

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Grace & COURAGE:
United through prayer and loving service.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 12, 2021

10404-102 St., Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2W3
Office: 780-532-2351 • Fax: 780-538-2286
Email: sjc-church@gpcsd.ca

Website: saintjoseph.ca

Family & Children Ministry Position Available

We are looking for an enthusiastic, practicing Catholic who has strong leadership, organizational and administrative skills and interacts well with people of all ages. This individual will coordinate and continue to develop an existing ministry to families and young children grade 5 and younger. This will include coordinating a team of volunteers that will foster spiritual growth and catechetical development among our children and respond to the social needs of the families and children in our parish and our local Catholic schools. Some training and experience in work with younger children an asset.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Complete job description available on the parish website or from the office.

Resumes accepted until September 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm or until position is filled.

Submit resume, with 3 references (including a reference from current parish priest if you are not from St. Joseph Parish) to Father Remi Hebert, C.Ss.R., RemiHebert@gpcsd.ca

On FORMED this week: A reflection - Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows

Speaker and author Kimberly Hahn, wife of Dr. Scott Hahn and mother of six, is a convert to the Catholic Faith. Although honoring Mary was difficult for her to understand initially, she began to encounter Mary's loving guidance in little ways on a daily basis. In this presentation, Kimberly reflects on the joys and sorrows that Mary prayerfully experienced during her time on earth, and shares how her example leads us closer to Christ.

Sign up for FORMED on our website:
saintjoseph.ca

St. Joseph Refugee Committee

Our Archdiocese and St. Joseph Parish Refugee Committee are joining forces with a young Somali couple in a co-sponsorship agreement to sponsor the wife's family including mom and dad and 4 young adult siblings. They have been living for a number of years in Uganda. The family will be sponsored for one year as per Canadian government regulations. The bulk of the sponsorship costs have been raised by the young couple who live in GP.

We are seeking the support of anyone who is interested in helping newcomers in getting established in Grande Prairie. We are looking for any monetary donations which will defray the costs of an Airbnb we will need to rent for the 14 day quarantine period. We are also seeking gift cards of any amount for stores such as Canadian Tire, Walmart, Bed Bath and Beyond and Superstore or Safeway. Any such assistance you can offer will help us maximize our budget. *Please note that this donation is not eligible for a charitable donation receipt.* Please contact the Parish or Archdiocesan offices if you wish to contribute to this cause.

2021 Donation Envelopes are available from the parish office. Drop by during office hours to pick yours up, or call us, 780-532-2351.

Parish Financial Information

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

Donation options: *Envelopes*

PAP (Personally Approved Payments), monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account
Credit Card monthly donation

Online donation through our website

E-transfer: email to sjc.etransfer@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Beatriz Fernandez ext 228 sjc-sacraments@gpcsd.ca

Through the waters of Baptism we welcome into our family of faith Shea Chapman, Rome Apuad and Zachariah Briones. We pray that their journey with our Lord will be filled with joy.

Parents are required to complete a Baptism course for each of their children. For information check saintjoseph.ca/sacraments/baptism/ or call Beatriz at the parish office, ext. 228.

ADULT FORMATION

Allan Forsberg ext. 224 sjc-ocia@gpcsd.ca

Are you, or do you know, someone who

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. Contact Allan, ext 224, at the parish office.



Urgent! Liturgy of the Word with Children Leaders & Helpers needed. Volunteer screening is necessary. Contact the parish office, 780-532-2351

Prayers for Healing, Thursday, Sept. 16, following 7:00 pm Mass in the church. The Prayer Team prays for all types of healing: mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and for other people not present through a proxy. Come to Mass and stay for prayer!

Adoration, Friday, Sept. 17, beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm in the church. Adoration will end around 8:15 pm. All are welcome to join us for this powerful form of prayer

Network - A program for professional development for ministry with young people. IGNITE Canada, a program of Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry, is offering an on-line 10 session series for the development and support of leaders in ministries with young people at Redemptorist parishes. NETWORK will provide parish groups with

- Tools for developing new initiatives working with young people in elementary, high school, young adult and family ministry.
- Sound theological foundations for ministry, skills and resources for leadership development and ongoing support.

To register visit <https://bit.ly/ignite-NETWORK> Questions?

Please contact Fr. Santo Arrigo, C.Ss.R., Coordinator of Ignite Canada, ignite@redemptorists.ca

On our sign in front of the church:

**Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 13 - 18

(† Signifies a Mass for someone deceased)

Mon. 13, 12:15 pm: † Mike Vavrek
 Tues. 14, 7 pm: CWL / † Lucy Hryb
 Wed. 15, 12:15 pm: † Raphael & Margaret Mascarenhas
 7 pm: † Ralph Barteski
 Thurs. 16, 7 pm: † Margaret Crittall
 Fri. 17, 12:15 pm: Tracey Grattan/ † Peter Guest
 Sat. 18, 9 am: † Ken Kamieniecki

GENERAL INFO

PLEASE PRAY FOR
The sick, especially
 Agatha Vavrek Aspen Alfred
 Carmen Mann, daughter of Debbie Reed
 Domingo Berondo Charlotte Maurice
The deceased, especially
 Margaret Enos Marcellina Rendon
 Wilfred Rellend Stella Supernault
 Olga Kudeba, mother of Dan Zeyha



GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within the

province of Alberta. The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.

DID YOU KNOW that Alberta is one of three provinces and two territories in Canada with publicly funded Catholic education? The other two provinces are Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees Association Enrollment Data Report 2019-2020

The Grande Prairie Nigerian Association has invited the representatives for National Identity Number (NIN) and the Bank Verification number (BVN) to Grande Prairie. They will be here Sept 24, 25 and 26. If you are a Nigerian living here and would like to have this completed contact Juliet Onun, 780-380-7962.

Sunday Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Faith & Works
Isaiah 50:5 - 9. Salvation through the Lord’s servant
James 2:14 - 18. Faith and good works
Mark 8:27 - 35. First teaching of the paschal event
Key passage: So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.
James 2:17 - 18
Question: Why should faith always lead to good works?
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The Archdiocese New Covid 19 Measures
Remain at home if you are sick or feeling unwell

The use of masks is required in all indoor public facilities of the parishes and diocesan facilities. However,

- when attending weekday and Sunday Masses and liturgical and devotional services/prayers masks are not required, *although they are still strongly encouraged.*
 - This exception does not include baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Masks must be worn when outside the nave, such as in hallways and in other indoor public spaces in parish facilities.
- Exceptions cited by the government will be followed. (*read the full protocols at archgm.ca*)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

Regular Mass Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	12:15 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	7:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday evening	7:00 pm
Sunday morning	9:00 & 11:00 am

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 Beatriz at 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 Allan, ext. 224, or email sjc-marriage@gpcsd.ca

Religious Gift Shop/Library: Call the parish office.

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

El Shaddai Prayer Group: Sundays, 3:30 - 6 pm
 Contact Irene, 780-380-9540.

The Heartbeat of Jesus

Accepted opinion says that the “beloved disciple” is either John, or John’s disciples passing-on John’s teachings. Interesting, but it also misses the point. We like answers to these kinds of questions, as if they made a difference. As we preoccupy ourselves with pinning the facts down, we are distracted from seeing the wisdom of the mystery beyond them.

We often think of fact as the only truth. Scripture on the other hand, is full of great truths though not always “factual”. Consider Jesus’ parables — stories designed to convey truth and wisdom, though the stories themselves are pure fiction.

The Gospel of John purposely leaves the identity of “the disciple Jesus loved” unanswered. Scripture is always looking to tell a greater truth, always drawing us in to search for what makes a real difference in our lives.

John sits next to Jesus at the Last Supper. Jn 13:25 says, “...*leaning back close to Jesus’ chest...*”, and reaffirms it in Jn 21:20 with, “the disciple Jesus loved...*leant back close to his chest*”.

It seems incidental; a detail, easily lost. Yet it is the lens through which all of John’s gospel should be understood.

We are told that John is the one who put his head to Jesus’ chest. Placing one’s head on another’s chest has many implications. It is not only an act of affection, it also requires a certain boldness and confidence within a relationship.

John dares to assume that relationship.

There is one other obvious truth, and that is that a heartbeat is only heard by placing an ear to the chest. A heartbeat — THE heartbeat, of Jesus.

John dares to presume that he knows Jesus’ heart.

Is the story historically true — did John actually put his head to Jesus’ chest ...does it really matter?

The wisdom-truth of “the disciple that Jesus loved” is the point being made — he “...*leant back close to His chest*”, and he heard THE heartbeat.

John has a special relationship with Jesus not because John himself is “special” or favoured, certainly not any more than the other disciples, or than any of us for that matter. The specialness of that relationship is open to all of us; in fact, we are invited into it. The specialness is based on hearing Jesus’ heart speak to

us as we sift and search through what we’ve seen, heard, and learned, and especially through what we’ve experienced.

It is our experiences that shape us. Our responses form us. Our lives are the forge in which our fumbling to make sense of our experiences grows us into who we are.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we strain to hear Jesus’ heartbeat in our choices, search for that heartbeat that is the key to which we dance the song of our lives, strive to bring that heartbeat with us into our relationships.

John did hear that heartbeat, and he made that heartbeat his own. Only love can speak to love. Betrayal is a matter of the heart. It is a matter of love denied. As love is denied, pain is birthed. Peter knew that.

He nudged John to ask Jesus who will betray him.

Why would Peter go through John? Peter is typically the impetuous one who is first to speak up (blurt out what’s on his mind, also fits).

He is the one who steps out of the boat to walk on the water (and then promptly sinks the moment he takes his eyes off Jesus [Mt 14:29-30]).

He is the one who answered Jesus, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life... you are the Holy One of God”.[Jn 6: 68-69].

He is the one who replies to Jesus, [Jn 16:16-17] “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. Jesus acknowledges the statement with, “Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven”.

Peter is not shy about speaking up. By nature of his personality, Peter has a leadership role among the disciples. He is also considered the disciple of authority - he is the Rock upon which Jesus will build His Church [Mt 16:18] - the first Bishop of Rome.

Yet, Peter goes through John on this one?

Jesus had made clear that He would not use His authority to stop the betrayal; He could not use God to subvert Love - it would be an impossible contradiction.

Peter goes through John because betrayal is not a matter of authority, it is a wound to the heart.

Authority, by definition, will find and punish betrayal - Peter was clearly told that Jesus would not tolerate it. “Get behind me Satan!” [Mt 16:23] is what he heard

when he protested that Jesus should not die.
Peter learns slowly and the hard way as do we all,
that for Jesus:
Authority is subverted by love...
Judgment, by forgiveness, and...
Punishment, by mercy.
To put it another way:
Authority sets the rules and must respond with
punitive justice.
Love, forgiveness, mercy, are the realm of
redemptive justice.
The difference is as far as east is from west.
John leans against Jesus' chest and hears His
heartbeat, and he is at peace.
John looks at the world from the position of hearing
Jesus' heart. The reality of that heartbeat echoes in
John's mind and in John's own heart. It flows out of
every page of the gospel attributed to him.
John *did* hear that heartbeat, and he brought it with
him, everywhere.
He listened for it as he no doubt struggled to make
sense of the Man who so willingly broke the letter of
the Law in order to be true to the Spirit of the Law.
How can this be? – What is this new teaching? –
How can He speak with such confidence? – Where
does His insight come from? – What can it all mean?
Jesus only begins to make sense when His
heartbeat is heard above any words spoken or
actions seen.
It only begins to sink in when Jesus' heartbeat
animates the events of our lives and of our world.
John certainly did hear Jesus' heart in what he saw
and heard Jesus do – the evidence is in every
paragraph of John's gospel.
He saw that Jesus' fidelity to love was fidelity to His
true self, something that no one can take away; it
can only be shared. Jesus would not deny it.
The wonder of our faith is the Trinity: God is Three;
God is One.
Jesus is God incarnate; His heart is the heart of God.
Jesus says, "...the Son can do only what He sees the
Father doing: and whatever the Father does the Son
does too...". [Jn 5:19-20]
Theological explanations of the Trinity mire in
complexities that in the end, do not bring us any
closer to God because, "God...is...love" [1Jn 4:16].
Love has no explanation. Love has no definition.
Love has no physical existence. Love is to be
expressed. If love is not lived, love is nothing.

The proof of love is not in any material thing we can
point to, it is in the way we choose to live our
material lives – it is our spirituality of the physical
that determines who we really are.
John placed his head on Jesus' chest... and heard
the heartbeat of God. John grasped what he saw
and what he heard, and he held the tension of it.
That tension is always and everywhere, but
nowhere more evident than in Jesus' response to
His betrayal... and through to His death.
We all have our betrayals, our trials and
mini-crucifixions, and inevitably our death. Our
responses to the tensions of our lives reveal how
well we've heard the heartbeat of Jesus, how
closely we hold the tension within our own hearts,
and how in tune our heartbeat is with the heartbeat
of Jesus.
John learned that the Spirit of the Law is love. He
lived that love; he passed it on to his community,
and through them, to us... God IS love [1Jn 4:16].
That truth dawns on us so slowly, and so dimly. Yet
that is the essence of spiritual life. It is the teaching
of Jesus summarized. It is the hope that God has for
us.
The wonder of our faith is the love within the Trinity
that could not be held even within the Godhead,
but *demand*ed to be shared – and in that explosion
of love, Creation came into being.
The wisdom of God is beyond anything that we can
understand and explain because love is not for
"explanation"; love cannot be "understood". It
cannot be manufactured and stored. It cannot be
analyzed and quantified.
Love can only grow when it is given away, and only
love can grow when it is given away.

Love is for giving.
Love is for accepting.
Love is for living.