

heard it through the Grapevine

Website: saintjoseph.ca

November 2019

Women, Wine and the Word

Hosted by St. Joseph CWL, Grande Prairie
An Evening of Joy – the Third Annual Women, Wine and the Word was a wonderful evening attended by 220 women of our Parish and Community. Women were encouraged and inspired by the words of Carmen Moore, a local presenter from our Parish. Carmen spoke of joy among difficult times and how reflecting on gratitude for simple things in your life can help you find joy. Throughout the evening the ladies were treated to wine and appetizers, sweets and even a chocolate fountain, put together by a local caterer. Many women went home with prizes, including one lucky winner of a beautiful quilt and many who brought home beautiful flowering plants – all of which were donated by generous supporters throughout our community. The Knights of Columbus and a few other men of the parish volunteered to serve the wine. The charity supported this year was the St. Lawrence Centre, a place where many find joy. It was a beautiful evening of reflection, fellowship and community – many are already looking forward to next year!



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Redemptorists of Canada

During the week of Oct 14 - 19, 61 Redemptorists from across Canada met in Mississauga, ON, for our annual Chapter meeting. We have restructured and have united the former three units of Edmonton – Toronto, Yorkton and Ste. Anne de Beaupre. Our new title is “Redemptorists of Canada”.

We were graced to have our Superior General, Fr. Michael Brehl and Br. Jeffrey Rolle, one of our General Counsellors, with us from Rome. Fr. Jack Kingsbury (our Parish Lenten Mission preacher in 2020), the Redemptorist Conference Coordinator, was also present. His responsibility is to foster greater collaboration of the Redemptorists units in North America and throughout the Caribbean. Fr. Charles Duval, our newly elected Provincial Superior, took the oath of office during the opening liturgy. A definite highlight was the profession of Perpetual Vows as a Redemptorist of seminarian Alfredo Medino Ramos. This solemn event was celebrated during the closing Liturgy. At the same Mass jubilarians were also recognized. One priest celebrated 70 years of ordination. Wow!

We had simultaneous French /English translation throughout the week, celebrated Ukrainian liturgy, along with all prayer times and Masses in both official languages. Through the skillful work of two moderators, we came to a better understanding of our combined electoral law statues and other internal governance matters.

Coming together from across the country with other Redemptorists was a great experience. Sharing prayer, meals and social times strengthens the bonds between us. We are most grateful for all the prayers from St Joseph’s and beyond, which sustained us during our time together.

Peace from a fellow pilgrim Fr Leo.

Discovery Youth Retreat



This weekend, for grade 7 - 9, is led by high school students. Students come together to have fun and learn the importance of community and faith. High school students share inspirational personal life stories about their journeys and how God is with them through it all. This fun-filled weekend allows youth to encounter Christ in an exciting way, and builds friendships that last a lifetime. Prayer experiences through out the whole weekend include Mass, Reconciliation, Adoration and tons of worship music. Most students say the weekend is so good that by the time Sunday comes they don't want to leave!

Register on-line at saintjoseph.ca/discovery

Team RCIA Adapted for Children

"It takes a village to raise a child."

We currently have 17 children and their families in this program seeking full initiation at Easter Vigil Mass. Our goal is to have a team of people who will journey with these families as they strengthen their relationship with our Lord and community. How you will journey with these families is to be present to them, simply by being a friend, listening and introducing them to our parish community. The time commitment would be one to two hours once every couple of weeks. You do not need a religious degree, just be willing to share your ongoing relationship with Christ. Individuals and/or families are welcome. Please contact Darlene at the parish office.



Parish Stewardship Report

Year	2017		2018		2019	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual (to date)
Revenue	\$1,238,450	\$1,396,264	\$1,260,745	\$1,376,125	\$1,271,670	\$992,265
Operating Expenses	\$1,238,450	\$1,171,713	\$1,260,745	\$1,207,817	\$1,271,670	\$837,315
<i>Note: Extra expenses not included in operating expenses in 2019</i>						
Rectory Upgrades						\$19,096
Upstairs Development to date (<i>final cost to come</i>)						\$69,557

Parish Statistics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019		
Active Families	3472	3582	3732	3864		
Tax Receipts Issued	1117	1197	1113	0		
Baptisms	138	157	118	107		
Confirmations	130	135	138	137		
Funerals	41	45	35	27		
Weddings	17	22	20	18		