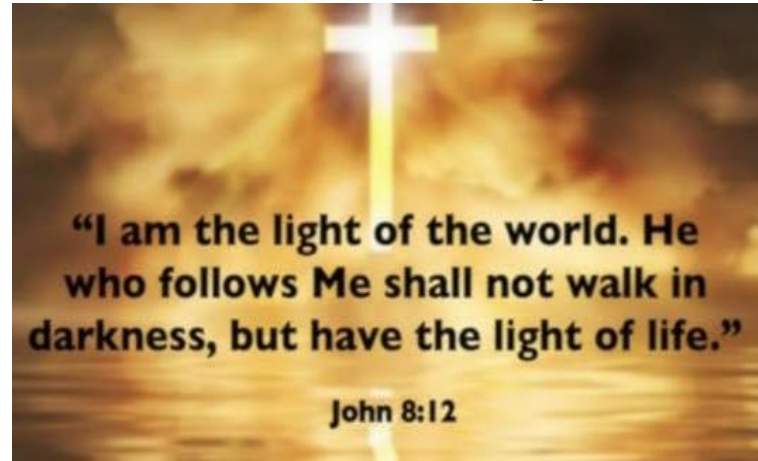


Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Update: February 8th, 2026



"I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK FEBRUARY 9TH TO FEBRUARY 15TH

Monday, 9th	<i>Ferial</i>	
Office Closed	No Mass	
Tuesday, 10th	<i>St. Scholastica – Memorial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	Holy Souls (N Vendittelli)	
	+ Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)	
Wednesday, 11th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday, 12th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Ines Miculan (B Miculan)	
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Choir Practice, Church	
Friday, 13th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	Holy Souls (N Vendittelli)	
	+ Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday, 14th		
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Confession	
5:00 p.m.	+Renata Miketic (A&T Miketic)	
Sunday, 15th	<i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Catherine & +Ron Winterbottom (Serwatiak Family)	
	+Maureen Marshall (J Hawkes)	
11:00 a.m.	+Laurence LaRoche (R&C Tracey)	

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends: In my last column, two weeks ago, I wrote about the cultural context in which the Church is required to fulfill her mission of making disciples, that is, followers of Jesus Christ who are intimately united to Him and who carry out His plan of building up a Kingdom for the Heavenly Father. A central role in the life of each disciple is that of discipling others. I had pointed out that this permanent mandate from God to "make disciples of all nations," has become more challenging as the traditional role of the family in transmitting the faith to the next

generation has become, in some cases, non-existent. In addition to that, the infusion of Christianity into all aspects of the culture (Christendom) has all but disappeared. This is not something that happened overnight, but rather, has been in the works for decades now. For those of us with an unshakeable commitment to Christ who sense within that we were not called into the family of God in vain, but to seek out creative ways of advancing the Kingdom, this era presents some fabulous opportunities. As always, this pathway involves our gift of self, our time, talent and treasure, offered to God Who gifted us with these precious resources. As a priest, over nearly 31 years, I have marveled at the loving generosity exhibited by my fellow parishioners in all three areas of stewardship. The time, unique personality traits and the material resources with which each has been entrusted have been shared to bring hope, joy and strength to so many. As we advance along our spiritual journey, it is to be expected that one's love of God and neighbour will see a steady increase even while we may experience setbacks. Good intentions and deeds should ideally become more the norm than the exception. We generally feel better when we act virtuously. But, what about the sharing of my treasure for God's purposes? Is this done cheerfully, as St. Paul highlights to the Corinthians? And, given that the need for material support will never be entirely met even if we all gave everything we have, how does one decide how much is enough to offer thanks to God and to really further the work of the Church? Had I decided on an amount 10 or more years ago, and have not revisited it since, despite the fact that the value of a dollar diminishes over time? Do I give whatever happens to be leftover after every other bill has been paid? Unlike the taxes we must pay, our giving to the Church and charities is not given under compulsion and it is rightly up to each individual to decide on the amount.

Although the collection basket in church does not normally make a stop in the sanctuary, please know that I and many of my brothers contribute to our respective parishes outside of Mass times. After all, the priest is a disciple, called to share his time, talent and treasure also. Each of the faithful who has an income is under this imperative as stated in the Precepts of the Church. So, how have I been approaching it? More next time! *Fr. Richard*

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of February

For children with incurable diseases – Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Star of the Sea Blanket Drive: There are over 700 people in our city that are unhoused, for whatever reason. 101 are children ages 0 to 5, 37 ages 16 to 24 and this is only an estimate. With this in mind, we are asking for your support in the donation of a new or clean gently used blanket that we will gratefully accept from now until

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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March 7 in the church hall. They will then be delivered to Out of the Cold. When a client comes in for a hot meal, they will be offered a blanket if they wish one and they can take it with them when they leave....Who knows? One blanket could save a life!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner February 17, 2026

2 sittings: 5pm and 6pm, \$8 small, \$12 large
Tickets on sale after Mass starting January 31- February 15.



Don't miss this enjoyable annual event!

On February 13 at 7pm, **Star of the Sea** will be hosting a viewing and discussion of the film **Triumph of the Heart**. The film tells the harrowing story of St. Maximillian Kolbe and the nine other men with whom he died during World War II. Many know that St. Kolbe volunteered to take the place of a married man to die in a starvation bunker in Auschwitz. Through its portrayal of the brutality of St. Kolbe's final days, the film explores universal themes like love, faith and hope. **The film contains mature subject matter not suitable for children. Viewer discretion is advised.** Hot and cold beverages will be provided. After the film is over, you are welcome to stay for a discussion about the film.

First Annual Overnight Winter Retreat. High School Youth are invited to the Diocese of St. Catharines' First Annual Overnight Retreat starting at 6:30pm on February 12, 2026 and ending at 2:00pm on February 13, 2026. The retreat will take place at Jericho House (10845 Rathfon Road, Port Colborne ON). The cost of the retreat is \$100.00. Please register at <https://form.jotform.com/260156619738061>. For more information, contact Francesco Capisciolto, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 905-684-0154, Ext.204 or youth@saintcd.com.

'Pro-life 101' Teen Night: The Diocese of St. Catharines in partnership with Choose Life Niagara invite teens to join us for a 'Pro-life 101' evening with Katie Somers on Sunday, February 22, from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Alexander Church in Fonthill. We will learn facts and apologetics on abortion, play games, and spend time socializing with other pro-life youth! The evening will begin at 6:00pm with Holy Mass, with the rest of the program starting at 7:00pm. Please register here or email info@chooselife.ca or youth@saintcd.com for more information.

Students for Life is a pro-life club starting at Niagara College (Niagara-on-the-Lake campus). This club is dedicated to upholding the value of all human life. We will meet several times a month to discuss pro-life topics, take part in fun activities, and educate others on this cause! If you are interested in joining or have questions, please register [here](#) or email studentsforlife1@gmail.com.



PRAYER ANGELS Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish's intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease your troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 mgmartin113@gmail.com

'He who prays most receives most.'
St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori



CWL CORNER

(Catholic Women's League)
"Blessed are the Poor"

E-transfer payments for CWL may be made to cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com. Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.

At our recent **General Meeting**, the 2026 Budget was approved. Our Council looks forward to supporting several charitable organizations including our parish schools which are: St. Francis Catholic Secondary School, St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, and Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. Our CWL is proud to support their breakfast programs, resources needs as well as graduation awards.

Our CWL members are invited to register for one of two **Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreats** being held at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre on February 21 or February 25. The cost is only \$25 for paid members as our Council subsidizes the cost. Please contact marymarano73@icloud.com for more information.



Feb 14 th /15 th	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Evans	K Zacharchuk	Dn. Maurice
Lector	J Evans	A VanKralingen	C Purcer
Hospitality Ministers	J&P Merritt L Bourret	W Riddle C DeLuca MA Uwagba	H Green M Mouradikian G LaRoche

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

January 25th & February 1st, 2026

	Jan. 25 th	Feb. 1 st
Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 2,679.00	\$ 4,153.00
Loose Collection	CAD \$ 368.00	\$ 286.00
	USD \$ 3.00	\$ 0.00
Initial Offering	\$	\$ 50.00
Total Offertory	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 4,489.00
January AFT Donations	\$ 855.00	
E-Transfers for January		\$ 4,255.00
Our Special Needs	\$ 40.00	\$ 380.00

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU