

St. Joseph Catholic Church



Hope for a Wounded World

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2017**

10404-102 St., Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2W3
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Email: sjc-church@gpcsd.ca

Website: saintjoseph.ca

**The parish office will close at 4:00 pm, on Friday,
December 8.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES will be at 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 pm & Midnight on Christmas Eve and 10:00 am on Christmas Day. **Free tickets** for the 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Masses will be available in the entrance to the church after the 7:00 pm Saturday evening Mass and the 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday Masses every weekend during Advent until all the tickets are gone. *Tickets will not be available during the week from the office.* If you are unable to get to Mass on the weekend, please ask someone to pick up tickets on your behalf.

Annual Family Christmas Talent Gala

St. Joe's
got *Talent*

Calling all singers, dancers, instrumentalists, actors, etc. We have a diverse and vibrant parish family, made up of many ethnic backgrounds and we want to celebrate us! Come share your gifts and talents on Saturday, *December 16, 2 - 5 pm.* Please call Joanne, ext. 230, at the parish office before Tuesday, December 12, to be added to the program. Please come join in celebrating our parish family, even if you do not wish to perform. Craft Table for kids, and light refreshments for all, to follow.

2017 Sunday collection envelopes available in the Modern Martyrs Room until Sunday, December 19. **Donators through automatic Bank withdrawal:** your extra collection envelopes will also be available in the Modern Martyrs Room.

DECEMBER 3 - 10 DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon. 4: 9 am - 3 pm, Quilting Bee-Levers, Liguori Hall
- 4:30 - 8:30 pm, Challenge Girl's, meet in park
- 7:30 pm, Festival of Carols, church
Tues. 5: 7:30 pm, Festival of Carols, church
Wed. 6: 9:30 - 11 am, Ladies' Bible Study, St JP II Room
- 10 am - noon, Mom's Prayer & Play, Tranquille Hall
- 7 - 9 pm, RCIA, Liguori Hall
Sat. 9: 8 - 10:30 pm, Youth Movie Night/Christmas Party, St JP II Room
Sun 10: after Masses, K of C Breakfast, Tranquille Hall

ADVENT MATERIAL AND 2018 SUNDAY MISSALS are now available in the entrance to the church.

Thanks again to the earthly angels who came to help stuff the letters for the Christmas mail-out. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. God bless.

Be part of our Christmas Spirit

At the 4:00 & 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Masses we would like to include as many young people as possible: greeting people as they enter, Lectors, gift bearers and help with assorted other jobs. Specifically at the 4:00 pm Mass, we will have a children's procession coming in with the priests. At the 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00 pm Masses, we need helpers to spread Christmas cheer to our children immediately following the Mass. Please contact Joanne, ext. 230, if you are interested in helping.

Parish Financial Information (Diane Walker ext. 227)	
Offering Required Weekly	\$23,718.29
Offering received last Sunday	\$16,634.54
Children's collection	\$142.00



Meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10 am - 12 noon in Tranquille Hall. **Next Gathering: Wed., Dec. 6:** Reconciliation will be available for

the Mom's beginning at 11 am. 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 at 11 am. www.facebook.com/groups/momsprayerandplay.gc.ca/

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together) grades 3 - 5 youth group. **December 15: Christmas Party,** 7 - 9 pm, Tranquille Hall

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE ANSWERED THE CALL: If you committed to leading or helping with Liturgy of the Word With Children during Sunday Mass please complete your volunteer screening package as soon as possible so we can get you on the schedule. If you have not picked up the package please contact Joanne, ext. 230, during office hours.

Liturgy of the Word with Children Leader and Helper Formation: Thursday, January 11, 7:30 - 9 pm, Grouard Room. Contact Joanne, ext. 230, email sjc-family@gpcsd.ca, or just show up.

SACRAMENTS

Darlene Lemay, x 228



Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome Cassandra Valdez to our family of faith. We pray that her journey with our Lord is filled with 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.



YOUTH MINISTRY
April Fogle, x 229
stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com

Go online to see our upcoming news & events:



EDGE (Grade 6 - 8) No gathering on December 1 or 8, but join us on the 9th for **Movie Night and Christmas Party,** 8 - 10:30 pm in St JPll Room



Challenge Girl's Groups (gr. 5 - 8 & 9 - 12) Monday, Dec. 4, 4:30 - 8:30 pm, Christmas Party. Meet in

Muskosepi Park in front of the Pavilion by the pond for sledding, followed by refreshments in Liguori Hall. This will be the last meeting of 2017. Questions? Call Anna 780-831-8338.



Alpha Youth at St. Joseph High School Join us in the "black box" from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm for free pizza and religion service hours.

Religious Gift Shop

Christmas stock has arrived!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 4 - 9

(† Signifies a Mass for someone deceased)

Mon. 4,	7:00 am: † Joe Mazo
Tues. 5,	10:30 am: † Vincent Parenteau
	7:00 pm: † Margaret & Raphael Mascarenhas
Wed. 6,	7:00 am: Giavanna Duriavig
	7:00 pm: † Catalina Chong
Thurs. 7,	7:00 pm: † Anita Garant
Fri. 8,	7:00 am: Josefa Patula / Roberto Quianbao
	9:30 am: † Jean Chagnon
Sat. 9,	9:00 am: † Joseph Mazo

ADULT FORMATION

Sacristan & Altar Linen Laundering Ministries' Refresher & Recognition Evening, Wednesday, Dec. 6

following 7 pm Mass in the Grouard Room. Reviewing procedures of both ministries and bidding farewell to those no longer able to assist. Interested in serving in one of these ministries? Please join us.

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 12:00 am Midnight and Christmas morning Mass greeters will only welcome. 8 people needed at each Mass. Please contact Heinz Wolfram by **Monday, December 18**: axiomfsi@gmail.com or text 780-505-2190 .

Polish Christmas Mass: Saturday, Jan. 6, 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, 780-539-1005.

Church decor sets the tone for our prayer. **We are looking for a Coordinator for the Environment Committee.** The primary task is to gather the team and coordinate decorating the church for the various liturgical seasons. Creativity and an interest in liturgy are valuable. For information call Fr. Remi.

French Choir: Speak French and love singing? Join this choir and help to prepare the next French Mass. Contact Paul, 780-607-5012 or Beatriz, 780-380-0990

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



Knights of Columbus Breakfast

Sunday, December 10 following the 9 & 11 am Masses in Tranquille Hall
Gluten-free pancakes.
St. Gerard School will be serving.

WINTER PARKING- During months when there is snow it is difficult to see lines for parking spaces. In order to allow a clear exit from the parking lot for emergency vehicles, or fellow parishioners who have to leave Mass unexpectedly, please do not park along curbs or in laneways and leave adequate space at the end of rows - at least 3 car widths for vehicles to turn corners. In order to eliminate congestion in our parking lot you may want to consider parking off-site and leaving the parking lot for the infirm, elderly and families with children. (*For your information: any damage which occurs to your vehicle from emergency vehicles, as a result of parking in non-designated areas, is your own responsibility.*)

Check the bulletin board outside the parish office for these community events to help handle grief during the Advent season:

Oliver's Funeral Home Christmas Candlelight Service, Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 pm. For information check www.oliversfuneralhome.com/christmas

Bear Creek Funeral Home's "A Time to Remember", Wed., Dec. 13, 7 pm, Centre 2000. RSVP 780-830-7742.

From Development & Peace Psalm 80 asks "Why, Yahweh, do you let us wander from Your ways and let our hearts grow too hard to hear You?" On earth as it is in heaven, we recognize the urgent need for Christ as we work in collaboration to create peaceful systems and structures that hold justice and respect for life above economic gain. Thank you for your support of Development and Peace's Fall Action campaign to put Women at the Heart of Peace. May you all have a blessed Advent season!

Did You Know about SOCK SUNDAYS? During Advent, after all weekend Masses, Social Justice Committee members are collecting socks, mitts, toques, etc. (Only new items please!) Small cash donations (toonies?) are also accepted and socks purchased with the money. After each Mass items collected are distributed to one of these organizations: Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Community Village, Red Cross, HIV North, Friendship Centre, St. Joseph Walk-In Ministry, Sunrise Youth Shelter, Odyssey House, Rotary House, Community Social Development & St. Lawrence Centre. Thanks for your help to keep people warm during cold winter months.

GENERAL INFO

Please Pray For

The sick, especially Jeannie Valen
Charlene Loxam Matthew Gorman
Kelly Martin, niece of Diane Walker

The deceased, especially John Manzulenko
Mary McHale, sister of Alice Brick
Alida Bain, mother of Kevin Bain
Maria Ilda Santos, mother of Paulo Santos
Austin Nett

Catholic Family Services is accepting donations for their Christmas Hamper Program for families in need. Please drop donations of cash, gift cards and IGA budget savers at the CFS office, 10105-102 St. For info or to sponsor a family please call 780-532-9381.

35th Annual Festival of Carols, December 4 & 5, at 7:30 pm in the church. Two marvellous evenings of local choirs performing Christmas Carols. The concert is free but donations of non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank or cash for their kettle campaign will be accepted at the door. Experience the joy of Christmas in music and song as you support the less fortunate in the community!

Now Hiring: Little Ark Academy Preschool Assistant (Ukrainian Catholic Church) Maternity leave coverage contract. Part time, 26 hours/week. Child Development Assistant (Level 1) Certificate required and clean criminal record check. Current 1st aid certificate an asset. If you love children this is the position for you. Fun and fulfilling work environment, immediate start date. Email resume + cover letter to Stephanie (Info@LittleArkAcademy.com)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

Regular Mass Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am

Senior's Lodge Masses at 10:30 am:

1st Tuesday - The Gardens
1st Friday - Heritage Lodge 3rd Friday - Pioneer Lodge
At 9:30 am: 2nd Friday - Wild Rose Manor

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: Available after the Saturday 7:00 pm & Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses

Prayer Chain Requests: Confidentiality assured. Contact Alyeska, alyeska@degen.ca or 780-532-5659

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

Sunday Readings

First Sunday of Advent: God's Faithfulness

Isaiah 63:16b - 17, 64:1, 3 - 8. Prayer for the return of God's favour **1 Corinthians 1:3 - 9.** Thanksgiving
Mark 13:33 - 37. Need for watchfulness

Key Passage: God is faithful; by Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

Question: At this time, how faithful do you feel you are being to God's plan for you?