



Our Lady of Providence Press

DECEMBER 2023

55 Kent Road • Brantford, Ontario • N3R 6X1
Phone 519-758-5056 • www.olop.ca • @olopatholic



Dear Families,

Advent is a season of joyful, expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. During this time we prepare our homes, our hearts and ourselves for the birth, or coming, of Christ. It is my sincere hope that during this Advent season you take the time to reflect with your families and experience the true meaning of Christmas and what it means to prepare ourselves for Christ to be born in our hearts. At school we will be encouraging students to tell us how they are preparing their hearts, how they are listening for God and looking for Him to be present in their lives. How are you preparing your homes and hearts? Are you waiting in joyful anticipation for Christ to be born in your heart? On behalf of the staff of Our Lady of Providence, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Jack MacDonald
Principal



ADVENT PRAYER

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.

Amen.

Candy Cane Fundraiser



Mint and Rainbow candy canes will be available to purchase every Tuesday and Friday. At a cost of .50 cents each. All donations will go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Tree of Warmth

Please donate to our Tree of Warmth Drive. The tree is set up in the front lobby of the school. We are collecting hats, mittens and gloves to donate to St. Vincent de Paul and Nova Vita.

Thank you for your donations.

Important December Dates

Pizza Day.....	5
Christmas Lunch.....	6
Santa Hat Theme Day	6
Pita Pit Hot Lunch	7
Reindeer Theme Day	8
School Advisory Council (6:30 P.M.)	11
Advent Mass at School (1:40 P.M.)	13
Red and White Theme Day	13
La Bottega Hot Lunch.....	14
Christmas Sock Theme Day.....	15
Junior Basketball Tournament.....	15
Pizza Day.....	19
Christmas Concert.....	20
Ugly Christmas Sweater Theme Day.....	21
Pita Pit Hot Lunch.....	21
Christmas PJ Theme Day	22
Last Day Before Christmas Break.....	22

Important January Dates

First Day Back to School.....	8
Kindergarten Registration Begins	8
Pizza Day.....	9
La Bottega Hot Lunch.....	11
Make It Sow orders due.....	14
Pizza Day.....	16
Grade 8 Parent & Student Open House at St. John's College (6:00 P.M.).....	17
Pita Pit Hot Lunch.....	18
PA Day.....	22
Pizza Day.....	23
Chocolate Fundraiser Kick Off.....	23
La Bottega Hot Lunch.....	25
Intermediate Basketball Tournament.....	26

School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:30 AM
Instructional Block	8:45 AM — 10:25 AM
First Nutrition Break	10:25 AM — 11:05 AM
Instructional Block	11:05 AM — 12:45 PM
Second Nutrition Break	12:45 PM — 1:25 PM
Instructional Block	1:25 PM — 3:05 PM
Dismissal	3:05 PM

Outdoor Supervision

A reminder that there is no supervision outside before 8:30 AM or after 3:05 PM, with the exception of bus supervision.

Kindergarten will go directly into their play area in the morning, under the supervision of staff.

All visitors are also reminded to please sign in at the office upon entering the school. Thank you.



St. John's College

FUTURE GRADE 9 STUDENT & PARENT OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Join one of our student-led tours, discover our departments and programs, and attend the information presentation!

6:00-7:00 pm Student-Led Tours and Department Displays
7:00 pm Information Assembly Presentation in the Cafeteria

MORE COURSES + MORE OPTIONS = MORE PREPARED



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

sjconline.ca

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Our Lady of Providence is designated **ZONE 4**. This means if bus transportation is cancelled in Zone 4, then the school is closed for **ALL** students and staff! Decisions to cancel or delay transportation will be made prior to 6:30 AM. Please check the Board website (www.bhncdsb.ca) or listen to Jewel 92 (92.1 FM).



You can also visit the transportation website at www.stsbhn.ca and sign up for direct e-mail notifications of any bus delays or cancellations!

COLD-WEATHER INFORMATION

Recesses will be outdoors unless outdoor temperatures fall below -20°C (including windchill) then, in accordance with Board policy & guidelines, OLOP students will have indoor recess. Please ensure that your child(ren) have appropriate clothing to enjoy our Canadian winter! Students should come to school with boots, hats, mittens/gloves and proper outerwear, such as snowpants and a winter jacket. We also encourage parents to send an extra pair of socks, pants and mittens/gloves, which can be kept in your child(ren)'s backpack or cubby, in case they get wet during outdoor recess. **Please remember to label your child(ren)'s belongings** so if they are misplaced, they can be returned to their rightful owner! Also, a reminder that students who are not well enough to play outdoors during nutritional breaks should remain at home until they feel well enough to participate in a full school day.



ALLERGY ALERT

Just a reminder that we are a **peanut/tree nut safe** school. We have students and staff with severe, life-threatening allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Also, please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., Wow Butter) is not permitted as it is difficult for staff to monitor and may cause anxiety for those with a life-threatening allergy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep **ALL** of our kids safe!



Orders can be submitted online at <https://makeitsow.com/shop/#code-submission>

Please use code code: **OLP_2024**. All orders are due no later than January 14, 2024.

VOLUNTEERING

If you are wishing to volunteer in the school, for a class trip, etc., please ensure that you have an up-to-date police check and/or declaration. If you are unsure, please contact the office. We also kindly ask that, police checks are submitted to the office **at least 3 days prior** to an event (i.e., trip) taking place. This ensures adequate time for it to be processed.



ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN 8 - FEB 23

catholiceducation.ca



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Immunizations (December 2023)

In Ontario, as per the [Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990 \(ISPA\)](#), all students between the age of 4-17 must provide proof of routine childhood immunization with Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis, and Varicella (for children born in 2010 and after), or have a valid exemption, in order to attend school. This information is used to help protect students and the public in case there is a vaccine preventable disease outbreak in our community. The Health Unit is mandated to enforce ISPA and assess the immunization status of children in accordance with the [Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Settings Protocol, 2018](#).

Each year, the Brant County Health Unit assesses the immunization records of students around the age of 7 and the age of 17 to ensure students are compliant with immunization requirements. Students who fail to provide proof of immunization, or a valid exemption, may be suspended from school for up to 20 school days. **This year (2023–2024 school year) the focused cohorts are the following birth years: 2006, 2007, 2014, 2015, and 2016. The suspension period for elementary students will begin in March 2024.**

You can report immunizations in the following ways:



Online:

www.bchu.org/emunization

Note: use the Ontario Immunization Identification Number on the front page



In Person:

194 Terrace Hill St., Brantford
Mon to Fri, 8:30am - 4:30pm

*Afterhours drop box outside main entrance



Email:

immunizationintake@bchu.org

Note: privacy of personal health information submitted by email cannot be guaranteed and should be done at your own risk



Phone:

519-753-4937 ext. 451



Mail:

194 Terrace Hill St.,
Brantford, ON N3R 1G7



Fax:

519-753-2140

A Christmas Message from our Parish Staff

In the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord at Christmas. In the weeks ahead, many of us will similarly prepare our homes to welcome loved ones over the holidays. Our special holiday touches and traditions provide a warm welcome to the family and friends who will grace our homes throughout this season.

Please accept our warm and heartfelt invitation to join us for Mass this Christmas. If you have been away from the parish community, whether for a short time or a long time, we warmly welcome you home with open arms.

Below you will find a Christmas Mass schedule and a wonderful opportunity to engage with the community this Advent. We truly hope that you will be with us this Advent and Christmas - that together we may celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and share in the joy that Christmas gives to each generation. Please know of our deep desire to have you join us for the celebration of Mass, and know that we are praying that every member of our community may accept our invitation to join us this Christmas.

Children's Christmas Play & Party

We are pleased to offer an exciting opportunity this Christmas season for all youth. We are looking for any young people interested in joining our Christmas Play and Youth Choir to help us with our Christmas Celebration. For those interested, they can email Danielle at ddrules@rogers.com. We would also like to extend an invitation to all community members to come and watch the performance. The Christmas play will be on Sunday, December 17th, at 2:00pm. There will be a Christmas party afterwards in the downstairs hall. We look forward to a wonderful production by our youth.

Christmas Schedule @ St Pius Parish

Our Mass schedule this year is:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd: 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24th: 10:30am

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th: 5:00pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th: 9:00am and 11:00am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th: 5:00pm

Sunday, December 31st: 10:30am

New Year's (Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

Sunday, December 31st: 5:00pm

Monday, January 1st: 10:30am

Questions? christmas@stpiusbrantford.ca

Confirmation 2023

On November 28th, we were excited to celebrate the Confirmation of 75 young people from our Parish community. Please continue to pray for them - as we will - that they will continue to grow as faithful witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ, sharing his light with all, even in the darkest of times.

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation

A reminder to all parents that registration for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist in the spring of 2024 is now available. Head to stpiusbrantford.ca/sacraments/first-communion to find out more or to register. **The registration deadline is December 11th.** If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office at 519-753-8439 or email office@stpiusbrantford.ca.

Thank you, as always,

Andrew

Andrew Beach, Pastoral Associate
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Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.