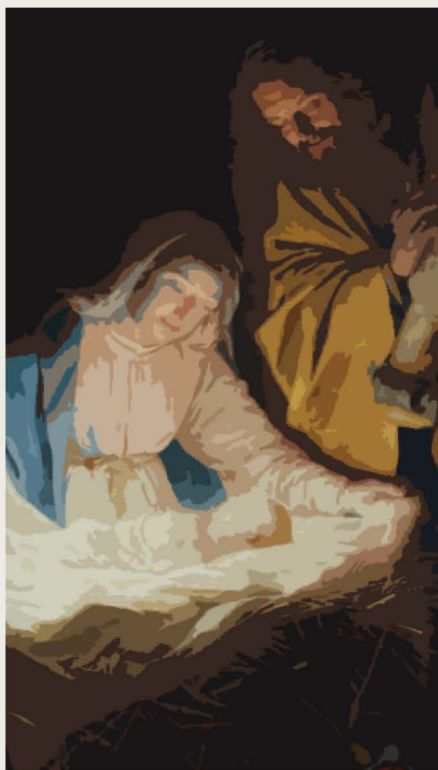


hear it through  
*the Grapevine*

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
10404 102- STREET, GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB  
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## WHISPER OF LOVE

Winter 2021, I was going through one of the most difficult and challenging times of my life. Loneliness was my company. My refuge is my beloved Mother Maria. The rosary has been fundamental in my life, but at that moment it was my life. St. Joseph Catholic Church came to my aid. They literally came to my door to rescue me. St. Joseph has been a whisper of love sent by God, to make my walk in this country possible. I have found in this church spaces of love, where I can heal and grow in faith. Not to mention the human beings I have met, some of them are treasures to my heart.

For a first time mother, surprised by the pandemic and far away from home (Columbia), everything is more difficult. Finding a space where there are other mothers who greet you with affection and tell their stories, helps calm the heart and make you part of something. Understanding this new culture through these loving mothers has helped me understand that my new home is here. Kristen, with her sweet smile, always gives us a warm space for our children and us. Space, where our children build community and learn Catholic values before understanding it. Space where I have met brave mothers who give me an example and inspire me to move forward.

## MINDFUL MINISTRY

Becoming part of the welcome table was an amazing opportunity to meet the many parishioners of our church. Even though I was doing the welcoming it made me feel even more a part of our church family.

Once the Children's Liturgy started up again after Covid I volunteered to help with this ministry as well. It always warms my heart to see all the smiling faces of the children and I am constantly impressed at how well behaved they all are. This ministry has also brought me closer to God as I have an opportunity to reflect on the readings so I can answer questions the children may have. I definitely feel like I'm part of a big family after seeing all the people who bring our church together through the many ministries.

## A PLACE IN THE CHOIR

This summer, my life and relationship with God changed. I attended Camp St. Martin where I learned so much about my faith and met so many incredible people who I now call my dear friends. I also had the opportunity to be a leader at the younger camps and I discovered the importance of serving others. After camp was over I joined youth group in the fall where we have been learning about prayer. It has helped me try (as best I can) to pray every day. I also started singing in the youth choir with some of the friends I made at camp. This made me feel like I had a role at Mass, and I even got the courage to sing the psalm at one of the Masses. I also really enjoyed helping with the other Mass ministries at camp, and now a few of my friends and I are helping with some of the ministries at church such as sacristan, lector and extraordinary minister. I am happy to be able to serve my church, and it is so great to have a group of friends who accept me and share what I believe, and to have a place where I can grow more in my faith!



## PROJECT VBS: JESUS, GOD, GOSPEL & PRAYER

For the past two years I helped as a volunteer at VBS. The experience was amazing, and it is hard to express in a few words the positive feelings I have, thinking about memories from the last two summers.

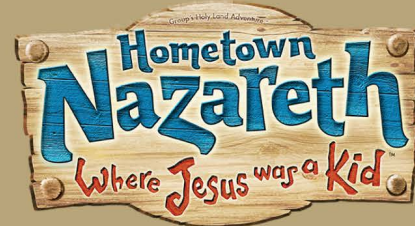
First thing I can say, it is a great community - a large group of children, families, parents, grandparents, volunteers and priests, united for all week around one big project - Jesus, God, Gospel, Prayer. It is impressive how so many people can cooperate effectively while creating an amazing atmosphere of prayers, kindness, unity, and joy. Everything is done for the children, who are the most important part of everything. And for all week they can enjoy God's Word, learn about Jesus and God in a very unique, interesting way.

## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Our family has enjoyed preparing meals for the St. Lawrence Centre through the Knights of Columbus. We think it is important for our kids to experience helping those in need to grow in charity and to answer the call of Jesus in practical ways. Setting aside time and resources to help with this ministry has been very fulfilling.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are excited to announce the theme for VBS 2024:



Get ready to time travel and play in Jesus' hometown!

Jesus was a boy who walked this earth. He breathed the air, and felt the dirt. He loved to talk, and he laughed a lot, just like we do now! Jesus gave up heaven to be here, and He is God with us!

Save the date July 8-12, 2024.

Adults, Youth & Children, come play in Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a kid.

Lots of fun for volunteers and children! Look forward to seeing you there in 2024!

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.*



## FR. CHARLES DUVAL, C.SS.R.



I was born in Gatineau, a town on the Quebec side, across the river from Ottawa. I am the eldest of 3, and have both a sister and a brother. My father was an electrical engineer, and my mother was a nurse who later became a psychologist. Dad's studies and research took us to France when I was 9, and to California (US) during my teenage years. As my parents decided to settle for good in Sherbrooke (Québec), they had a house built in a new neighborhood that just happened to be in a Redemptorist parish.

I am not the kind of priest that knew he would be one since his early childhood. I grew up wanting to study electronics and computers. I was 20, in a steady loving relationship, and studying to be a computer programmer when the Lord changed all of that. I still love computers, electronics and technology, which helps me in today's world, but I love living for, and talking about Him, more.

Being a Redemptorist has really been exciting. I guess they figured out early on that we had moved around a lot as a family and that I wouldn't mind continuing. Since becoming a Redemptorist, I've been to every province of Canada, to many countries in Europe, also to Brazil, Burkina Faso and Thailand. Starting in 2019, the 3 Redemptorist provinces in Canada joined into a single unit: the Redemptorists of Canada. Since Grande Prairie was the responsibility of the Edmonton-Toronto province in the past, I would never have been appointed here. And now that I am here, the rest of my story is "to be continued..."

## FR. JOSEPH HORO, C.SS.R.



I was born in India, close to Kolkotta, to a devout Catholic family. I was educated in a Catholic mission school and even as a teenager had a love for the daily Mass. I took an active role in retreats run by my home parish and

mission school I was educated in. While in junior high school, I felt my calling was to be a priest. After grade ten I joined the Redemptorists to complete the rest of my high school followed by theological studies. I was ordained a Redemptorist in 2002.

As a young priest I was assigned to northern India, preaching parish missions and retreats which gave me great satisfaction. In 2006 I was assigned to Kenya to help out the Redemptorist mission there until 2013. I was then offered a position as Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Vancouver, from 2015 to 2023. Besides serving the parish, I was involved in giving retreats and pastoral help at other parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Since 2014, I have taken a special interest in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, undergoing training so that I may lead others as well to develop a deeper connection to the Lord and grow in personal virtue.

## FR. ED EHERER, C.SS.R.

Some may be surprised to hear that I am a local boy. I was born and raised in the Peace country and grew up in Grimshaw, Fairview, and Falher. After completing my undergraduate studies, I

worked as a university admissions officer, an RCMP detachment clerk, and a teacher. Feeling adventurous, in 1986 I traveled to Botswana in Africa and taught junior high geography for two years.



Eventually, I heard the call to religious life and entered the Redemptorist Congregation in 1995. I was ordained a priest here at St. Joseph's in 2000. Over the years, I have served in Grande Prairie (a total of 11 years), as well as Edmonton, Sudbury, Toronto, Terrace BC, St. Paul AB and Lima Ohio. In my ministry, I have a particular interest in adult faith formation and scripture studies.

As for hobbies, I enjoy reading (my favorite book is Lord of the Rings, which I re-read every year) and I like to dabble in anything 'artsy' – art, music, theatre, poetry, crafts, etc. I also like to cook!