

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024



EMBRACING  
the KINGDOM of GOD

# Bulletin

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Christmas Schedule: Feast Day 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.

### Mary, Mother of God, Eve Mass (New Year's Eve)

Tuesday, December 31, 7:00 pm

### Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Wednesday, January 1, 10:00 am

New Year's Day is a Holy Day of obligation in Canada. Start your New Year in our spiritual home!

### Christmas Season Weekday Masses

Thursday, Dec. 26 - Tuesday, December 31, 9:00 am  
Our regular weekday Mass schedule will resume on Thursday, January 2.

**Parish Office Closed:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, December 25, 26 & 27 and Wednesday, Jan 1. We are closing at noon on Christmas Eve and 4 pm New Year's Eve.

**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.

**THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE JANUARY 5, 2025.**

### 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.

**"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.

**Screen Volunteer Needed for Mass 9 pm Christmas Eve & 7 pm New Year's Eve .** In order to run the screen, we need volunteers for these Masses. If you are interested in helping call the parish office, 780-532-2351.

**Parking at Christmas:** Since our on-site parking capacity is limited, if you are able, please consider parking on the street and leaving the parking lot for those who have limited mobility or little children.

## 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.

### 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 21	1:20 - 1:45 pm	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Dec 23	2:30 - 3:00 pm	1:30 - 3:00 pm



### 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: January 9



Catechesis of  
the Good Shepherd  
Association of Canada

For children, 3 & 4 years (by June 30/24).

A Montessori-based international program for children to grow in relationship with God. Thursdays 10 am - noon. (In January, it will also be available on Saturdays). For information & registration contact Marie, [catechesisgp@gmail.com](mailto:catechesisgp@gmail.com) or go to [saintjoseph.ca/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd/](http://saintjoseph.ca/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd/)

## Sacraments

[sjc-sacrament@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-sacrament@gpcsd.ca) or 780-532-2351(parish office)

**Through the waters of baptism we welcome** Jacob Veinotte, Maizie Sall and Jaiden Daiz to our family of faith We pray that their 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/](http://saintjoseph.ca/sacraments/baptism/)

## Youth Ministry

April ext 232 stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com

Check out our programs for youth at [saintjoseph.ca/ministries/youth](http://saintjoseph.ca/ministries/youth)



### Grade 7 - 9: 1st & 3rd Fridays

\*Next gathering: Saturday, December 21

Joining the High School Youth Group in the **EDGE** 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 gatherings: Saturday, December 21 & January 4.

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.

Be sure to join us at our first gathering of the New Year on Saturday, January 4, following 7 pm Mass.

## Young Adults

@ignitegrandeprairie or [StJoesYoungAdults](http://StJoesYoungAdults)



Young Adults 18+

**Merry Christmas!** Check for more events in the New Year.

### December 21 - January 5 Dates to Remember

- Sat. 21:** 9:45 am, Xmas Eve 9 pm choir practice, church  
10 - 2 pm, Christmas decorating, church  
11:10 am, Christmas Eve 6:30 pm choir practice, church  
12:30 pm, age 8+ Christmas choir practice, church  
1:20 pm, age 4 - 7 Christmas choir practice, church
- Sun. 22:** 12 pm noon, The Inn (La Posada), church  
3 pm, Christian Meditation, chapel
- Mon. 23:** 1:30 pm, age 8+ Christmas choir practice, church  
2:30 pm, age 4 - 7 Christmas choir practice, church  
7 - 8:30 pm, *Midnight Mass Choir* practice, church
- Fri. Jan 3:** 7 pm, Mass followed by Adoration, church
- Sat. 4:** 5:30 pm, Youth choir pizza & practice  
8 pm, Youth Group, St JP II Room

## Adult Formation



### Formed: The Story of Christmas - Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long video, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theatre.

Sign up for **FORMED** on our website: [saintjoseph.ca](http://saintjoseph.ca)

### 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](mailto:herveychabot@gmail.com)

Deadline for tickets: January 20

Hosted by Knights of Columbus

**COR: Men's group study** - Forms & strengthens Catholic men in faith and virtue through prayer, formation & fraternity.

Contact [Patdeluca9@gmail.com](mailto:Patdeluca9@gmail.com) for information.

## General Information

**7 pm Mass, followed by Adoration**

**Friday, January 3, 7 - 8:15 pm**

Join us for this sacred time to pray in the Real Presence of Jesus.

**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

**Christian Meditation** - Sundays at 3 pm in the chapel.

Everyone is welcome for this prayer of silence, stillness and simplicity. For information contact Mia, [miklge@telus.net](mailto:miklge@telus.net)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:puddytat.b@gmail.com)

**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.

## Mass Intentions

December 23 - January 4

✠ - Mass for someone deceased

SH - Mass at a Senior's Home

Mon. 23, 7 pm: ✠ Karen Victor

Thurs. 26, 9 am: ✠ Angelina Cortez

Fri. 27, 9 am: ✠ Louise Roy

Sat. 28, 9 am: ✠ Judith Radke

Mon. 30, 9 am: ✠ Nunes & Pinto Family

Thurs. 2, 7 pm: ✠ Ron Horrigan

Fri. 3, 10:30 am (SH): ✠ Thelma Scheunhage

12:15 pm: Special Intention in Purgatory

7 pm: ✠ Cam Calder

Sat. 4, 9 am: ✠ Elsie Dusterhoft

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**The sick, especially** Maria Shalom Westerson

Liliane Ngaleu Ernest Johnson

Sherrie Ratvay Tessie Foster

Mary Lee, cousin of Joanne Chiasson

Wilfred Wanihadie Cecile Thibeault

Siemie DeBoer, sister of Sylvia Romkes

Judy Whiteside, sister of Alice Brick

**The deceased, especially** Ellen Cyr

Jack Manysiak Kathleen Bulford

**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.

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

*Deadline: January 15.*

**Please be mindful of our church neighbours:**

Do not park in driveways or in the Hillcrest Church's parking lot (south of our 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.

**SCENT & "SCENSITIVITY"** There are a growing number of people who are sensitive, or allergic, to the scents that make the rest of us feel so good. In an effort to accommodate all of our parish family, please consider cutting back on the amount of scented products that you wear to church, or refrain from wearing any at all.

## Sunday Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Obedience to God's Will

**Micah 5:2 - 5a.** Restoration through the Messiah

**Hebrews 10:5 - 10.** The second covenant

**Luke 1:39 - 45.** The visit to Elizabeth

**Key Passage:** [Elizabeth said,] "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." *Luke 1:45*

**Question:** When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

*Child:* When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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

*See front page of the bulletin for Christmas Season Mass times.*

**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/](http://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](mailto:sjc-marriage@gpcsd.ca)

**Interested in joining the church or completing sacraments?** Contact Karen G, ext. 224, or email [sjc-ocia@gpcsd.ca](mailto: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](mailto:stjosephprayers@gmail.com), or call the parish office

**Parish Pastoral Council:** [st.joes.ppc@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://saintjoseph.ca/contact/promote/). Bulletin submissions due noon Wednesdays. Maximum poster size 8.5 X 11. All requests subject to approval.