



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino
Principal: C. Martino

Trustees: M. Nardini
Secretary: D. Simpson

Pastor: Fr. Mariusz Durbajlo
Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Claude Perera

Advent Prayer

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world. Come, Lord

Jesus

Student Prayer

*Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.*

Shine hope into our hearts we pray.

Amen.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank all the families who were able to connect via the phone or playground meet and greet with their child/ren's teacher at our initial Parent/Teacher conference. Early communication between classroom teachers and parents assists in supporting the learning of your child/ren. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis.

Advent is such a special time for all of us. It is the time to prepare our hearts and our minds, to cleanse and to renew our faith and our commitment to God. Take time to pray as a family and light the Advent Candle each week as a family. The First Sunday of Advent is **Sunday, November 29th**. Aim to take your family to Mass and witness the beginning of this special Liturgical time together.

The staff and students of St. Clare School will enter the spirit of Advent by preparing to help those in the community who require our assistance. We are collecting gift cards or a monetary donation to help support 12 families in our community. These special activities also help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Check the Parish bulletin for all Advent & Christmas Schedules.

Christmas Hampers (November 23 - December 8th) In our continuing effort to reach out into our community during these difficult times, St. Clare School will be involved in a Christmas hamper drive. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Christmas hamper drive. Our committed and generous Catholic School Council and with all our families and staff will be supporting our 12 adopted families this year for Christmas. Your generosity and kindness will go a long way to help others. May God Bless you! At this time, we are only accepting Gift Cards or Monetary Donations to Cash-On-Line/Kevo.



Weekly Advent Prayer Service

Our students will be involved in a weekly Advent Liturgy each Monday in the classroom. We thank Father Mariusz and Wes for the beautiful Liturgy on Thursday November 26th, offered to all 5 feeder schools. We hope you were able to join in with us.

JOY DAY

Students are to dress in Christmas colours on **Friday, December 4th**. This will be our school JOY DAY. Christmas crafts in the am and Christmas movie in the pm. Check the school calendar for other festive days.

PARKING/SCHOOL ENTRY - ONE WAY TRAFFIC FLOW

Parking is an ongoing concern. It is for everyone's safety that the front of the school remains a NO-PARKING area. If you have to leave the car, you must pull into a parking space. We cannot impede with the flow of traffic or with the BUS ZONE AREA. Once students leave the school, NO students should be re-entering for forgotten items or work. Students have time at the end of the day to pack their school bag. If they did forget then part of growing up, is accepting consequences and maturity. Parents, grandparents entering the school, must check in at the office. Parents are not permitted to walk down to the classrooms without an appointment. Respect, safety and privacy are very important for all.

The BUS CANNOT HAVE CARS/TRUCKS/SUV'S PASS WHILE IT IS LOADING OR UNLOADING. THIS IS A HUGE SAFETY CONCERN.

UNIFORM

Our school colours are blue and white. All school polo shirts should have the embroidered logo or the press on logo. Uniform pants must be worn, not blue jeans or variations of the uniform pants. Our supplier is McCarthy. Only white or blue shirts are to wear under the polo shirt. Leotards should be navy blue or white.

LOCKDOWN/BOMB THREAT/FIRE DRILLS

All of these are part of the Safe Schools Policy and must be practiced. If the school is in Lockdown, the front door or phone will not be answered. If you are in the school during a lockdown, like all staff and students, you must find a safe zone and hide. We will be having another Lockdown drill in the New Year. Fire Drills happen three times in the fall and three times in the Spring. Again, doors and phones will not be answered, and all must evacuate the building, quickly and quietly. Bomb Threats are emergency evacuation Drills like a fire drill. All must evacuate the building in a safe manner and move away from the school. Our safe school is Our Lady of Peace. Safety is paramount in all situations. We pray an event such as this never occurs, however, we must all be trained and prepared. Discuss the importance of practicing these emergency procedures with your children and the importance of staying calm and quiet.

At this time, we will review the procedures but not actually practice.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND BELL TIMES

Being punctual and with good attendance builds success. With free entry, all students should be at their seat and ready to begin the day by **8:40 am**. No students should be entering during announcements or shortly after. Setting high goals and expectations will build future success.

ECO NEWS



Our ECO team is working on keeping our school in the ECO loop - Daily Boomerang lunches, and turning off lights when leaving a room. Pope Francis is calling us to be Stewards of this earth and to reduce our footprint! Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!!

PARISH NEWS



Christmas time is upon us and everyone at the parish wishes you all a blessed and Holy Christmas season. Our Schedule of Advent Confession times, and Christmas and New Year's Mass times, is available to everyone on the school website. Please visit the parish website for more daily information regarding happenings within the parish and surrounding community.

Visit the Parish website to sign up for Christmas Mass. www.saintfxstoneycreek.com

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in February. We are still waiting for the exact date and it will be passed on as soon as we know.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please note the following dates: **Friday, December 18th** Last Day of Classes (Regular Dismissal Time)



Monday, December 24th to January 4th, 2021 Christmas Break

Monday, January 4th, 2021 Return to school - regular hours at 8:40!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



For the safety of your child/ren dealing with a possible school closing situation, it is necessary that the school has an up-to-date emergency phone number. You are also encouraged to listen to the local radio station to get up-to-date weather and school closure/bus cancellation information.



SNOWBALLS AND COLDWEATHER

We will be reminding all students that snowball throwing is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**, as it can lead to injury, especially facial or eye injuries. **Any student who throws a snowball / snow can be suspended from school.** Please discuss safety concerns with your children. We also ask your cooperation in reviewing with your child(ren) the need to be respectful of each other outside on the playground. This includes **not** destroying any snow forts that may be built by other students during recess times in the future (weather permitting). During the cold weather, please ensure that your child wears warmer clothing - hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

All students must have an indoor pair of shoes. The shoes are an important part of the safety for your children. This is to ensure the safety of the students, as floors become slippery when wet. Students should not be in stocking feet as this too poses a safety hazard. Students must also be prepared for an emergency, **if the fire alarm goes off**, we cannot stop to put on boots. During the cold season, we may shorten the outside recess period due to weather conditions/temperature. However, whenever feasible, we like to give students the opportunity to run freely and play in the open space. We do live in CANADA, so everyone must bundle up and be prepared!

PAY FOR STUDENT ITEMS ONLINE

Parents now have the convenience of paying for spirit wear, donations and other items **online!** After registering for **School Cash Online**, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities and other items available for purchase online. This is the safest method of payment.

How to Register: Visit <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> Click "Get Started Today" and enter your information. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. View the email and follow the steps to log into School Cash Online. Find your child / Add additional child. Start viewing items. Any questions or concerns, please contact parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com or 1-866-961-1803. More information will be sent home very soon.

SCHOOL SAFETY

With the winter weather arriving, so does more traffic in our parking lot. Give yourself ample time to pick up or drop off your child/ren. Please obey signage around the school. With your cooperation we can keep our busy entry and dismissal times even safer for our children. The school bus has priority parking and entrance, please clear the lane ways for the school bus.

DONATIONS

Thank you for support. To date we have sent cheques to the following charities on your behalf: \$475.00 to the Catholic Children's Youth Organization; \$400.00 to The Good Shepherd; \$ 300.00 to United Way; \$250.00 to St. Francis Xavier Parish and a cheque for \$50. for a wreath for Cenotaph.

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Clare is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: peanuts / nuts.
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.
- Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.



MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This holiday season make it a point to indulge in healthy living. It's a great way to connect with the pleasures of the season. And there is so much to enjoy - time with friends and family, the smiles that being active brings, and let's not forget the wonderful food! So say goodbye to holiday guilt and hello to healthy indulgences.

Create healthy holiday food traditions. This is a great time for bonding, and the food skills your children learn will stay with them for life. Pick a new vegetable recipe to cook together or make a healthy holiday food gift, such as jars filled with dry fruits and nuts or lentil soup mix.

Enjoy your "must-have" treats. Be choosy. Have a few favourites over the holidays and aim to make healthy choices the rest of the time.

Be active for 30 minutes a day. More is better! Remember, every 10 minutes counts. Plan to be active every day with your family. You will feel marvelous and your kids will love it!

Check out: www.eatrightontario.ca for more information.

RECESS

Recess is very different this year. Students are inside during the recess break. They do go out with their class for DPA or physical education. At lunch time, they do go outside for 20 minutes. We cannot stress enough the importance of social distancing. Please talk to your children about this and how important it is to be safe and healthy. If students are closer than 2 meters, they are required to wear their masks.

Family Advent Prayers

Each Sunday of Advent, the family gathers around the Advent wreath and lights an additional candle. The following prayers can be used:

First Sunday: (light one candle)

Dear God, bless this wreath and help our family to remember that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, the Son of God, who is true man and true God.

Second Sunday: (light two candles)

Dear God, as we watch mothers and fathers prepare for Christmas, we think about Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, who lovingly took care of baby Jesus. Help us to be thankful for those who lovingly take care of us.

Third Sunday: (light three candles, including pink)

Now Jesus' birthday is nearer. We think of praying to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We say, "Thank you, God, for Jesus — your Gift to us."

Fourth Sunday: (light four candles)

Now Jesus' birthday is very near. May his birthday bring joy and happiness to all of us as we try to be more like Jesus every day.

ADVENT PRAYER



This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherds, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manager of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray. Amen
May the joy of the season fill your Heart, Soul and Mind.
God Bless. AMEN