the **Parent Portal on Monday, February 10th.** Interviews for this term are by request only.

Teachers will be requesting an interview with the parents of those students for whom they feel that an interview would be beneficial. Parents may also request an interview by contacting the teacher to arrange a convenient time.

P.A. DAY & FAMILY DAY



There will be a P.A. Day on **Friday, February 14th.** There is no school on this day. As well, the Family Day holiday takes place on **Monday, February 17th.** We hope you enjoy this extra long weekend with family.



FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries to be given to Port Cares to restock their shelves from February 10th until February 21st. This also runs in conjunction with Kids Helping Kids week, as we will be helping and giving back to people in need within our community. We want to thank you in advance for your generous donations.



ST. VALENTINE

“Saint Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome who assisted martyrs during the persecution under Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. He was eventually arrested and sent before the prefect of Rome. The origins of sending cards and candy on “Valentine’s Day” is not entirely clear, though perhaps the association of love with Saint Valentine is a reflection of the love he showed for Christ by giving his life as a martyr of the Church.”



BIG BOX FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Box of Cards Fundraiser. We raised a total of \$363 that will go towards purchasing items for our students



2025-2026 KINDERGARTEN WINTER OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year (children born in 2021) is available throughout the school year, on the Board website: www.niagaracatholic.ca Click on Register Now.

Our Kindergarten Winter Open House will take place on **Wednesday, February 5th between 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.**

Families are invited to visit the Kindergarten classroom, with a staff member, in an informal/drop-in format. You will meet the Kindergarten staff, and take a quick glance of what a "day in the life" of *The Kindergarten Program* looks like.

To welcome our new families registered for the 2025-2026 school year, a **Spring Welcome to Kindergarten Family Orientation evening** will also take place with the principal and Kindergarten Team. Further details will follow closer to the date. We look forward to welcoming our newest Saints families to St. Elizabeth!

PINK SHIRT DAY

Our 2025 Pink Shirt Day theme is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures - a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough, pretty soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying and "Let Kindness Grow" through all of our kindness community gardens. The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people. Information for families and schools about [Bullying – We Can All Stop](#) It is available from the Ministry of Education.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 10-21, 2025.

This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in events such as Jersey Day, Hat Day and Creative Hair Day.

Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made in School Cash Online starting on Monday, February 10th.

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org.

To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website:

niagarachildrenscentre.com

KIDS HELPING KIDS

February 10 - 21, 2025

Please make your donation through the Kids Helping Kids link at School Cash Online





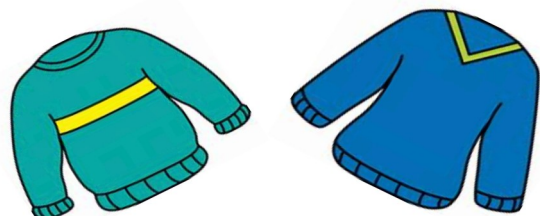






ECO NEWS

National Sweater Day is celebrated to bring awareness about the importance of saving energy by switching off the heat and wearing sweaters. The day indeed celebrates both the usefulness of the sweaters and reducing the consumption of energy. On **Thursday, February 6th**, St. Elizabeth School will turn down the temperature in our school to limit energy use. Lowering our energy use means less global warming! **Stay green, St. Elizabeth!**



Kids Helping Kids Week

St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School

February 10 - 21, 2025

February 10



PJ DAY

Time to get warm and snuggly! Wear your coziest PJ's today. *Zzzzzz*

February 11



CRAZY OUTFIT TUESDAY

Let's see how creative you can get. Twist up your colours, patterns, socks, shoes, etc. Have fun, be creative, anything goes.

February 12



SPORTS DAY

Let's see your spirit!! What team to you cheer for? Wear your favourite jersey or wear your team's colours!

February 13



VALENTINES DAY & CANDY GRAMS

Wear red, pink & white today. Have fun!
Be creative!

February 14



VALENTINES DAY

PA DAY

This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Please visit SchoolCash Online to make a donation.

Thank you for your support.



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Children who will be four years of age by December 31, 2025, are eligible to enroll in the Kindergarten. Please supply the following documents for your child:

- *Birth*
- *Baptismal Certificates (if applicable)*
- *Proof of Address (e.g. utility bill/lease agreement/tax statement)*
(actual copies of all documents will need to be seen by office administration)

Students currently attending first year Kindergarten will be automatically enrolled in second year of September 2025.

Parents/Guardians are asked to register their child online at www.niagaracatholic.ca. If you know of any eligible neighbours, friends or relatives, please encourage them to contact us at St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, and enroll their children in a catholic school. Our flourishing community needs active support from its members.

Registrations will be accepted at any time throughout the year, however, early registration helps with the necessary planning and preparation for your child. An open house for parents will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Refer to the Niagara Region [Onelist](#) for childcare registration.



Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record



Immunization Connect is a quick, confidential and secure system where you can **access** your child's vaccination record and **report** vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine **directly to Public Health** with Immunization Connect. Health care providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.



**SCAN
QR CODE**
for more
immunization
information

Respiratory Illnesses - Protect Yourself and Others

Respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, flu and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) can cause similar symptoms. It can be hard to know what you may have based on just symptoms alone.

Common symptoms may include:



Fever / chills



Shortness of
breath



Headache



Cough



Runny nose /
nasal congestion



Extreme weakness
and tiredness



Sore throat



Muscle aches



Nausea, vomiting
or diarrhea

What to do if you have symptoms

Stay home until:



You do not have a fever, without the use of fever reducing medication; and



Your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours
(or 48 hours if you had nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea); and







You do not develop any additional symptoms

Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms and are at higher risk of severe illness. People at higher risk may benefit from available treatments. A health care provider will let you know if prescribed treatment is right for you.



It is recommended to take the following actions for extra protection against the spread of respiratory illness. For 10 days after your symptoms first started:

-  Wear a mask when out in public
-  Avoid activities where you need to take off your mask (such as dining out)
-  Avoid non-essential visits to people in highest risk settings (such as in hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes). If the visit cannot be avoided, let the setting know of your recent illness.
-  Avoid non-essential visits to individuals who may be at higher risk of severe illness (such as immunocompromised individuals and older adults)

Stop the spread of germs

Use layers of protection to help lower your risk of getting and spreading infection.



Stay up-to-date with your vaccinations, especially if you are travelling



Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into your upper sleeve



Stay home if you are sick



Regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces



Consider wearing a mask (for example, based on the setting you are in, your personal risk factors or comfort level)



Improve indoor ventilation



Keep your hands clean. Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



BETHESDA - WHAT THEY DO:

Bethesda is a dedicated organization that provides a range of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families. Their mission is to inspire, encourage, and empower people to live their best lives.

Bethesda offers:

- **Free and immediate access to services** for children and youth, providing resources and support to help them thrive.
- **Support for families** to connect with community resources and services.
- **Adult services**, including day programs, recreational activities, and supported living options, all designed to promote independence and inclusion.

For more information, including a detailed list of services and programs, as well as contact details, visit Bethesda's official website.

<https://bethesdaservices.com/>

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL BENEFIT

Gala

WITH HONOURARY GUEST
MOST REVEREND GERARD BERGIE, D.D.

and presentation of the
**Niagara Catholic Education
AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED AND PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$100 Per Person • Thursday March 27, 2025 • 6:00 PM
Club Roma Event & Conference Centre**

Payment can be made [online here](#) or by cheque using the form below.

Cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE)

Payment must be received by March 18, 2025

• \$30 tax receipt available upon request •

Name _____ #Attending _____ Payment \$ _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Dietary Requests _____

Table Assignment Request - Please list the names or groups _____

Please send cheque and form to: Anna Pisano, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1



**For further information
call 905.734.0240 ext. 214
or email linda.marconi@ncdsb.com**

<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/119623/73/False/True>