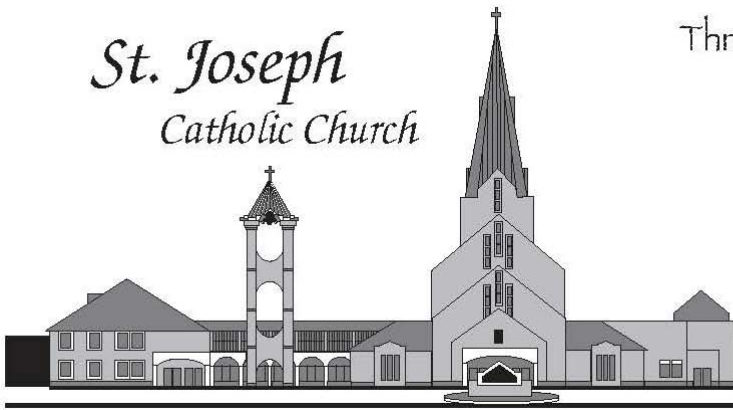


# St. Joseph Catholic Church



Through worship, compassion, and perseverance  
we strengthen our faith community.

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 18, 2016**

10404-102 Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2W3

Office: 780-532-2351 • Fax: 780-538-2286

Email: [sjc-church@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-church@gpcsd.ca)

Website: [saintjoseph.ca](http://saintjoseph.ca)

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Due to the great number of people we welcome on Christmas Eve we have instituted a process in which parishioners get *free* tickets for the 4:00, 6:30 and 9:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. There are no tickets left for these Masses.

Tickets are *not required* for Midnight Mass or 10 am on Christmas Day as there is always a lot of room at these two Masses.

### Feast Day Masses

#### **Christmas Eve**

Saturday, Dec. 24:                   4:00 pm  
  6:30 pm  
  9:00 pm  
  Midnight

#### **Christmas Day**

Sunday, Dec. 25:                   10:00 am

#### **Mary, Mother of God, Eve Mass (New Year's Eve)**

Saturday, Dec. 31:                   7:00 pm

#### **Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)**

Sunday, Jan. 1:                   9:00 & 11:00 am

(*New Year's Day* is a Holy Day of obligation in Canada. Attending Mass on this day is a great way to begin the new year!)

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday and Tuesday, December 26 & 27  
Monday, January 2.

### Parish Financial Information (Diane Walker ext. 227)

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Offering Required Weekly      | \$23,718.29 |
| Offering received last Sunday | \$22,161.98 |
| Children's collection         | \$134 .00   |

### DECEMBER 18 - JANUARY 1 DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sun. 18:** After 9 & 11 am Masses, K of C Breakfast,  
Tranquille Hall  
- 3 - 9 pm, UC27, St. JPII Room  
**Mon. 19:** 4:10 - 4:30 pm, 4 - 6 years Children's Xmas  
Choir practice, church  
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm, 7 - 18 years Children's Christmas choir  
practice, church  
**Tues. 20:** 4:10 - 4:30 pm, 4 - 6 years Children's Xmas  
Choir practice, church  
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm, 7 - 18 years Children's Christmas choir  
practice, church  
**Wed. 21:** 9:30 - 11 am, Ladies' Bible Study, St JPII Room  
- 10 am - noon, Mom's Prayer & Play, Tranquille Hall  
- 7 - 9 pm, RCIA, Liguori Hall  
**Fri. 23:** 3 - 3:20 pm, 4 - 6 years, Children's Xmas Choir  
practice, church  
- 3:30 - 4:45 pm, 7 - 18 years Children's Christmas choir  
practice, church



### Presenting: CARNIVAL

in honour of

the Feast of the Holy Family,

Friday, December 30.

Join us in this celebration of families from 9:30 am (immediately following Mass) to 11:30 am. The Knights of Columbus are excited to help us celebrate this important feast by hosting a family carnival in Tranquille Hall. The Icon of the Holy Family (the original is in the Vatican) will be present. Prayer in front of the Icon, games, hot chocolate & cookies, Christmas Carols and fun! fun! fun!



**YOUTH MINISTRY**  
April Fogle, x 229

[stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com](mailto:stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com)



**Blessings for a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.**  
(gr. 3 - 5) Next gathering is January 20, in the St. JP11 Room.

Go online to see our upcoming news & events:



**UC27 (gr. 9 - 12)** - Sunday, December 18, 3 - 9 pm; Come skating with us at Muskoseepi Park, and come back to the church for hot chocolate, gingerbread houses and a Christmas movie.



**The Mom's Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month**  
10:00 am - 12 noon  
in Tranquille Hall.

Come when you can for any or all of the time. Fun playtime for the kids and visiting for mom with a short reflection or prayer time at 11:15 am. Join us any-time!! **Next gathering: Wednesday, Dec 21.**

Check our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/momsprayerandplay.gp.ca/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/momsprayerandplay.gp.ca/)  
**The first meeting in 2017 will be Wednesday, January 4**



**EDGE (gr. 6 - 9)** -EDGE will resume January 13th, 2017. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Challenge Girl's Group (gr. 5 - 8)**  
Challenge will resume in the New Year. Dates, times and locations TBA.



**Youth Choir & Movie Night (gr.6-12)**  
January 7th, Join us in the youth choir at 7 pm mass and a movie and snacks to follow from 8 - 10:30 pm.

**Save your Bottles for our Youth Groups:** Drop them at any Bottle Depot with this information on them: St. Joseph Youth Group #1479-2351. Your donations and assistance are greatly appreciated!

**Be part of our Christmas Spirit**

At the 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass we still need a youth to read the Prayers of the Faithful and more children for the procession at the 4:00 pm.

At the 6:30 & 9:00 pm Masses, we would like additional helpers to spread Christmas cheer to our children immediately following the Mass.

Please contact Joanne, ext. 230.

**SACRAMENTS**

**Darlene Lemay,**  
x 228



**Through the waters of Baptism we welcome** Penelope Greenwood to our faith family. We pray her journey with our Lord is filled with great joy.

**Parents are required to complete a Baptism Course for each of their children.** You are welcome to attend while still expecting your child. Pre-registration required. Call Darlene, ext. 228, at the parish office.



**Religious Gift Shop**  
Come check our Christmas stock following Saturday evening 7:00 pm Mass & Sunday morning 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses.

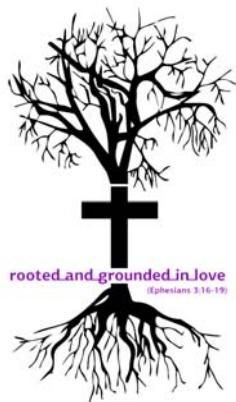
**On Stewardship...**When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and his mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

## ADULT FORMATION

**Set-up for Christmas environment is Friday, December 23**, beginning at 7 pm in the church. Fluff a Christmas tree, string lights, hang banners, etc. Lots of help is needed. Please join in preparing our church for the season of Christmas. "Many hands make light work."

### Ministry of Welcome at Christmas Masses

Do you have a gift for welcoming and a bit of extra time on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? We are looking for parishioners who can come about 45 minutes before Mass to greet people as they arrive. At the 4:00, 6:30 and 9:00 pm Masses those greeting will also collect the Mass tickets given out during Advent. The 12 Midnight and Christmas morning Mass greeters will only welcome. 8 people needed at each Mass. If you can assist in this way please call the office by **Monday, December 19** to register.



### St. Joseph Pilgrimage

Join us for an unforgettable journey to a sacred destination. On Sunday, March 5 we invite you to participate in a pilgrimage experience right here in our parish. With each step on this unique journey, you will grow in your understanding of Jesus' presence in our lives. See you Sunday, March 5 from 7 - 9 pm!

### St Joseph Parish Mission 2017: Ignite the Light

Sunday, March 26 - Wednesday, March 29

#### Mission Preacher - Fr. Eugene O'Reilly, C.Ss.R.

Come and be recharged and get to know God in a new & fresh way! Fr. Eugene has a compassionate understanding of people and the complex world we live in. He also has a great sense of humour, and is a gifted musician and composer. More details soon!

**Christmas Mass Singers Needed:** The Music Ministry is looking for singers to join us for the Christmas Eve Masses at 6:30, 9:00 and Midnight. Practice for these Masses will be on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 3:30 to 5 pm in the church. All singers are welcome.

**Interested in Religious life?** Contact Fr. Leo English, C.Ss.R. at the parish office, ext. 222.

**Polish Christmas Mass:** Saturday, Jan. 7, 3:00 pm, in our church. Come celebrate Mass in Polish with Fr. Raymond Dorawa, C.Ss.R. Everyone is welcome to attend. Traditional Polish meal to follow in Tranquille Hall. Questions? Call Jagoda Wilk, 780-539-1005.

**Thank you from Development and Peace** for your service and generosity to the people of Haiti who survived the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. You have helped us provide food to 13,500 of the most vulnerable people, 40% of whom are children.

### From the Social Justice Committee...

"In our digital world, the great sages of the past run the risk of going unheard amid the noise and distractions of an information overload,"

Pope Francis Laudato Si - Are you creating quiet, God time during Advent?

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 19 - JANUARY 7

( † Signifies a Mass for someone deceased)

|            |             |                                       |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon. 19,   | 7:00 am: †  | Laurie Schmidt                        |
| Tues. 20,  | 7:00 pm:    | Barb Martin                           |
| Wed. 21,   | 7:00 am: †  | Berthe O'Flaherty                     |
|            | 7:00 pm: †  | Frank Vanden Dungen                   |
| Thurs. 22, | 7:00 pm: †  | Kelly Reed                            |
| Fri. 23,   | 7:00 am: †  | Hector Letourneau                     |
| Mon. 26,   | 9:00 am: †  | Olga MacIntyre                        |
| Tues. 27,  | 9:00 am: †  | Joe Mazo                              |
| Wed. 28,   | 9:00 am: †  | Judith Radke                          |
| Thurs. 29, | 9:00 am: †  | Jack Savage                           |
| Fri. 30,   | 9:00 am:    | Samuel Shaba                          |
| Sat. 31,   | 9:00 am: †  | Mabel & John McNeil                   |
| Mon. 1,    | 9:00 am: †  | Ignacio Bautista Jr.                  |
| Tues. 2,   | 10:30 am:   | Sandy MacNeil & Cathy MacNeil-MacAdam |
|            | 7:00 pm:    | Andy & Nora                           |
| Wed. 3,    | 7:00 am: †  | Hector Letourneau                     |
|            | 7:00 pm:    | Tim & Bethany Mercanti                |
| Thurs. 4,  | 7:00 pm: †  | Hector Letourneau                     |
| Fri. 5,    | 7:00 am:    | Darlene Lemay                         |
|            | 10:30 am: † | Bernice Nelson                        |
| Sat. 6,    | 9:00 am: †  | Andrea Vavrek                         |

## GENERAL INFO

**Please Pray for**

**The deceased, especially**

Shayla Salacki

### **Children/Youth Choir - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass**

Children ages 4 - 6 and 7 - 18 are invited to sing for 4:00 pm Mass. Contact Mary-Ann, 780-532-0435 or ritchima@hotmail. Practices are:  
 Dec. 19 & 20: Ages 4 - 6, 4:10 - 4:30 pm  
                   Ages 7 - 18, 4:30 - 5:30 pm  
 Dec. 23: Ages 4 - 6, 3 - 3:20 pm  
                   Ages 7 - 18, 3:30 - 4:45 pm

*Mark your calendars: Catholic Family Services Annual Spring Fling*, March 18, 2017.

**St. Joseph CWL Student Funding** for Christian-based volunteer work. Call Lorraine, 780-539-4766 for info. *Deadline: January 15.*

**2017 Sunday collection envelopes have been put away** for the Christmas season. They will again be available in the Modern Martyrs Room beginning the weekend of January 7/8.

**CWL Raffle** - Thank you to these donators towards the CWL Raffle: Quilting Bee-levers - quilt, Mary Vader - Keurig coffee maker, and an anonymous donor of \$250. Raffle winners: Alice Brick - king size quilt; Louisa Lee - \$500; Sheila Grubisich - \$250 and Ben Pyde - Keurig coffee maker

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Office Hours:** Mon. - Fri, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 5 pm

#### Christmas Season Mass Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Dec. 19, 21 & 23    7:00 am  
 Tuesday & Wednesday: Dec. 20 & 22            7:00 pm  
 Saturday, Dec. 24, & Monday, Jan. 2            9:00 am  
*(See front page for Christmas & New Year's Masses)*  
 Monday - Saturday, Dec. 26 - 31                9:00 am

#### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday evening                                        7:00 pm  
 Sunday morning                                        9:00 & 11:00 am

**Confessions:** Saturday evenings, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, or by appointment (call the parish office)

**Morning Prayer:** Mon - Fri, 8:45 am, in Chapel.

**Devotions** to our Mother of Perpetual Help at Wednesday Mass.

**Baptism for Infants & Young Children:** Contact Darlene at the Parish Office (even prior to the birth of your child) about Baptism Preparation for parents.

**Marriage:** Couples wishing to be married in a Catholic Church must contact the Parish Office *at least 8 months* prior to their wedding date.

**Religious Gift Shop/Library:** Open after the Saturday 7:00 pm & Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses.

**Prayer Chain Requests:** Confidentiality assured. Contact Cliff, cliff.joyce.mitchell@gmail.com

**Spanish Prayer Group:** Saturdays, 8 - 10 pm, in the Modern Martyrs Room. Ana, 780-978-4966

**El Shaddai Prayer Group:** After Saturday 7 pm Mass, Grouard Room. Irene, 780-380-9540 or Gilbert, 780-978-8006

## ???Question of the Week???

### Fourth Sunday in Advent: Welcoming Light

**Isaiah 7:10 - 14.** Birth of Emmanuel

**Romans 1:1 - 7.** Greetings from Paul

**Matthew 1:18 - 24.** The birth of Jesus

**Key Passage:** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife. *Matthew 1:24*

**Question:** Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?