

# hear it through the Grapevine

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

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2018

### *In Giving We Receive*

*Sunday, January 28, 7 - 9 PM at St. Joseph Church*

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that is made to a sacred place. Our own parishioners have made pilgrimages to Europe or Mexico. But the journey does not have to mean far-away travel. This January 28, **we invite you** to a pilgrimage here inside our church. That's right. Grande Prairie. In the winter. Our journey will be an internal journey of the heart, reflecting on our relationship with Christ.

Step out of life's busyness for quiet reflection. In peace and solitude, listening to parishioner's personal reflections, you will be able to encounter God most profoundly, to "walk through" things on your mind and heart. You'll be inspired, re-energized.

This year we will ponder Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke: "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full – pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Thinking about the ways we care for others, as we trek together we will be drawn into deeper relationship with Jesus and the Body of Christ.



## FAITH DAZE 2018

*February 28th & May 2nd, 2018 at St. Joseph Church*

Two of our four evenings are coming up in 2018. We begin with introductory prayer followed by input on the topic and ending with small group discussion and the opportunity for large group sharing. Our first session this year was "Struggling for Faith in my Family - How do I find Peace?" and the second "Care for Our common Home – The Vision of Pope Francis". Our next sessions are **February 28, Care for the Caregiver** and **May 2, A Better Understanding of the Mass**.

Please join us these **Wednesdays** from **7:45 to 9:15 pm** (following the 7:00 pm Mass). There is no cost but we ask that people bring a nonperishable food item for the Food Bank.



## CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

*"I need to reconcile with the past."*

*"I know I need to change something in my life."*

*"I've been hearing a lot about the Pope."*

*"I'm concerned about the future."*

If you hear any of these phrases from a Catholic who no longer attends church this might be the time to invite them to Catholics Returning Home. This 6 week program meets once per week. The sessions are informal and in a discussion-group format. The next Catholics Returning Home begins on Thursday, February 15. Brochures are in the literature rack in the church and on our webpage.



## SERVICE STARTS AT HOME

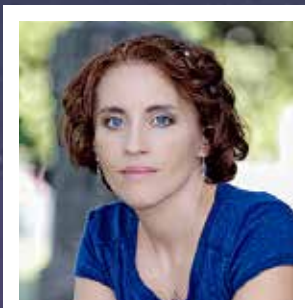
For the past several years, the youth groups have participated in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes - a worthwhile ministry sending necessities and gifts worldwide. This year we decided to focus our efforts closer to home. Instead of shoeboxes, we packed ziplock bags! These "Blessing Bags" contained socks, mittens, hand warmers, candy, a prayer card and a personalized note made by one of our youth. These bags of necessities will be distributed right here in Grande Prairie through our neighbours at St. Lawrence Centre. This year we packed 167 bags that will keep hands and feet warm through the coming winter months. We were only able to do this through the generosity of our youth and our Parish Community - thank you to everyone who donated items and time to make our first year a success. A special thank you to Lisa Teichroeb who shared her story with us so we could honour her dear son Max through our efforts.



## SARAH HART

*March 3rd at St. Joe's Church*

We are excited to announce an upcoming retreat opportunity in our Parish. March 3, 2018, join us for a Sarah Hart retreat experience that will be woven with fun, humour, songs, prayer, scripture, Sarah's personal stories and discussion time.



Sarah is a singer, songwriter and motivational speaker. She has had several songs in film and television, and her songs appear in hymnals all across the world. She continues to hit the road steadily, and in October of 2013, Sarah was invited to perform for Pope Francis and a crowd of 150,000 in St. Peter's Square. Sarah has just published her fourth retreat, "The Fruit of the Spirit". Check her out on Facebook or at sarahhart.com

## MOM'S RETREAT

*April 14th at St. Joseph Church*

It's back and better than ever! Save the date: our Mom's Retreat is back on April 14th. Join mothers of all ages with children of all ages in a morning retreat. Take a break to pray, reflect, relax and enjoy the company of other moms. Childcare will be provided. Registration will begin in early March; watch the bulletin for details.

## YOUTH SKI TRIPS 2018

Contact [archgmyouth@gmail.com](mailto:archgmyouth@gmail.com) for information or register online at [www.archgmyouth.com](http://www.archgmyouth.com)



### TRANSCEND SKI TRIP

Feb. 16-18th, 2018- Marmot Basin  
For ages 16-19. \$294/participant  
Bus from Grande Prairie to Jasper provided

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### ARCH GM SKI TRIP

Feb. 3-4th- Misery Mountain  
Peace River, AB  
For ages 12-15. \$130/participant

## VBS 2018 *July 9th-13th, 2018*

We had another fantastic session of Vacation Bible School in July. There were 150 children and over 65 volunteers involved in the program. We are pumped to announce our 2018 theme:



Grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats and tune up your horn - it's time for the big game! Whether you're rooting from the stands, marching in the band or hustling to the line, this summer is going to be amazing!! Get ready for a week of play, fun, singing and adventure at Game On! VBS. So, Gear up, Get Ready, Game On! July 9-13 for VBS 2018! You won't want to miss it!!

