



The Healing Ministry

Mark 16:18 "...they who believe will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

About 20 years ago the parish pastoral council discerned that the healing ministry of Jesus needed to be given a more visible place in parish life and the prayer group, which had been active since 1973, was asked to organize a monthly healing service. Over the years the format has evolved from a lay led service apart from the celebration of Mass to a Priest led event that is closely tied to the Eucharist, usually the third Thursday of each month (except July and August). This continues to be a life giving event with many of the people who started the event still involved. Often the prayer team does not hear about the outcome of the prayers but are very encouraged when they do: a child's inoperable tumor disappeared with no medical intervention, a man who had not spoken to his brother for 20 years received an invitation to supper from his brother the day after the healing service, another whose fear, anxiety and depression left the night of the service, a woman who had miscarried more than once gave birth to her first child 9 months after receiving prayer. Most recently, a child whose fear was so strong he could not sleep alone or in the dark is able to sleep most nights without waking up, as most of his fear is gone. Oftentimes people experience a closeness to God that gives them peace, hope, and strength to persevere and seldom does anyone go away sad. In addition, the prayer team occasionally will arrange for appointments at the church. These have always been occasions of grace and blessing for everyone involved.

St. Joseph CWL On May 4, the CWL, led a rosary for Palliative Care in honor of Palliative Care Week and also hand delivered 7 lap quilts and afghans made by CWL members to the Hospice at Points West. In addition, we presented a DVD entitled Euthanasia Deception which was produced by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. This documentary features powerful testimonies from Belgium, Canada and beyond of lives devastated by "mercy killing" and is a strong voice for Palliative Care. As CWL members, we support the call for better access to comprehensive Palliative Care at end of life. We thank all of those who attended this event.



Challenge Girls is under the umbrella of Catholic Kids and is a part of the Regnum Christi movement. This program is designed to help girls deepen their Catholic faith, grow in their friendship with Jesus and live a life of authentic Christian virtues through teaching, games and acts of service within the community. This was the first year that Challenge Girls ran with a total of 19 girls, grade 5 - 8. With so many girls in one room meetings were energetic, noisy and at times bordered on chaos! We also shared some very deep and personal thoughts, insights, feelings and experiences. When we focused on spending time with Jesus, it was delightful to see that the girls seemed to crave this time. After spending time in the chapel in prayer they would often ask when we would go to the chapel again. Look for information on the Challenge program this fall, with hopes of possibly adding a high school group for girls in grades 9 - 12.

Sacraments and Our Children

Sacraments are covenants with God, which bind us in relationship with Him - a free gift of God's grace dwelling in us in special ways. They are a mystery to be unwrapped then shared. The grace of receiving the sacrament grows within us and we are changed spiritually.

In the sacrament of baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are anointed into the royal priesthood. Our identity changes - we are called Christians. We are then called through our baptism to speak of Christ, to lead others to Christ, and to serve with the love of Christ. In 2016 the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism was received by 180 infants.

Through confirmation we are more perfectly bound to the church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. The Bishop "seals the deal" or confirms the baptized in union with Christ and equips them for active participation in the apostolic life of the Church. This May, 114 Grade 6 youths completed their initiation.

Reconciliation is a healing Sacrament. Christ came for our redemption to show us the way. He died for the forgiveness of our sins. The gift of grace in reconciliation is love, mercy and forgiveness. We grow in this grace to love as Christ has loved and forgive as Christ has forgiven. This spring 120 grade two students received the gift of forgiveness.

We come to Mass to receive the Eucharist, give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, be nourished, healed, strengthened and sent into the world. This is our mission: to go out into the world being Christ to others, telling them of Jesus and leading them back to church and communion. In April, 120 grade three students received the real presence of Christ.

RCIA Adapted for Children is a family journey for children and youth 7 years of age and older seeking baptism. The children/youth are fully initiated into the Catholic Church (baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist) during the Easter Vigil. The journey focuses on formation of the whole family to grow in relationship with Christ. We are called from the pews to be disciples, to aid and mentor these families on their journey as they are welcomed into the church community. 16 youth were fully initiated at the Easter Vigil.

A trip to the Holy Land with Fr. Ed



Fr. Ed started to plan this trip when he was still here at St. Joseph Church. Five of our parishioners joined him and 6 others, forming a group of 12 new disciples, and a tour guide. We travelled in the steps of Jesus, from his birth in Bethlehem to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. It was a glorious event to stand on the site of Christ's Transfiguration, to be at the Sea of Galilee and in a replica boat from the time of Jesus. We travelled to St. Peter's house, the place where the miracles of the loaves and fish took place and also where he cured the sick. At the place Jesus performed his first miracle, the wedding at Cana, three of the couples in the tour group renewed their vows. Fr. Ed said Mass every day focusing the sermons on the shrines we would view that day. We highly recommend adding a visit to the Holy Land, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to your bucket list.

The Grande Prairie CWL Presents

Women,
Wine &
the Word!

An Evening of Gratitude

It is easy to take things for granted – like our job, our family or friends. It is important for everyone to count our blessings, be thankful and show gratitude. Join the St. Joseph CWL for "Women, Wine & the Word! An Evening of Gratitude" – an evening of reflection, conversation and fellowship.

Save the date:

September 22, 7 - 9 pm in Tranquille Hall

This event is open to all women 18+.

Tickets are \$20, available in early September!