

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Hear it Through

The Grapevine

October 2, 2016

Welcome to our two new members of Staff! Be sure to give them a warm Grande Prairie welcome!

Fr. Leo English, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Leo hails from Branch, St. Mary's Bay, NL and has a passion for people, country music and the sound of the ocean on summer nights. In May, he drove the entire length of the Pacific Coast Highway - the trip of a lifetime!



Before joining us here in GP, Fr. Leo was the Pastor at St. Teresa's Parish in St. John's NL. He has experience in community development work with Native People and parish ministry in Saskatoon. Fr Leo holds a BSW in Social Work from Memorial University in Newfoundland, a BA in Philosophy from the University of Waterloo and a Masters of Divinity from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. He is a graduate of the Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies, has facilitated Skills and Pastoral Care courses in this program and has experience in social work, youth ministry and parish ministry.

Emmanuel Ekanem

Hello Parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish! I am from the Southern part of Nigeria but was born and raised in the Western region (City of Lagos). I come from a family of seven children with three brothers and three sisters. I had a miraculous conversion from Islam to Catholicism in June 1997, and propelled by God's love to give myself to God in service to humanity, I began seminary formation in August 2006 with the Redemptorist in Nigeria. By Divine Providence, I am currently a student (seminarian) discerning the priesthood vocation for the Archdiocese of Grouard MacLennan. To be part of this great family in Grande Prairie is a tremendous blessing and I am fortunate to work, learn and discern my vocation through the various parish ministries in the next year. Let's continue to pray for each other as we daily strive to cultivate in God's vineyard.



Social Justice Committee



The 2nd Annual 100 Mile Potluck Dinner was held on Friday, September 16th. Participants enjoyed different local dishes ranging from Mushroom Soup all the way to Sour Cherry Pie. The many, very delicious dishes truly showed how bountiful our region is!

We have access to this wonderful food right here in our community. If not in our own gardens, stores and the farmer's market all carry locally produced products. Supporting area producers and stores is good for everyone. Thank you, God, for the wonderful blessings You constantly and freely give!

Development and Peace Fall Action Campaign "At the Heart of the Action" has begun. It focuses on support for an agriculture model that enables all small family farmers to succeed, live dignified lives and feed their communities while respecting our common home, the planet Earth.



A Fall D&P ½ day workshop is scheduled for October 29 in the Modern Martyrs Room. Stay tuned for more information!

If you are interested in more information on Social Justice please contact Josy at 780-518-1378.



GROUARD - McLENNAN
CURSILLO MOVEMENT

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo (pronounced 'kur-see-yo') is an apostolic movement within the Roman Catholic Church whose purpose is to bring oneself and others closer to Jesus through friendship and the practices of prayer, study and apostolic action (good works and evangelization). The Cursillo Movement's goal is to renew the Faith of

the Body of Christ by bringing God's message of love to family, friends, co-workers and neighbours in the places where we work, live and worship.

Cursillo is a Spanish word which literally means 'short course' and is the name given to the three day Cursillo Weekend - the Short Course in Christianity. However, the weekend is only one aspect of the Cursillo Movement. A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with self, Christ and others. It is three days of joyful living and sharing, experiencing and learning a simple method to know God better and develop more fully as a Christian. The Eucharist is celebrated each day with time for personal prayer and reflection. The purpose of the weekend is to provide the tools for daily Christian living by reviewing the basics of Catholic faith with an emphasis on how you may live it more effectively in your own life.

Following the 3-day weekend, a method of perseverance is available to help each person find practical solutions to the problems faced on a daily basis with the support of friends.

The next Men's Cursillo will be on the weekend of Nov. 10 – 13. The Rector is Jim Davis. The next women's weekend is from March 9 - 12, 2017 with Janine Gummison acting as Rectora. If you would like to attend a weekend or need information please email allanforsberg43@gmail.com

CWL

Fall is upon us and that means we are back to regular routines. The CWL had its first meeting on Tuesday September 13. We welcomed our new spiritual advisor, Emmanuel Ekanem, who is in Grande Prairie as part of his studies for the priesthood in our Archdiocese.

As we gear up for fall events, the CWL is once again holding a raffle. There are 4 prizes: a queen size quilt donated by the Quilting Believers, \$500 cash, \$250 cash and a Keurig coffee maker donated by Mary Vader. Please consider buying a ticket or even better, selling a book of tickets. We thank those who have volunteered to sell tickets at the Co-op and in the back of the church. The draw takes place December 13.

All women of the parish are invited to join the CWL. Meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month after the 7 pm Mass.

Facilities Committee - Over the course of the summer we followed through on many of the projects recommended by the Facility Committee. Some of the projects included re-lamping the parking lot light posts, line painting and asphalt repair in our parking lot. We also discussed the advantages of changing the lights that can be changed to LED and we have started to implement some of these changes. Other maintenance items include various painting projects around the church, carpet and upholstery cleaning and refinishing of flooring surfaces.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday, September 1st, 2016 to begin preparation for what is expected to be a busy year. The Pastoral theme for the year is "Be Humble, Live in Mercy, Experience Joy". In preparation for the Pastoral theme the Council will hold a retreat on October 22. The Parish Pastoral Council is also preparing for an election for the second week of October, to replace elected council members whose term is ending. The Council consists of the pastor and 9 members: 6 elected and 3 appointed (by the pastor in consultation with the elected members). One term is 3 years and members may serve to a maximum of two consecutive terms at a time.

Candidates for Parish Pastoral Council can be either nominated by another parishioner or self nominated using a nomination form signed by the nominee. The eligibility requirements are: you must be a registered member of St. Joseph Parish, a baptized Catholic and be noted for your faith, good morals, gifts and skills. You must have the ability and passion to accomplish the main task of the Council which is to support our pastor(s) in a consultative capacity and to provide support for building a strong and vibrant St. Joseph Parish Community. More information will be available in the Parish Bulletin in the coming weeks.

