

First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023



EMBRACING  
the KINGDOM of GOD

# Bulletin

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Mercy Monday - December 11

Priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 1:00 - 8:00 pm.

Take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual healing. All ages welcome.

**Warm Winter Woolies Collection** - *Sundays during Advent.* Warm winter wear is sorely needed in our community, especially during extreme cold. Donations of new socks, mitts, gloves, toques & scarves are welcome. A collection bin will be in the entrance to the church. Thank you for helping to make winter a little more bearable for those who have less.

### Annual **LIVESTREAMED** Archbishop's Dinner

*Friday, Jan. 26.* Special guests, a delicious meal, on-line auction and much more. If you, your group, or business are interested in donating items for the auction, e-mail [comdirector.agm@outlook.com](mailto:comdirector.agm@outlook.com) or contact the parish office. Stay tuned for details.

**Supplies are still Needed for Blessing Bags** Our SALT group assembled over 100 bags for visitors to St. Lawrence Centre. However, about 70 bags still need warm gloves. Warm socks are also needed. If you would like to contribute, please bring it to the parish office during office hours. We plan to deliver the bags by the end of the week.

**2023/2024 Sunday Missals & Children's Missals** are available in the entrance to the church, by donation.

**2024 Donation envelopes** available in the Grouard Room until the weekend of Dec. 18/19, or stop by the office during office hours.

**Coffee & Cookies, Saturday, Dec. 9** following 7 pm Mass in Tranquille Hall. Everyone is welcome.

## Dates To Remember

### December 2 - 10

**Sat. 2:** 10 - 11:30 am, Choir Practice, church

1 pm, Filipino Mass, church

5:30 pm, Youth choir pizza & practice, parish office

8 pm, High School Youth, St JPII Room

**Mon 4:** 9 am - 3 pm, Quilting Bee-Levers, Liguori Hall

**Wed 6:** 9:30 - 11 am, Ladies' Bible Study, St JPII Room

**Thurs 7:** 10 - 11:30 am, Mom's Group

**Sat. 9:** 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, Advent Retreat, St JPII Room

Noon - 1:30 pm, Usher Workshop, Tranquille Hall

8 pm, Coffee & Cookies, Tranquille Hall

### Christmas Masses

*Sunday, Dec 24:* 4:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

9:00 pm

12:00 am (midnight)

*Monday, 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.

## Parish Finances

Joanne Chiasson Ext. 227 [sjc-finance@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-finance@gpcsd.ca)

Donation options can be found on our website [saintjoseph.ca](http://saintjoseph.ca)



## Sacraments

Beatriz ext 228 sjc-sacrament@gpcsd.ca

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

**If you have a school aged child who is receiving a Sacrament, or who missed receiving a sacrament, and have not yet registered them please call Beatriz.**

## Family & Children Ministry

Kristen ext 229 sjc-family@gpcsd.ca

If you have expressed interest in Family & Children's Ministries (including Welcome Table, Offertory Gift Bearers, and Coffee & Cookies) and have not received an email from Kristen, please accept my apologies. Please phone the office or email [sjc-family@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-family@gpcsd.ca). Let's make sure we talk!

**Mom's Group** (formerly known as Ladies Walk With Me) Thursdays, 10 - 12 noon. Children welcome. Come as you are for faith, fun and fellowship. Next gathering: December 7, Tranquille Hall

**Offertory Gift Bearers needed!** This is a great way for families to get involved.



Grade 3 - 6 youth group  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 7 - 8:30 pm  
Volunteers needed  
Registration forms at Welcome Table  
Next gathering: December 14

**Liturgy of the Word With Children** (age 4 - grade 3)  
Children gather during Sunday Mass to hear the Gospel and discuss it. Youth, adult leaders & helpers needed (screening required). Training provided.

## Youth Ministry

April ext 232 stjoesyouthgp@gmail.com



Gr. 7 - 12: 1st & 3rd Saturday  
Pizza: 5:30 pm. Practice: 6 pm.  
Next gathering: December 2



Gr. 9 - 12: 1st & 3rd Saturday  
8 - 10 pm in St JP II Room  
Next gathering: December 2



(Gr. 7 - 9) Saturday, December 18. Join us for pizza at 5:30 pm, sing with us in the choir at 7 pm Mass and stay for the Christmas Party.

**Youth Christmas Party (Gr. 7 - 12)** Saturday, Dec 18, following 7 pm Mass until 11 pm, St JP II Room  
Bring a snack to share.

### Programs at St. Joseph HS

*Music & Muffins:* Tuesdays at Focus in the chapel  
*Encounter* (faith leadership): Tuesday at Lunch in room 141

### Programs at St. JP II HS

*Music & Muffins:* Thursdays at Focus in the chapel



Thursdays at lunch: (formerly known as Encounter) focuses on social justice and building awareness within the school and community.

**Save your Bottles for our Youth Groups:** Drop them at any Bottle Depot with this information on them: St. Joseph Youth Group #1479-2351. Your donations and assistance are greatly appreciated!

## Young Adults



Young Adults 18+  
@ignitegrandeprairie

**Emmaus Night:** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Tuesday, Dec 5, 7:45 pm, St JP II Room.

## Adult Formation

**FORMED - 2 new series to journey through Advent**  
***Drawing Closer to God:*** A Catholic art show for kids. Host Ms. Kim teaches the young (and young at heart!) how to draw scenes from the Nativity story. Enjoy Advent with the whole family and learn to recognize the connections in the intricate story of God's love for us.

***Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree this Advent***

A short daily reflection using the Jesse Tree, a tradition many families practice every Advent. Prepare yourself for the coming of the Messiah by meditating with each Scripture passage and applying practical insights.

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

**Advent Retreat** - Dec. 9, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Upstairs in the St JP II Room

Topic: Come as a Child

Cost: \$30, coffee and snacks provided.

Bring a bag lunch. Limited to 25 participants.

Register: [allanforsberg43@gmail.com](mailto:allanforsberg43@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Peace Retreats.

**Communion Ministry to the Hospital and**

**Homebound:** We are forming a team of people to take Communion to people who are sick in the hospital and another team for people in their homes who cannot make it to Mass. If God is calling you to this ministry, please call the parish office.

## Mass Intentions

December 4 - 9

✠ -Mass for someone deceased

Mon. 4, 9 am: ✠ Mark, Gus & Marie Jantz

Tues. 5, 7 pm: ✠ Joan Spink

Wed. 6, 12:15 pm: Cantwell Family/

✠ Charmaine Cantwell

7 pm: ✠ Bernadette Richie

Thurs. 7: ✠ Catalina Chong

Fri. 8, 12:15 pm: ✠ Denise Hrushka

Sat. 9, 9 am: Trina Antoine & family

## General Information

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**The sick, especially**

Judy Riddle

Koffi Kouadid

Sherrie Ratvay

Cecile Thibeault

Millie Wrzosek

Scarlette Piper, granddaughter of Nicole Lafleur

Kevin Moeller, grandson of Ellen Gerk

Reena Siemensma, sister of Ivan Romkes

Elizabeth Katchie

Helen McDonald

Roland Maillet

John Zintel

Wilfred Wanihadie

**The deceased, especially**

Purificacion Villanera

Muchia Elizabeth Lum

**Choir rehearsal in the church:**

Saturday, December 2, 10 - 11:30 am

**Ladies' Bible Study**, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 am, St. JP II Room. All ladies welcome.

**Quilting Bee-Levers** Mondays from 9 am - 3 pm in Liguori Hall. All are welcome. No sewing skills required. Please contact the office for information.

**Usher Workshop** Saturday, Dec. 9, noon - 1:30 pm, Tranquille 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. Please enter through the hall entrance.

**Screen Volunteers Needed**

Our "Tech Team" operates our projector screens at each of the Sunday Masses. The time commitment is approximately once per month. Minor tech experience required - training provided.

If you are interested in joining our team email [stjoesmediagp@gmail.com](mailto:stjoesmediagp@gmail.com)

**The Salvation Army Foodbank Needs:**

Shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, toilet paper, school snacks, canned pasta (ravioli, lasagna), oatmeal, boxed Jell-O & pudding, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, Hamburger Helper, boxed soup, rice, Kraft Dinner, juice, tomato paste, canned meat & fish.

**Gift Shop Volunteers needed** after all weekend Masses. If you are interested in helping, contact Theresa, [threejtr@telusplanet.net](mailto:threejtr@telusplanet.net)

### 18 Wheels of Christmas 2023 Food Drive

Saturday, Dec 16. & Sunday, Dec. 17, 10 am - 6 pm  
Superstore parking lot. Help fill the 53' trailer to donate to local community Food Banks. Accepting nonperishable food items, baby food/formula, diapers and new toys for boys & girls of all ages.

### Come & See Weekend, January 26 - 28 St Joseph Seminary, Edmonton

Are you or someone you know considering the priesthood? This is for all men (in Grade 12 or older) open to religious life. Information and registration form at [www.archgm.ca/comeandsee](http://www.archgm.ca/comeandsee)

**Church Parking** With the coming of snow the lines in the parking lot are covered and it becomes difficult to gauge where to park. Please do not park along curbs or in laneways and leave adequate space at the end of rows (at least 3 car widths for vehicles to turn corners). *For your information:* any damage to your vehicle from emergency vehicles, as a result of parking in non-designated areas, is your own responsibility.

## Sunday Readings

### First Sunday of Advent God's Faithfulness

**Isaiah 63:16b - 17, 64:1, 3 - 8.** Prayer for the return of God's favour.

**1 Corinthians 1:3 - 9.** Thanksgiving

**Mark 13:33 - 37.** Need for watchfulness

**Key Passage:** God is faithful; by Him you were called into fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*1 Corinthians 1:9*

**Question:** At this time, how faithful do you feel you are being to God's plan for you?

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### Bear Creek Funeral Home: *A Time to Remember*

**Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm.** No charge.

For information and to register check their website <https://bearcreekfuneral.com/> or call 780-830-7742.

### Events hosted by Oliver's Funeral Home:

Dec. 13: Christmas Memories Ornament Craft

To register and for information contact Oliver's,

<https://www.oliversfuneralhome.com/>

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

### Regular Mass Schedule (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

### 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/](http://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 Darlene, ext. 224, or email [sjc-marriage@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-marriage@gpcsd.ca)

**Interested in joining the church or completing sacraments?** Contact ext. 224, or email

[sjc-ocia@gpcsd.ca](mailto:sjc-ocia@gpcsd.ca)

**Religious Gift Shop/Library:** Open after weekend 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)