

heard it through the Grapevine

Website: saintjoseph.ca

Easter 2017

FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

Mardi Gras 2017

Our 5th Annual Mardi Gras celebration was once again a success. Young and old celebrated Mardi Gras in style – donning masks and costumes! Bouncy castle, piñata and games so fun! It was a great evening for all. Our returning DJ kept the dance floor hopping and the evening was full of fun, food and fellowship. Let's do it again in 2018!



Vacation Bible School - We're going on an awesome adventure alongside some of our favourite Bible heroes to discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God! VBS Hero Central uses epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation and fantastic Bible stories to help kids (and leaders) discover their strength in God! Kids, youth, parents, grandparents and adults join us for

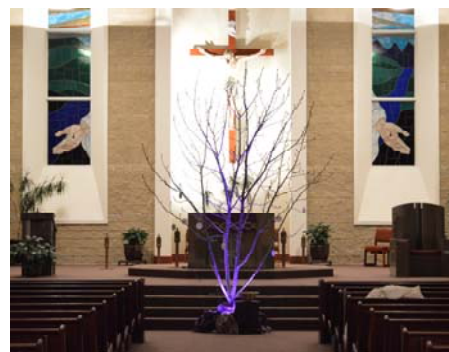


July 10 - 14, 2017, 9am - 12 noon
Open to kids preschool (age 4) to Grade 5. \$32/child
Registration opens early May (check the bulletin).
Too old to register? Volunteer recruitment happening now!! Contact Joanne, sjc-family@gpcsd.ca,
780-532-2351 (ext 230) for more details.
You don't want to miss this epic adventure!!!



St. Joe's Got Talent

Our annual talent show was a huge success! Each year on the Saturday before Christmas we stay away from the hustle and bustle of the mall and enjoy the talents of our own parishioners. It was a fabulous show with a variety of gifts and talents shared by our parishioners, both young and old. We laughed, we cheered, we were uplifted! Watch the bulletin next Fall for information and consider joining us as a performer or in the audience.



"Rooted and Grounded in Love"

2nd Annual Parish Pilgrimage

This unique mid-winter journey took place entirely within the walls of our church. Pilgrims travelled throughout the building to be inspired by reflections on Lenten symbols. Our Healing Team was available for those who desired personal prayer. Check our website and bulletins this fall/winter for details on Pilgrimage 2018



St. Joseph Church Blessing of Pets - Every June we gather in the courtyard under the bell tower for fellowship, prayer, and a blessing for these unique members of our families. All pets are welcome (dogs, cats, rabbits, snakes, turtles...) though we ask that they be under their owner's control at all times. Please have them on a leash or in a pet carrier. Join us this year at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 4. Stay for snacks, both people and pet!

Parish Blog: Visit our web page, saintjoseph.ca and read our newest feature: the parish blog. A team of parishioners submit a reflection every two weeks. Sign up on our website (on the homepage under "subscribe") to receive each new posting.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 3, 7 - 9:15 pm, Faith Daze: "Real Presence"
Begins with Mass in the church. Session to follow in Tranquille Hall. An excellent way to explore in a deeper way articles of our faith journey.

June 4/5, International Festival of Food. A further celebration of Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles allowing people of every language to be understood. Join us in Tranquille Hall after all weekend Masses to taste foods from some of the many ethnic groups that make up our faith family.

Eucharistic Adoration: April 21, May 12, June 16
Begins with Mass at 7 pm in the church then Adoration. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Grouard Room.

Be sure to check out our website, saintjoseph.ca for events and special occasions we are celebrating in the coming year.

Our parish was blessed to have Fr. Eugene O'Riley preach our mission, **"Ignite the Light."**



Some highlights were his reflections on the thieves crucified with Jesus and the Beatitudes. Like Christ, we each have a thief on either side of us. The thief crucified on his right is our "I wish I had..." thief from our past who has stolen and disrupted our relationship with God and our community. The thief on the left is from the future, who if allowed would prevent us from being in communion with God and those we care for. "Blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted." Fr. O'Riley focused on what we mourn for each day: a lost job, lost opportunity or a broken relationship. But mourning must give way to acceptance and moving on to be alive in God's love.

While Fr. O'Riley's songs were exceptional (he is both a singer and song writer) and his jokes were very entertaining, his words of God's love were by far the most powerful message he conveyed. Blessed are you, Fr. Eugene, for you have a special place in our hearts.

March 19 FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

Each year on March 19 (even though it is Lent) we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Joseph, stepfather of our Lord and husband of Mary. Since the feast fell on Sunday, we celebrated



on Monday, March 20, beginning with Mass in the church at 5:30 pm. This Mass was especially commemorative as we received 4 people into full communion with the Catholic Church. Mass was followed by a pot luck supper in Tranquille Hall and lots of visiting among parishioners. It was a wonderful celebration of our patron saint and parish! A huge *Thank-You* to all the volunteers, liturgical and gastronomical, who helped make the celebration such a success.