



REFUGEE COMMITTEE

We recognized Sunday, January 14, as the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In Pope Francis' message for this day, he quoted "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34) The Pope calls on us to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants and refugees. As our community becomes more diverse and our world appears to be less tolerant of the stranger, we are called to live the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger. Let us make our community a welcoming place for those who flee persecution and violence for a new life in Canada. Many of our ancestors were one time in that position and found a new life in our beloved country Canada.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

February 15 - March 22 on Thursdays in the church from 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Do you know someone who has been away from the church and would like to come back but are hesitant and have a lot of questions? These evenings are informal listening sessions which include some group discussion. Registration Deadline: February 12 For information contact Bill Good, 780-532-7367 or email goodmb@telusplanet.net

Catholic Woman's League

Happy New Year to St. Joseph Parish on behalf of the CWL. As Fr. Leo told us at our January meeting, we are now in Ordinary Time and that is predominantly when we live out our lives. The women of St. Joseph CWL are involved in many of the events of our parish. In that regard, we recently had an election and a new slate of officers was inducted and will guide the Council for the next two years. We are grateful to all those women who allowed their names to stand for office. The new Executive are: President, Therese Chauvin; Secretary, Shannon Carson; Treasurer, Marg Popek; President Elect, Charlene Loxam; First Vice, Theresa Uzelman; Past President, Lauraine Grzanich; Spiritual Convenor, Sylvia Chabot; Organization, Donna Boutilier; Christian Family Life, Joanne Chiasson; Community Life, Marie Guest; Education/Health, Lorraine Martin; Communications, Helen MacDonald; and Resolutions & Legislation, Lauri Friesen. Please stay tuned for upcoming events.

Parish Pastoral Council

PPC last met on December 7. We reviewed the recipe card responses to the question posed to the parish in the beginning of December: "Why do you come to church?". As we read through your thoughts (we received over 1,000 responses) we were filled with hope and wanted to share this hope and the responses with you. The cards are posted on a bulletin board in the back of the church and will be cycling through the cards through the next couple of months. Take a moment to read the responses of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ: it might fill you with hope too. Our next meeting is February 1.

Social Justice Committee

In several weeks we will be entering the Lenten Season for 2018. Social Justice has some ways you can enrich your Lenten journey. There will be a Share Lent retreat on Saturday, February 10 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Liguori Room. The theme is *Together for Peace* and the workshop will be facilitated by Monica Nino, the animator for D&P in Alberta. Lunch will be included and there is no cost. Again this year, the Social Justice Committee is working with the CWL to host Lenten Meatless Soup Suppers on Friday's during Lent. These Suppers begin at 5:30 and there will be a short presentation each evening organized by the Social Justice Committee. The first supper is Friday, February 16. After the supper, people are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross. Please consider attending some or all of these events.

Sock Sundays

Like the Star in the East your love and kindness shine bright! Many, many, many socks were collected during the Sundays in Advent! Items were shared with the Friendship Center, Salvation Army, Odyssey House, HIV North, Rotary House, Sunrise Youth Shelter, St. Lawrence Center and our own Walk-In Ministry. Your gift of socks, toques, scarves, gloves/mitts, and other items have gone a long way to make someone's life easier this winter. **THANK YOU** for your generosity!! And a very special thank you to all of our schools who participated. You have all made a difference - may God Bless you. *Your Social Justice Committee*



The Billings Ovulation Method® is a natural way to conceive, avoid pregnancy, and/or monitor reproductive health. There is a free Introduction to the BOM® on May 18 from 7 - 9:30pm in Liguori Hall. All are invited to learn more about how natural fertility regulation works. Basic Teacher Training Workshop (Part 1) runs May 18 - 20. Join Alberta's team of Accredited BOM® Teachers! Candidates will be trained to provide personalized fertility education to women in every stage of reproductive life, from menarche to menopause. Visit billingslife.ca for information and to register.

Diocese of Grouard-McLennan Cursillo Update

Cursillo is a Diocesan Movement supported by our priests and Archbishop Pettipas. A Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity filled with talks, meditations, daily Mass, prayer, music and fun. People participate from all over the Diocese. Last year, Grande Prairie hosted a "Cursillo of Cursillos" with Cursillestas (those who have attended a Cursillo) from all over the world, some as far as Spain, joining those from the Diocese who responded to the invitation.

From that, a School of Leaders has been seeded and is sprouting in our midst. It requires patience because growth is slow. Some believe we are not accomplishing goals quickly enough, while others are certain we are moving too quickly. But each month we gather faithfully and talk of the Lord's work in our midst through the Cursillo movement and how we can continue to grow in our service of others. The next School of Leaders get-together: Monday, January 29, 7 - 9 pm in the Church. Anyone is welcome!

Under the watchful eye of our new Director of Cursillo, Kathy O'Connell, many, including all our Board members (the Secretariat), are working hard on preparations for the next Cursillos. Men's: March -11, Rector, Wayne Olsen, 587-297-9770 Women's: April 5 - 8, Rectora, Liz Richard, 780-538-2181 A monthly Ultreya is nourished and cared for by Tessie Rimando and it is always well attended. Once again everyone is invited and welcomed! Next Ultreya: Friday, February 23, 7 pm in the Church. For info contact Tessie 780-978-2106 / dotgr@hotmail.com

Coming up:

Griefshare - Mondays, 6:30 pm
Catholics Returning Home - Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Lenten Retreat, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Mardi Gras Party- Friday, Feb. 9, 7 pm
K of C Breakfast, Sunday, Feb. 11, after Masses
Family Movie, Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 pm
Shrove Tuesday supper, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 5 pm
Lenten Supper & Reflection, Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm
Station of the Cross, Fridays in Lent, 7 pm
Prayers for Healing, Thursday, Feb. 22, 7:30 pm
Ultreya, Friday, Feb. 23, 7:00 pm
Faith Daze, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:45 pm