

ST. DENIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

230 LAKE STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 5Z3

PHONE: 905-685-5911 + FAX: 289-434-5269

WWW.STDENISCHURCH.CA

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Denis Parish is to create a warm and welcoming, Christ-centred, Catholic community that answers the call to know, love, and serve God by spreading the Gospel through words and actions.

PASTORAL TEAM

PASTOR

Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese, V.F.
pastor@stdenischurch.ca

PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

Rev. Fr. Aji Varghese
ajivargheseoic@gmail.com

SECRETARY & BOOKKEEPER

Mrs. Nancy Chmay
secretary@stdenischurch.ca

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Mr. Ryan Hermack
evangelization@stdenischurch.ca

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed everyday for lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST. DENIS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mrs. Victoria Wegelin
175 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 1S1
905-682-4156

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mr. Ken Lococo
615 Geneva Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 2J3
905-934-3112

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SECONDARY

Principal: Mr. Tony Della Ventura
541 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4H7
905-646-2002

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES

MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

(IN CHURCH)

Tuesday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!

WEDDINGS

Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

(IN MEETING ROOM)

Sunday to Saturday: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR

(1ST THURSDAY & 1ST FRIDAY)

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

DEVOTION TO MARY

(DAILY RECITATION OF THE ROSARY)

30 minutes before all Masses

Would you like to become a parishioner?

Please call or email the parish office.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards our parish!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, January 30 – Private Mass

Sp. Int. Evan Dakila Lamando

Tuesday, January 31 – 8:00 a.m.

St. John Bosco, Priest

Mary Bruin

Wednesday, February 1 – 8:00 a.m.

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, February 2 – 8:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Sp. Int. Miketic Family

Friday, February 3 – 8:00 a.m.

St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

Holy Souls in Purgatory

MASSES OF THE LORD'S DAY

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, February 4 – 4:00 p.m.

Michael & Leonarda Caramia & Family

The Deceased of the Dusing Family

Sp. Int. Arnold & Arline Pereira

Sp. Int. The Scaffidi Family

Sunday, February 5 – 8:00 a.m.

Pro Populo – For the People

Sunday, February 5 – 10:00 a.m.

Anthony Robert Merenchin | Estela Fabris

Sp. Int. Marcin Sokalski | Sp. Int. The Loeffen Family



COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY 15 & 22

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory | \$ 4,990.00 |
| E-Transfers & CanadaHelps | \$ 163.00 |
| Total Collection | \$ 5,153.00 |

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

~ Please remember the parish in your will ~

THE PASTOR'S PORTICO

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who so warmly welcomed Fr. David Avila last weekend, as our guest celebrant and homilist; I have received many positive reviews. I think it is fair to say that you may see Fr. David again. Additionally, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed my time away with my brother priests, but I am happy to be home, with you, my spiritual children! One of the highlights was being able to pray Morning Prayer, while watching a beautiful sunrise.

A quick note about financial matters: the heating bill for the Church/Hall was \$3,661.66. Let's continue to pray for a mild winter, so that we can keep this particular expense low. Also, we received our Cathedraticum assessment which was \$11,040.22. As you know, there was a time when St. Denis was not able to even pay a quarter or a half of their assessment throughout a whole year; so I am proud to say that this time around, we were able to make payment in full. Also, in order to continue our fiscal responsibility, I have decided not to print individual copies of the 2022 income statement. *Nevertheless, it is available to anyone who would like either a digitally copy or as a paper copy.* Simply send me an email or a note, and I will be sure to provide you with a copy. If you have any questions about the income statement, please do not hesitate to ask; this is just one more way St. Denis can be transparent with you.

This week we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. February 2nd also marks the World Day for Consecrated Life. At Mass we have the blessing of candles and hear the words of Simeon's Canticle, "*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel*" (Luke 2:29-32). This is recited each night around the world by those who pray the Divine Office. Perhaps a good pre-Lenten practice would be to say some of the Divine Office and what better place to start than Night Prayer (Compline). Want to add it to your phone for free? Search for iBreviary on your app store!

Fr. Stephen Joseph Bruzzese

PASCHAL CANDLE

As you may remember from last year, the Paschal Candle, purchased new each year is approximately \$500.00. Last year we started a new at St. Denis, in which one family sponsored the cost of the Paschal Candle, and as such, they will receive the remainder of the Paschal Candle this Easter. I would sincerely like to thank Annette Loeffen, who sponsored the Paschal Candle last year. This year the Paschal Candle will depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The reason we purchase a new Paschal Candle every year is given to us in the words of the *Exsultet (The Easter Proclamation)*:

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Paschal Candle for 2023-2024, please let Fr. Stephen know by email or by calling the parish office.

TAX RECEIPTS

Good News! Tax receipts will be available starting on weekend of February 4th & 5th after Mass. After this, they will be available for pick up at the parish office. Please make sure that your information is up-to-date by sending an email to Nancy, if any of your information has recently changed.

LIFETEEN

Our next LifeTeen program will be taking place on Tuesday, January 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The group is open to all those students in high school. To sign up, please contact Ryan Hermack.

PRAYER OF REPARATION

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Are you interested in using our new monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Program? Our deadline for the February withdrawal is Wednesday, January 25th. As of today, we have 25 parishioners/families registered, which generates \$3,255.00 per month. This truly is easiest way to give. Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

In thanksgiving to God for all the many people who have worked so hard to make St. Denis "A Catholic Centre of Excellence" in 2022, I would like to show my appreciation by hosting a Volunteer Social, the date is going to be **Saturday, February 18th, 2023**. Please be sure to mark your calendars, and more information about time and location, will be provided shortly.

MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE

Are you interested in joining an exclusive and cultural journey of a lifetime? If so, then this pilgrimage is for you! Join us for our 12 day pilgrimage which includes: Fatima with the celebration of the sixth and last visit of Our Lady (The Miracle of the Sun), Avila, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Barcelona & much more.

**Monday, October 9th to Friday, October 20th
\$4,940.00 per person (based on 2 per room)**

What's Included?

- Roundtrip airfare to and from Toronto
- 10-night accommodation in 3+ & 4-star hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Daily Mass & spiritual activities
- And much, much more!

If you are interested in coming or would like more information, please let Fr. Stephen know as soon as possible...spots are already starting to be filled.

THE MARIAN SHRINES OF PORTUGAL, FRANCE & SPAIN

With the spiritual leadership of Fr. Stephen Bruzzese, Pastor of St. Denis, St. Catharines

October 9 to 20, 2023



We invite you on an Exclusive spiritual and cultural journey of a lifetime! Our 12-day pilgrimage includes Fatima with the celebration of the sixth and last visit of Our Lady and Miracle of the Sun, Avila, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Barcelona & much, much, more... see breathtaking landscapes with palaces and historical sights. Experience local treats and indulge in delicious meals. Pray at beautiful shrines dedicated to Our Lady and Saints, enrich your Catholic faith and open your heart to receive Blessings and Graces along the way that will encourage you throughout your lifelong pilgrimage.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 MONDAY OCT 9

FLIGHT TO LISBON

We will fly from Toronto to Lisbon aboard Air Canada. Relax and enjoy your flight with complimentary meals and entertainment on board. Group seating for our flight will be assigned by the airline.

DAY 2 TUESDAY OCT 10

FATIMA

Welcome to Portugal! Upon arrival and clearing customs and immigration, we meet our professional English-speaking Tour Manager and board our bus to drive to Fátima, where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children and exhorted mankind to pray for world peace. On the way, we will enjoy a panoramic sightseeing of Lisbon with a stop for pictures at the Belem Tower. We arrive in Fatima, check-in in our hotel and get settled in our rooms. After dinner we will join the Candelight Procession.

Overnight: Fatima

Dinner

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY OCT 11

FATIMA

This morning we follow the Stations of the Cross and visit Aljustrel, where the children's hamlet is still preserved in its original state, and Valinhos where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. We pray at the Little Chapel of Apparitions and visit the tombs of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia at the Basilica of the Rosary. Free time for private prayers. After dinner you may join the Candelight Procession

Overnight: Fatima

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 THURSDAY OCT 12

FATIMA-OBIDOS-NAZARE-FATIMA

A day of touring... Journey to the medieval town of Óbidos and the coastal village of Nazaré where we will have free time to explore and if you wish taste the local seafood in one of the many restaurants along the beach. Back in Fatima, enjoy some free time on your own. Dinner and optional Candelight Procession.

Overnight: Fatima

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 FRIDAY OCT 13

FATIMA-SALAMANCA

Six times, from May 13 to October 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared here to three shepherd children. Join us today to celebrate Holy Mass and commemorate the sixth and last visit of Our Lady and *Miracle of the Sun*. In the afternoon we travel to charming Salamanca, Spain.

Overnight: Salamanca

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 SATURDAY OCT 14

SALAMANCA-ALBA DE TORMES-AVILA-MADRID

We enjoy a panoramic sightseeing of Salamanca and see the most important sites in the city: the Plaza Mayor, St. Stephen's Convent and the famous University before getting off to Alba de Tormes and the Carmelite convent to see two of St. Teresa's most sacred relics, her left arm and her heart along with relics of Saint John of the Cross. Next to the 12th-century city of Ávila, where St. Teresa founded the Order of Carmelites. Visit the Monastery of the Incarnation and the convent of St. Teresa, where the saint experienced her remarkable vision of the angel. We continue to Madrid, the largest city in Spain and one of the most elegant capitals in Europe.

Overnight: Madrid

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 SUNDAY OCT 15

MADRID

We enjoy a sightseeing tour of Madrid's historic centre and see the Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor, where events have been held since the 17th-century! The afternoon is free to explore on your own, visit a museum or join an optional tour. Tapas in Spain is a food lover's dream and tonight we'll "go out for Tapas" and eat like the locals, hopping from bar to bar discovering the best eateries in town.

Overnight: Madrid

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 MONDAY OCT 16

MADRID-ZARAGOZA-LOURDES

We depart by High-Speed train for Zaragoza and pray at one of Spain's most important Marian Shrines dedicated to Our Lady of the Pilar. The shrine is built on the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. James the apostle on his way to northwestern Spain. Accompanied by celestial music, angels and a brilliant light, Our Lady encouraged St. James and his disciples on their journeys. This apparition was unlike any other, because when Our Lady appeared to St. James, she was still living on earth in Jerusalem. During the vision, St James was given a wooden statue which is now in the center of the Basilica. In the afternoon we journey into France and arrive in Lourdes. Tonight join in the Candelight Procession and pray the Rosary.

Overnight: Lourdes

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 TUESDAY OCT 17

LOURDES

During our stay in Lourdes we will have an opportunity to attend Mass at the Grotto and walk in the footsteps of St. Bernadette. We will see the Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born and the Cachot, an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. We join with pilgrims from around the world to pray for the sick, drink water from the miraculous spring and/or submerge in the healing baths. Experience Christ's love as you walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto. Kneel in the chapel built on the very rock of the Grotto in obedience to the request of the Immaculate Conception. After dinner join the Candlelight Procession.

Overnight: Lourdes

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY OCT 18

LOURDES-CARCASSONE-BARCELONA

Depart Lourdes towards the French-Spanish border en-route to Barcelona, Spain. We stop in Carcassonne and enjoy free time for lunch and a walk around the medieval town. Continue to Barcelona for the last leg of our trip.

Overnight: Barcelona

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11 THURSDAY OCT 19

BARCELONA

Get introduced to this fascinating city including Plaza Catalunya and Paseo de Gracia to admire the eccentricity of Gaudi's architectural masterpieces in Houses Batlló and Milà and the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's masterpiece. Once completed, will have 18 towers: 12 dedicated to the apostles, 4 to the evangelists, one to Jesus and another to Mary. Free afternoon and evening to explore on your own. Tonight we share our thoughts and enjoy a Farewell Dinner.

Overnight: Barcelona

Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12 FRIDAY OCT 20

FLIGHT HOME

At the agreed time, transfer to the airport for our return flight. **CONCLUSION OF OUR PILGRIMAGE.**

Breakfast

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$ 4,940.00 CAD

Price includes Fuel Surcharge & Airport Taxes (\$ 762,61 CAD) and are subject to change without notice until time of ticketing. Supplement for individual room \$ 780.00 CAD.

See next page for complete list of inclusions

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage (Psalm 84)

To register and for more information please contact:



30 Wertheim Court # 20, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B9
(905) 889-1681 Toll-Free 1-800-268-0900 Ext. 233
edgar@gateways-international.com
TICO Reg. #2171876

THE TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Roundtrip airfare from Toronto
- ✓ 10-night accommodation in First Class hotels, std room
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✓ Mineral water and a glass of local wine with all Dinners
- ✓ Transportation by private motorcoach throughout
- ✓ All entrance fees, tours and visit to holy sites as per the itinerary with English speaking guide
- ✓ High Speed train Ticket in 2nd class Madrid-Zaragoza
- ✓ Daily Mass and/or Spiritual activities
- ✓ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ✓ Fuel surcharge & Airport taxes (at time of printing is CAD\$762.61 and may change at any time without notice until time of ticketing)
- ✓ Gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- ✓ Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- ✓ Passports: Canadian citizens require a valid passport for more than 6 months after the return date
- ✓ Gratuities to guides and drivers and other local staff: **€ 140.00** per participant collected in cash ahead for your convenience
- ✓ Costs of personal nature, optional excursions, excess baggage charges
- ✓ Insurance for medical, Cancellation and Interruption, baggage

BOOKING

A deposit of \$ 500.00 CAD per person is required at time of booking. If you opt to purchase Non-Medical or All-Inclusive insurance, it **must be purchased at time of first deposit**. See payment schedule below. *Bookings after June 9, 2023 are subject to availability.*

PLEASE NOTE ALL PAYMENTS ARE 100% NON- REFUNDABLE.

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES

If you must cancel, Gateways International must be informed in writing immediately. **All payments are 100% Non-Refundable.** A \$75 CAD fee will be applied for any changes you wish to make to the group's itinerary. Changes after full payment is received will be treated as cancellations.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Participants on this tour take full responsibility for being fully able to participate in the daily scheduled activities of the group, noting that tours organized by Gateways International require physical fitness. There is daily walking, sometimes up or down slopes, and at times sidewalks and uneven terrain. One may choose not to participate in parts of the sightseeing; however, there is no refund for missed sightseeing.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL HEALTH & CANCELLATION INSURANCE

| CAD \$Premium per person | All-Inclusive | Non-Medical | Staying in single room add |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| up to 59 years | 334.00 | 294.00 | 36.00 |
| 60-64 years | 405.00 | 334.00 | 43.00 |
| 65-69 years | 488.00 | 370.00 | 50.00 |
| 70-74 years | 647.00 | 423.00 | 56.00 |
| 75-79 years | 978.00 | 602.00 | 86.00 |

- ✓ **All-Inclusive Worldwide Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, \$ 10 million emergency medical, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airflight accident and travel accident.
- ✓ **Non-Medical Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airflight accident and travel accident. There is no coverage for Emergency Medical.
- ✓ See the [Policy Brochure](#) for the full description and eligibility.
- ✓ For people living outside the province of Ontario, insurance will be processed by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.
- ✓ Premium per person is subject to change without prior notice

Travel insurance is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances. Please contact us to get a copy of the policy. It is important that you read and understand the policy before you purchase as the coverage is subject to certain limitations, conditions or exclusions.

****All participants must hold Trip Cancellation/Interruption + Emergency Medical Insurance to travel with us. Proof of coverage if purchased elsewhere must be provided at time of booking.**

COVID-19 is known event and is excluded from cancellation coverage. However, if you contract COVID-19 prior to departure, you may be covered for trip cancellation.

All participants must comply with the travel regulations and guidelines of Public Health and the Ministry of Health of each country we visit. Proof of vaccination and further testing may be required at time of travelling.

Please contact us if you live outside the Province of Ontario and for other types of coverage.

FR. STEPHEN BRUZZESE, MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE, OCT. 9 TO 20, 2023

Deposit Registration Form – copy of passport required

Name (as per passport): First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Do you have any Dietary restrictions? _____ Do you have any Medical problems? _____

Passport #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Enclosed is a photocopy of my passport (page showing name and photo)

I am departing from Toronto Other _____ (fare supplement to be informed accordingly)

I have a Roommate I need a Roommate (subject to availability) I would like to travel Single, Pay **\$ 780 CAD** Supplement

Enclosed is my **deposit of \$ 500 CAD – by e-transfer or Cheques payable to Gateways International, for credit card complete below**

I authorize Gateways International to charge the deposit of **\$500 CAD** now, and/or balance of **\$4,440 CAD** (plus or minus changes in Airport taxes if applicable) by **June 9, 2023**, on my credit card listed below

Credit Card Type: VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ AMEX _____ Card Number _____

CVV _____ Exp. Date _____ Name as it appears on credit card _____

Signature _____ Date _____

INSURANCE: Please add the following Travel Insurance to my package (Payment will be collected separately)

All-Inclusive Worldwide Policy Non-Medical Policy I decline insurance. Proof of my own Emergency Medical & Cancellation/ Interruption policy attached.

My signature below indicates that I have read and agreed to the Terms and Conditions outlined by Gateways International in this brochure. I also understand that is now mandatory that all participants on a Gateways International tour, must have Emergency Medical and Trip Cancellation/Interruption insurance, which is not included in the trip price, and that Gateways International's cancellation policy cannot be waived for any reason. In order to participate in the aforementioned group, I confirm I will have such insurance, and I will not hold Gateways International liable in any matter that is or is not covered by this added insurance.

Signature of participant: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and mail with payment to: GATEWAYS INTERNATIONAL, 30 WERTHEIM COURT # 20, RICHMOND HILL, ONT L4B 1B9

President's Message



As we begin a new year, we at Choose Life Niagara are filled with hope as we face the challenges of 2023. We are truly humbled at the generosity of our supporters who stand with us and have once again made our Christmas Appeal so successful, ensuring we have the resources needed for our mission. With gratitude, we move forward, relying on God's guidance to use these donations in the best way possible to reach hearts, change minds and save lives.

I am happy to announce that tickets are now on sale for our annual dinner on Saturday, February 25th, at Club Italia in Niagara Falls, a time to celebrate life and hear pro-life speaker Emily Albrecht. Her message will leave us empowered to confidently and compassionately stand up for the unborn and their mothers. Please help us make this the largest pro-life gathering in Niagara yet - invite someone new this year to join you!

We are also pleased to offer a Youth Seminar with Emily prior to the dinner where they will explore the tough questions about abortion.

Again, thank you all for standing alongside Choose Life Niagara and for helping us broadcast our message of truth. We must never stop defending LIFE!

Jen Nohara 

Get Your Tickets!

Choose Life Niagara Annual Dinner Event

featuring speaker
Emily Albrecht
Equal Rights Institute



Saturday | February 25 | 2023

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: Adults \$50 Students \$25

Club Italia, 2525 Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls

Purchase tickets at chooselife.ca/events or call 905-684-7505

Plus Youth Event

Plus Youth Event!

Join Emily, our dinner speaker, for a special free youth event at Club Italia from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, February 25. Afterward you are invited to stay for our dinner at a discounted rate. Space is limited so register early, through chooselife.ca/events

***"Speak up for those who
cannot speak for themselves."
Proverbs 31:8***



Youth Retreat Fall 2022

69 high school students gathered at Circle Square Ranch in Brantford November 4 & 5 to take part in the Choose Life Niagara 2022 Youth Retreat. It was a great opportunity for the youth to learn about euthanasia, abortion and what they can do to take part in the pro-life movement. In between education sessions led by excellent speakers, they enjoyed horseback riding, archery, tree-top trekking and an obstacle course, not to mention delicious food and being with like-minded peers. The warm, sunny weather made the experience even better. Choose Life Niagara is so thankful to our awesome youth team and chaperones, the outstanding Ranch staff, and above all to God for an amazing weekend together!

Coffeehouse: Assisted Suicide

At our Fall Coffeehouse, held on Oct. 18 at St. Alfred's Church in St. Catharines, speaker Blaise Alleyne of the Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform, presented what he has found to be the most effective way to make the case for life when discussing euthanasia. For starters, he suggests we don't use the words "euthanasia and MAiD", which mask what it actually is. Instead, use the word suicide (assisted death by lethal injection or pills) which makes people uncomfortable but tells the truth.



Alleyne explained how we can move people from a pro-assisted death view to the pro-life view by asking questions and showing how Canada's present approach discriminates against the elderly, the disabled and those with mental illness. He suggests to always ask the question, "Who gets suicide assistance, and who gets suicide prevention?" From there, lead people to the understanding that we always have a duty to prevent suicide and never to assist it.

Blaise Alleyne's book, "A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide" outlines effective apologetics and pastoral solutions to this pressing issue and is available in our office.

The Risks of Abortion Pills

The rate of chemical abortion-related emergency room visits increased over 500% between 2002-2015. As many as one out of five women will suffer a complication after using abortion pills. *Lozier Institute Fact Sheet*



This Christmas billboard was seen in 8 locations throughout Niagara in December.



MAiD for Mental Health Delayed

The liberal government is delaying plans that would allow assisted suicide for people with mental illness. The deadline for implementing the euthanasia expansion was March 17, 2023, but after hearing criticism from psychiatrists, researchers, opposition MPs and citizens across Canada, the government announced they would extend the deadline. For how long is not yet known. Canada's medical assistance in dying (MAiD) law is already the most permissive euthanasia and assisted-suicide legislation in the world, as stated by Dr. Ramona Coelho of London, Ontario, whose practice includes caring for marginalized patients and those living with mental illness and disabilities.

Euthanasia Prevention Helpline

For advice, help & support regarding euthanasia & assisted suicide prevention and/or end-of-life treatment issues, contact Compassionate Community Care at **1-855-675-8749**. Confidential and free.

Check [ChooseLife.ca/Events](https://www.chooselife.ca/Events) for upcoming pro-life events

Upside Down
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Your reward will be great in heaven.”

Opening Prayer

God, I am not perfect. I make mistakes. Sometimes, I believe I am more powerful than I really am. Sometimes, I take things into my own hands and I do not trust in you. Yet, you love me anyway. Open my eyes to see you, my ears to hear you, and my heart to love you. Help me to trust in you and to be your humble servant. Amen.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

Beyond Words

If given the option, would you rather be a king or a peasant, a queen or a servant? Would you rather be the star on the stage or the janitor cleaning the stadium after the concert? If given the option, would you want to be the star athlete on the field or the guy selling peanuts in the stands?

Very few people would choose the latter and opt for the “low end” of the flowchart of power. As the Prophet Zephaniah reminds us in the first reading, we must seek humility for in doing so, we honor and find the Lord. Saint Paul, too, warns the people in Corinth (in the second reading) of the dangers of thinking ourselves too wise in our own estimation. God chooses “the foolish;” He tells them (and us) “to shame the wise” (1 Corinthians 1:27). To think we know all is pure pride and to admit we do not is the root of humility.

When our Lord offers these famous beatitudes during the Sermon on the Mount, we gain invaluable insight into the mind and heart of God: Those who appear to have nothing actually have it all. The souls who are humble and small and “forgotten” are the ones who (will) actually “get it” (heaven). It’s natural in our humanity to desire the power, but it’s freeing to finally realize that our power is rooted in our humility and in Christ alone.

Random Fact

Each one of the beatitudes is 140 characters or less. Jesus is the master of profound depth with extraordinary simplicity.

Behind the Scenes

Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount (from which these beatitudes are taken) is said to have taken place on a mountain in St. Matthew’s Gospel. In St. Luke’s Gospel, however, the sermon is said to have taken place “on the plain.” Some people over the years have pointed to this discrepancy as a “proof” that the gospels are unreliable historical narratives. On the contrary, small discrepancies actually point to separate sources and, thus, make the circulating Gospel narratives even more reliable. Whether or not the sermon took place on a mountain or on a plain, matters little to the truths Jesus shared. The difference can be easily explained, too. The word “plain” actually translates to “level place” in the Greek. It’s entirely possible that St. Luke was referring to a level place (like a small plateau) upon the side of a mountain. It’s plausible, too, that Jesus delivered the sermon several times over this three-year ministry and that Luke’s version was a separate or second occurrence of Jesus blowing people’s minds with the Beatitudes and the sermon on heaven, hell, and salvation that followed.

Word Play

Saint Matthew begins these eight Beatitudes with the word *blessed*. From the Greek *makarios*, blessed doesn't mean you're just "on God's good side" or that you are theologically "lucky" but, rather, that you are righteous before God. The blessed souls are the ones who know God, whose sins are forgiven, and who love and follow Him no matter the circumstance, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Journal

1. Reflecting on the first few questions given in "Beyond Words," how does choosing the lesser bring us closer to Christ?
2. Have you ever chosen the lesser? If so, how did it strengthen you? If not, what opportunities do you have to choose the lesser?
3. Do you trust in God's will or do you take matters in your own hands? How can you better submit to God's wisdom?
4. How is God calling you to give up your power?

Challenge for the Week

Write each of the Beatitudes down on a note card. Every morning, for the next eight days, pick one to reflect on and try to live out that beatitude during the day. As a bonus, keep a journal of your reflections and prayer with each beatitude through the week.

TREVOR PENNINGA

Realtor/Co-Founder/Investor

20 yrs experience in residential renovations

trevor@stjosephrealty.co
office: 905-844-7788
direct: 905-517-3245



EXPECT INTEGRITY. TRUST PROVIDENCE

St Joseph, Pray for us

✓ Tax Planning ✓ Incorporations
✓ Personal Tax ✓ Business Advice

Down to Earth
Personal Service

HENDRIKS

Robert Hendriks Chartered Accountant Professional Corporation
905-682-5567



BRANCHES

CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

41 Maywood Avenue, St. Catharines
905-685-7000

shop.go2branches.com

Store Hours: Tues. to Fri. - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sat. - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TRE CAPELLI HAIRSTYLING

FAMILY OWNED FOR OVER 45 YEARS

THE PENDALE PLAZZA

210-A13 Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

905-684-0760
www.trecapelli.com

"Services For Every Occasion"

IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

ACHIEVE FINANCIAL WELL BEING

- Wealth Management
- Tax Planning
- Estate Planning
- Risk Management
- Retirement Planning



CHARLES PIAZZA, Consultant
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
IG Wealth Management
10 Horseshoe Cres
Waterdown, ON - L8B 0Y2

Cell (289) 968.3844
Tel (905) 690.5800
Charles.piazza@ig.ca
IG.ca

Trademarks, including IG Wealth Management, are owned by IGW Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations

A MODERN DENTAL OFFICE • CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

GARDEN CITY DENTAL

A dental clinic for patients of all ages, Garden City Dental welcomes you and your whole family. Learn more about our dentists and staff by visiting www.gardencitydental.ca today and take a virtual tour of our dental office!

80 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines, ON L2R 2N1
905-688-5334

LUIGI DE LISIO BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

16 - 261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A2

Tel.: 905-687-4885

Fax: 905-687-3311

KIRKPATRICK MONUMENTS

Est. 1929

PROUDLY SERVING NIAGARA
SINCE 1929 AND
NEW OWNERS OF
BARBER MONUMENTS
432 Queenston St.
905-682-3862



Totally Yours
Family Medicine

Virtual Natural Family
Planning Instruction

Dr. Stephanie Kafie, MD, CCFP
Family Physician



www.totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com
info@totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com

As heard on
BNN
Bloomberg
Radio 590



TONY LIPIEC
Senior Financial Strategist

✉ tony@queensbridge.ca
☎ 905-688-0124 ext. 101
🌐 www.qbfs.ca
📄 [linkedin.com/in/tonylipiec](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tonylipiec)

A Better Strategy For Your Better Tomorrow

THE WORKS

CRAFT BURGERS & BEER

EST 2001

The WORKS Craft Burgers and Beers
in downtown St Catharines – 60 James St.
Ordering on line <https://worksburger.com/>
Pick up call us 905-685-WORK
Delivery with SkipTheDishes

**CALL FOR A
QUOTE TODAY!**

AJT

ROOFING AND CONTRACTING

"Feel confident with the professionals!"

Adam Townsend

905-931-3121
www.ajtroofing.com



GEORGE DARTE

Funeral Chapel Inc

www.dartefuneralhome.com

905-937-4444 | 585 Carlton St. | St. Catharines

Fairytale
Wedding Receptions
with



Start planning today!

www.vintage-hotels.com/weddings



LARRY PALETTA
REALTOR

905.971.5981
larrypaletta@rmxemail.com

~Serving Niagara~



RE/MAX ESCARPMENT
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED