

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

Hear it Through

# The Grapevine

October 30, 2016



Motherhood can be lonely and difficult at times; we need each other! This group creates opportunities to share faith and build friendships. It's an environment of support and encouragement for mothers within our church community. The children love to come and play with other kids from church and even get to enjoy some time on the bouncy castle! Mom's Prayer and Play meets in Tranquille Hall every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning, 10 to noon. Moms are invited to bring their children for some great playtime or even come empty-handed! The conversation is great and comforting, the small prayer time is simple and beautiful, and the fellowship is truly irreplaceable. Find us on Facebook "St. Joseph's Catholic, Mom's Prayer and Play" or just drop in sometime! No need to register!

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The first snow has fallen, the Advent season will soon be here and the **CWL Christmas Tea & Bazaar** is just around the corner. Come and enjoy a cup of tea and some goodies and shop for baking and crafts while supporting the good works of the CWL. The Tea, Bake Sale & Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday November 19 in Tranquille Hall from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The CWL is also holding a raffle with prizes of a Queen size quilt donated from the Quilting Believers, \$500 and \$250 cash and a Keurig coffee maker. Tickets are \$5 and available at the Bazaar. Please support the fundraising efforts of the CWL as they support many initiatives in our Parish and community.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Development and Peace's Fall Action "At the Heart of the Action" Campaign is in full swing. You are encouraged to fill in and mail the action postcard in support of Global South small family farmers included in last week's bulletin. No stamp is required. Information on D&P's Fall Action Campaign can be found at the back of the church.

**Prayers for Syria with Pope Francis October 31**  
(<http://syria.caritas.org/>)

Pope Francis and 10,000 people will pray for Syria during an October 31 ecumenical event in Sweden. The Caritas Syria: Peace is Possible campaign urges all sides in the conflict to find a peaceful solution, the international community to support the millions of people affected by war and all of us to give Syrians dignity and hope.

The prayer is sharable by posting links or photos of it on Facebook, Twitter or other social media platforms with the hashtag #peacepossible4Syria.



Lord our God, Father of all humanity,  
change the hearts of all peoples and their rulers,  
so that peace may be established  
among the nations on the foundation of  
justice love and righteousness.  
May the Spirit of Peace descend  
upon the people of Syria and upon our world  
until all conflicts cease  
and peace reigns on earth. AMEN  
#peacepossible4Syria

## IN GRATITUDE FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED WITH THE REFUGEE COMMITTEE

The Refugee Committee would like to honor Rene Lejeune, the husband of Sharon Lejeune, who is a member of our committee. Rene recently passed away after battling a chronic illness. He was a generous man, quick witted and with a ready smile who helped a number of our refugee families settle into their new homes. Rene contributed in many ways including meeting new families at the airport, offering advice, helping with moving or minor repairs. He was present at Citizenship ceremonies, weddings and to welcome families into Sharon's and his home. As Rene was French speaking, he was able to communicate with some of our African families who spoke French and this forged a great bond. He became a friend to all those he met. A number of those who became friends of Rene and Sharon through the Refugee Committee attended his final farewell on September 10 at St. Joseph Church. Chrys and Therese Kalisa said, "We came to know Rene Lejeune in December 2003 when we landed in GP. Rene welcomed us with open arms and helped us settle in our first home. Rene and Sharon invited us at their home for our first Thanksgiving in Canada. He was always there for us when we needed him. His legacy of love and service will never be forgotten." Rachel and Francois Karamage said, "We remember when we moved to our first apartment (2009). He was there working hard with his wife Sharon and other community members, lifting heavy things! While we don't know how to put things together he said, no worries I will do it, I know how to fix it! He was always ready to help. Truly, there is no words to describe Rene Henri Lejeune. The time we spent with him was a blessing and his passing is a huge loss to us his friends, to his community and above all to his family."



### THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY

Held on Wednesday evenings in Fall and Winter, we learn about people, places, events and themes - getting the "Big Picture" of our own salvation history. This makes Bible reading and the Sunday Liturgies come alive as never before.

In past years we have studied the Old Testament, the Gospel of Matthew, the Acts of the Apostles and Revelations. This Fall we are spending sometime with, "**Mary: A Biblical Walk With Our Blessed Mother**". This appears to be a powerful Bible study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives.

These programs are open to all members of the parish family. **Beginners are welcome!** If you have ever thought about finding out more about this exciting book this is your chance. Bible Studies are from 7:30 - 9:30 pm in Tranquille Hall and usually run for eight weeks. Need to know more? Questions? Please call Angele or Roger 780-532-7529, Vince 780-532-4055 or Bill, 780-532-7367, **or just come.** A new study will begin towards the end of January. Watch the Bulletin in early January for start up date.



### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Parish Council held its monthly meeting on October 6. Topics discussed included the recent RCIA Workshop held in September in Peace River, the PPC election on October 22/23, Opening School Masses, 100 Mile Dinner, Faith Daze, Lector Workshops, School Thanksgiving Services, Welcome Table. The PPC held its annual retreat day October 22, from 10 am to 3 pm. The retreat provided an opportunity for the PPC to develop a pastoral theme for the coming year based on the Gospel of Matthew. The pastoral theme is a word or a phrase that will guide our parish for the upcoming liturgical year beginning November 27, the First Sunday of Advent. The next monthly meeting for the PPC will be held on Thursday, November 3.

**Join our parish group on Facebook, "St Joseph Catholic Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada".** [www.facebook.com/groups/StJosephCatholicChurchGPAB/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/StJosephCatholicChurchGPAB/) and request to join.