

heard it through the Grapevine

Website: saintjoseph.ca

December 2016

Our annual talent show on December 17 was a huge success! We were blown away by the variety of gifts and talents shared by our parishioners from the youngest to the oldest. Singers, dancers and instrumentalists shared musical numbers from their ethnic backgrounds. We laughed, we cheered, we were uplifted. Be sure to join us next December, either as a performer or in the audience.



A pilgrimage takes us on a journey to a sacred place, a place where we come to know Jesus very personally. We walk . . . sometimes the weight of life is heavy and our pace is more of a trudge. If Christ is always with us, loving us, just how do we find Christ in the everyday – in our joys and our pain? How do we go about getting to know Jesus better, so we just “know in our bones” that He is with us? Our St. Joseph pilgrimage, “**rooted and grounded in love,**” invites you on a very unique journey. With each step, you will understand how Jesus is revealing Himself to you in your everyday experiences – in what you taste, hear, see, smell and touch. On your journey, you can explore several paths leading you to a place where you will come to recognize how Jesus is making Himself present in your own life in very special ways. And you’ll better understand how you can open the door to a deeper relationship with Jesus. Start your Lenten journey with our pilgrimage right here at St. Joseph Church on Sunday, March 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

FAMILY & CHILDREN MINISTRY

2016 has been a fabulous year! Once again Vacation Bible School topped the numbers from the year previous with 165 children and 70 volunteers. Next year we will Jump Into Action in:



At Hero Central, kids will Discover their Strength in God. Leaders and volunteers will help kids “Do good! Seek peace and go after it!”

Join us for VBS 2017, July 10 - 14!

This year we held our 3rd annual **Mom’s Retreat**. The ladies from the Catholic Women’s League lead discussion with over 20 Moms of all ages who attended. Childcare and lunch were provided and everyone had a great day. Our next retreat will be in late April 2017 – watch the bulletin for details. Our grade 3 - 5 youth group, **SALT (Sharing And Learning Together)** has been bursting at the seams with over 45 children registered. We usually meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 7 - 9 pm in the St John Paul II Room. We pray, play, enjoy fellowship, food and make new friends! Newcomers are welcome to join us at any time.

NEW! - CARNIVAL in honour of the Feast of the Holy Family, Friday, December 30.

Join us in celebrating our families from 9:30 am (following Mass) to 11:30 am in Tranquille Hall. Prayer with the Icon of the Holy Family, games, hot chocolate & cookies, Christmas Carols and fun! fun! fun!



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus



Ignite the LIGHT

St. Joseph Parish Mission - March 26 - 29, 2017

A parish mission is a time for renewal and a time to regenerate – a time to feel the love of Christ *ignite* in each one of us!

Starting Sunday evening, we'll gather together as community with Redemptorist Fr. Eugene O'Reilly. Fr. Eugene preaches missions throughout Canada and the U.S. He has a compassionate understanding of people and the complex world we live in. He is also a gifted musician and composer – and has a great sense of humour. Each evening will be a new experience, inviting us to discover or rediscover Christ's love for us – perhaps helping lift some of the weight we carry, or discover a richer, deeper meaning of our everyday lives.

Babysitting will be available for children in kindergarten to grade 2. There will also be children and youth programs. We are excited to once again be hosting our NET Canada youth ministry team to lead our youth program! We will also have Sacrament of the Sick on Wednesday at noon followed by lunch. See our bulletin and our website for more details. Bring a friend!



This semester over 50 students attended the 10 week Alpha Youth Film Series. Various groups and individuals from the church donated both time and money to help feed these students every Thursday, and were a huge contribution to the success of the series. The spring semester series will be on Tuesdays starting in February.



Don't forget to sign up for the Junior and Senior High Ski Trips happening this February. See website for details: archgmyouth.com



Mark your calendars: The next Discovery will be March. 17th-19th, 2017! Registrations and more information to come in New Year.

SACRAMENTS:

MOMENTS OF GRACE WHEN HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH.

Please pray for these individuals and their families:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is for adults seeking one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation. Seven people are preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the 2017 Easter Vigil. Four adults baptized in other traditions are preparing to be received into the Church and complete the other Sacraments of Initiation. One baptized Catholic was Confirmed in November.

RCIA Adapted for Children & Youth

This journey is for families of children who have reached the age of reason (usually 7 years of age) and older, seeking baptism. A parents' commitment and involvement is very important in the faith development of their children therefore we focus on formation of the whole family growing in relationship with Christ. The children will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil (baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist). Sixteen children and their families' are on this journey to receive these sacraments.

Come one! Come all! to our 5th Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade on Friday, February 24, at 7 pm.



Mardi Gras

Full costume or just a mask, all ages welcome! There'll be something for the whole family – a bouncy castle, games for all ages, a DJ and all manner of fun, plus snacks and refreshments. Free tickets available in the new year. Bring your whole family out for this great mid-winter celebration!

RECONCILIATION - THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS US Ecumenical Prayer Service

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Monday January 23, 7 pm, here in our church. There will be a free will offering for the salvation Army Food Bank. Please bring a non perishable food item. Website: weekofprayer.ca

