

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024



EMBRACING
the KINGDOM of GOD

Bulletin

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Masses

Tuesday, Dec 24: 4:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
9:00 pm
12:00 am (midnight)

Wednesday, Dec 25: 10:00 am

- **We are not giving out tickets for Masses**
- Overflow from the church will be seated in Tranquille Hall where the Mass will be live-streamed to the screen.
- The 4:00 & 6:30 pm Masses are more suited for young children.
- It is likely that the 4:00 & 6:30 pm Masses will be attended by more people, so you may want to plan to attend one of the other Christmas Masses.

Usher Workshop Saturday, Dec. 14, 9:45 -noon, Liguori Hall. Ushers serve our parish by assisting parishioners and helping with the collection - a great way to get involved in our parish. This meeting is for all ushers, including new people interested in learning more.

Be Part of Our Christmas Spirit!

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Choir

Details on second page under Family & Children

Children's procession at the 4 & 6:30 pm Masses:

If your child wants to carry a candle (electric!) to the altar, contact Kristen at the parish office.

Spread cheer to our children after Christmas Masses. Help make and/or hand out treats.

Contact Kristen at the parish office.

K of C Breakfast, Sunday, Dec. 15,

following the 9 & 11 am Masses.

\$10/person \$30/family

Volunteers needed. Sign up at the breakfast.

WE NEED HELP Decorating for Christmas in the church, **Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 - 2 pm** (*please note date and time change*). Fluff a Christmas tree, string lights, hang banners, etc. Please join in preparing our church for the season of Christmas.

"The Inn" (La Posada), Sunday, December 22 after 11:00 am Mass, beginning in the church. A musical reenactment of the Holy Family's search for room at the Inn. We conclude this activity with breaking a piñata! All ages welcome. No charge. Choir members needed. For information contact Kristen at the parish office.

Celebrate the New Year with His Grace Archbishop Pettipas!

The Archbishop's Annual Levee is on January 1st, from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Chancery Office (10301 102 St, Grande Prairie) Come chat with Archbishop Pettipas and enjoy cake and refreshments as we look ahead to 2025.

Screen Volunteers Needed for Christmas Masses

In order to run the screens, we need volunteers at the Christmas Eve Masses, 9 pm & midnight, Christmas Day at 10 am and New Year's Eve at 7 pm. Training provided. If you are interested in helping call the parish office, 780-532-2351.

Parish Finances

Joanne Chiasson Ext. 227 sjc-finance@gpcsd.ca

Donations to be included on your 2024 income tax must be received at the parish office before December 31. Donations made after December 31 must be via cheque, dated for December 31, 2024, and received at the office by January 3, 2025.

See our website for donation options.

Family & Children Ministry

Kristen ext 230 sjc-family@gpcsd.ca

Check the bulletin board in the church for Family & Children events.



Grade 3 - 6 youth group
2nd & 4th Thursday
Next gathering: January 9
Have a wonderful Christmas!

Mom's Group: Thursdays, 10 - 12 noon. Children welcome. Come as you are for faith, fun and fellowship. Next gathering: December 19

Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsals

Email musicstjosephgp@gmail.com

All rehearsals are in the church.

4 pm Christmas Eve Children/Youth Choir: children aged 4 - 7 sing pre-mass songs. Youth aged 8 and older sing during Christmas Mass.

	Age 4 - 7	Age 8+
Dec 14	11:25 - 11:45 am	10:30 - 11:45 am
Dec 21	1:20 - 1:45 pm	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Dec 23	2:30 - 3:00 pm	1:30 - 3:00 pm

Sacraments

sjc-sacrament@gpcsd.ca or 780-532-2351(parish office)

Through the waters of baptism we welcome Ezaela Salud to our family of faith We pray that her journey with our Lord is filled with much joy!

Parents are required to complete Baptism preparation. For information call the parish office or check saintjoseph.ca/sacraments/baptism/

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The sick, especially

Sherrie Ratvay Maria Shalom Westerson
Judith Tovar Tessie Foster
Wilfred Wanihadie Cecile Thibeault
Siemie DeBoer, sister of Sylvia Romkes
Judy Whiteside, sister of Alice Brick

The deceased, especially

Nathan Jantz, nephew of Greg & Karen Backmeyer

Youth Ministry

April ext 232 stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com

Youth Ministry 2024-2025 Registration

Go to saintjoseph.ca/ministries/youth



Grade 7 - 9: 1st & 3rd Fridays

*Next gathering: Saturday, December 21
Joining the High School Youth Group in the Youth Choir at 7 pm Mass followed by a Christmas party in the St JP II Room. Wear a Christmas sweater.



Gr. 7 - 12: 1st & 3rd Saturday

Next gathering: Sat., Dec 21
Begins with pizza at 5:30 in the parish office. Singers and musicians welcome!

HS (High School) Youth Group: Gr. 9 - 12, 8 - 10 pm
Saturday, Dec. 21, St JP II Room. Christmas Party!
Wear a Christmas sweater.

Young Adults

@ignitegrandeprairie or StJoesYoungAdults



Young Adults 18+

Bible & Beer, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:45 pm, at Mr. Mike's Restaurant.

December 14 - 22 Dates to Remember

Sat. 14: 9:45 am - noon, Usher Workshop, Liguori Hall
8 pm, Coffee & Cookies, Tranquille Hall

Sun. 15: after 9 & 11 am Mass, K of C Breakfast,
Tranquille Hall
3 pm, Christian Meditation, chapel

Mon. 16: 7 pm, K of C COR, St JP II Room
7:30 pm, Voices in the Wilderness Choir, church

Thurs. 19: 10 am - 12 noon, Mom's Group, Tranquille Hall
7:30 pm, Catholics Returning Home, church
7:30 pm, Prayers for Healing after Mass, church
7:45 pm, Bible & Beer, Mr Mike's Restaurant

Sat. 21: 10 - 2 pm, Christmas decorating, church
Sun. 22: 12 pm noon, The Inn (La Posada), church
3 pm, Christian Meditation, chapel

Adult Formation

Prayers for Healing, Thursday, December 19, after 7 pm Mass in church. The Prayer Team prays for all types of healing: mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and even for someone not present, through a proxy. Attend Mass and stay for prayer!

Faith in Action Men's Conference, "We love because He first loved us", January 25 For all men 16+ Exploring the topic of marriage.
Presenters: Fr. Charles Duval, C.Ss.R., Justice Kevin Feehan & Dr. Mona-Lee Feehan
\$35/person includes lunch, refreshments and door prizes. Contact Hervey, herveychabot@gmail.com
Deadline for tickets: January 20
Hosted by Knights of Columbus

Catholics Returning Home - Thursdays, until December 19, 7:30 pm, Grouard Room. Have you been away from the church, have family or friends who no longer come to church or have questions about the Catholic faith? Join us for this informal, program. Brochures available on the literature rack in the church and on our website. Registration not required - you may just show up. For information please contact the parish office, 780-532-2351.

COR: Men's group study - Forms & strengthens Catholic men in faith and virtue through prayer, formation & fraternity.
Contact Patdeluca9@gmail.com for information.

Christian Meditation - Sundays at 3 pm in the chapel. Everyone is welcome for this prayer of silence, stillness and simplicity. For information contact Mia, micklge@telus.net

Please be mindful of our church neighbours:
Do not park in driveways or in the Hillcrest Church's parking lot.

Church Parking Lot Do not park along curbs or in laneways to allow a clear exit from the parking lot for emergency vehicles, or parishioners who have to leave Mass unexpectedly. Leave adequate space at the end of rows - at least 3 car widths for vehicles to turn corners. *FYI:* damage to your vehicle from emergency vehicles, as a result of parking in non-designated areas, is your responsibility.

General Information

Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsals

December 21 - **6:30 pm Choir**, 11:10 am - 12:25 pm
9:00 pm Choir, 9:45 - 11:00 am
December 23 - **Midnight Mass Choir**, 7 - 8:30 pm

Know someone who can't come to Mass due to illness or infirmity? Our Communion Team take the Blessed Sacrament to those who are homebound, in the hospital and senior's homes. Please call the parish office for details or to sign up.

Sacristans Urgently Needed! Want to use your talents for God but prefer to be behind the scenes? Sacristans set up the vessels before Mass and clean them afterward. It's easy, training is provided and you will be partnered with a seasoned sacristan.
Contact Bev, puddytat.b@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to launder and iron the small linens and towels used in Mass. Training provided.
Contact Bev, puddytat.b@gmail.com

Available in the church:

2024/2025 Sunday Missals - \$4.50

2025 Donation envelopes available in the Grouard Room until the weekend of Dec. 21/22, or stop by the office during office hours.

Quilting Bee-Levers: Will resume on Monday, Jan. 6, 9:30 am - 3 pm. All are welcome. No sewing skills required. Contact the parish office for information.

Religious Gift Shop - Check out our Advent merchandise. Open after Masses: Saturday 7 pm and Sunday 9 & 11 am.

Mass Intentions

December 16 - 21

✠ *Mass for someone deceased*

Mon. 16, 7 pm: ✠ Linda Cowell

Tues. 17, 7 pm: Dwayne Van Schaick & Family

Wed. 18, 12:15 pm: ✠ Dylan Trembley

7 pm: ✠ Kevin Guderyen/✠ Betty Lou Lynch Noonan

Thurs. 19, 7 pm: ✠ Florence Beaulieu

Fri. 20, 12:15 pm: ✠ Frank VandenDungen

Sat. 21, 9 am: Anne Long

Catholic Family Services Christmas Hampers

Contact Catholic Family Services, 780-532-9381, to find out the many ways that you may donate. Drop off donations at CFS, 10105 102 St, 9 am - 4 pm, Monday, Wednesday or Friday or call them. Thank you for helping make Christmas wishes come true!

Voices in the Wilderness Concert, Monday, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm, in the church. Christmas music from "Around the World", accompanied by an orchestra, will appeal to North American, South American and European audiences. No cost, but donations to the Food Bank and the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles are gratefully accepted at the door.

St. Joseph CWL Youth & Young Adult Funding for Christian-based volunteer work. For information contact Lorraine, marting6@telus.net.

Deadline: January 15.

18 Wheels of Christmas Food Drive, Saturday/Sunday Dec. 14/15, 11 am - 5 pm, in Safeway North parking lot (9925 114 Ave). Please help to fill their 53' Christmas trailer with donations for our local community Food Banks. Accepting donations of non-perishable food items, baby food/formula & diapers.

Warm Winter Woolies Collection - during Advent.

Warm winter wear is especially needed in our Community. Please drop donations of new socks, mitts, gloves, toques & scarves in the collection bin at the entrance to the church. (*We cannot accept clothing.*) Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

The Joy of Kindness

Zephaniah 3:14 - 18a. Promise of a Saviour

Philippians 4:4 - 7. Joy & peace

Luke 3:10 - 18. John calls the people to justice

Key Passage: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. *Philippians 4:4 - 5*

Question: To whom have your past acts of kindness brought joy? What act of kindness could you do this week?

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Frequently Asked Questions

Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 am - noon, 1 - 5 pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday evening 7:00 pm

Sunday morning 9:00 & 11:00 am

Daily Masses (September - June)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:15 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am

Senior's Lodge Masses at 10:30 am:

1st Tuesday - The Gardens 1st Friday - Heritage Lodge

2nd Friday - Wild Rose Manor

3rd Friday - Pioneer Lodge

Confessions: Saturday evenings, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, or by appointment (call the parish office)

Devotions to our Mother of Perpetual Help at Wednesday Masses

Baptism for Infants & Young Children:

saintjoseph.ca/sacraments/baptism/ or contact the Parish Office (even prior to the birth of your child) about Baptism preparation for parents.

Marriage: Couples wishing to be married in a Catholic Church must begin preparation *at least 8 months* prior to their wedding date.

Call Karen G, ext. 224, or email sjc-marriage@gpcsd.ca

Interested in joining the church or completing sacraments? Contact Karen G, ext. 224, or email sjc-ocia@gpcsd.ca

Religious Gift Shop/Library: After Saturday 7 pm & Sunday 9 & 11 am Masses

Prayer Chain Requests: Confidentiality assured. stjosephprayers@gmail.com, or call the parish office

Parish Pastoral Council: st.joes.ppc@gmail.com

Information Centre in church New? Know of any newcomers/visitors to our parish? Questions/need information? On weekends see volunteers at the Centre.

Event Promotion: Fill in a Request to Promote form on our website saintjoseph.ca/contact/promote/. Bulletin submissions due noon Wednesdays. Maximum poster size 8.5 X 11. All requests subject to approval.