



Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

20676 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4G5

Ph: 604-534-3303

Fax: 604-534-6458

Email: parish.sjl@rcav.org

website: stjlangley.rcav.org

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mon – Fri

Closed for Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Chisholm

Deacon: Dan Ritchie

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Giovanni Schiesari

January 17, 2021

11 AM SUNDAY MASS LIVE STREAMED DURING COVID

<https://stjosephlangley.com/live-stream>

followed by curbside Communion from 11:45 to 12:45 pm.

Inquiries for Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings please contact the Parish Office.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time *Readings 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10,19; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 6:13c – 15a, 17-10 John 1:35-42.*

Bringing Other to God.

Testimony or witness is an important part of discipleship. Eli and his house were on their way out. The image of Eli blind and asleep reflected his receptivity to God and the spiritual life of Israel at the time. Eli and his house were condemned for choosing family before God and abusing their position! They had not departed because young Samuel was not yet ready to replace them. “Samuel did not yet know the Lord and the word of the Lord was not yet revealed to him.”

Despite the fact that Eli was not always open to God, he could not help but realize that God was speaking to Samuel, as he came to Eli three times thinking that Eli was calling him. Eli gave him the response, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” We are told that “As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.” In spite of the fact that Samuel was blessed by the Lord he still needed Eli to put him in contact with God.

In our Gospel today we find a series of witnesses that bring us to God in Jesus Christ. First John the Baptist witnesses to Jesus calling him the “Lamb of God” This refers to the paschal lamb or perhaps Isaiah’s Servant (Is.57). What it tells the two disciples with him that this is someone they should check out.

These two disciples had been looking for the Messiah. That’s probably what attracted them to John. Now as they followed Jesus, he turns and challenges them, “What are you looking for?” In response they ask him, “Rabbi... where are you staying?” He tells them to, “Come and See.” We are told that they remained with him for the day. They are not just checking out his digs, they are also trying to figure out what he is about.

Andrew now witnesses to his brother Simon and bring him to Jesus, stating, “we have found the Messiah.” Jesus for his part almost immediately identifies Simon and “Cephas” or rock on which he will build his Church. Coming into contact with Jesus changes these men’s lives in such a way as to want to share Jesus with others.

The reality is that we are all called to be witnesses to Jesus and by doing so bring others to him. Not just by the way we speak but by the way we live our lives. When we are involved with something or somebody special it affects how we relate to others and to the world. The men in today’s gospel held nothing back, they committed themselves to Jesus and made him known to others by their witness.

Paul would point out that in Jesus we have freedom. The freedom to live in him. The problem with freedom is that it can turn into licentiousness – we give up our freedom and are trapped by something else. Sexual impropriety was a serious problem in Corinth where the temple dedicated to the love goddess Aphrodite employed more than a thousand prostitutes and priestesses. Paul is telling the Corinthians they are called to be witnesses of Christ. When we allow our moral lives to be corrupted then we not only stop bringing others to Jesus, we fall away from Jesus ourselves.

As we pray today ask God to help us be witnesses to Jesus in what we say we are, others can see Jesus. By using the true freedom that comes from faith we can grow in God’s grace.

Fr. Patrick.

Pope Francis

Has declared, December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, as the “**Year of St. Joseph**”. St. Joseph of course is our Patron Saint and so it is appropriate to pay special attention to our devotion to St. Joseph during this year. One of the things we are planning are devotional masses to St. Joseph on first Wednesdays, a day special to St. Joseph devotions. Our first mass would be on February 3, 2021.(live streamed).

The Pope has offered plenary indulgences to those who would partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend mass (even live streamed) and pray for the intentions of the Pope.

Please stay tuned as we celebrate St. Joseph this year.

PARISH NEWS:

Welcome to the Parish: Tatiana Closas & Stanley Stephenson; Lulu Lu & James Li, Penny & Robert Watt.

Recently Baptized: Joseph Shwemoo

“All Were Filled” *Jn.6:12* – **Do you know anyone struggling to have enough food to eat?** The **All Were Filled**

Project offers **free** frozen food packets of hearty soups and/or entrées to put over rice, pasta or potatoes. There is no qualifying requirement to receive the food, and your order is kept confidential. Every week, you can order your box of food before Monday at Noon to order a box **Contact: email: mike.thomsoncd1@gmail.com or phone: 604-427-1348** We are in this together. Help us get the word out or call to place your order today. **No one we know should go hungry!**

2020 – 2021 Sunday Missals Following COVID-19 restrictions there are no books in the pews. Sunday Missals for your own personal use are on sale at the parish office. Cost \$5 each.

2021 Contribution Envelopes: Due to Covid-19 restrictions we ask that you **please collect your envelopes from the parish office during office hours**. Please check your address to ensure it is correct. If you are currently making monthly donations via Online or Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD), you are already set for 2021 and no envelopes will be generated for you (unless you have requested envelopes). As usual, all donations whether by envelope or via Online/PAD will be recorded for tax receipt purposes.

DO NOT use your old contribution envelopes: New envelopes (with new envelope numbers) have been issued for 2021. Please do not confuse our collection counters. Use your NEW envelopes and kindly put your name on the first few envelopes you use....

St. John Brebeuf High School will be holding their **Virtual Open House** in early February. Staff and students are presently working hard to put together an online experience that will showcase SJB as a great place to grow faithfully, academically, physically, and emotionally. Please stay tuned to this bulletin and to our website (www.stjohnbrebeuf.ca) for more information in the coming weeks.

St. Catherine’s Elementary School is now accepting **Applications for Kindergarten 2021-22**. Deadline January 29. contact www.stcatherines.ca

St. Joseph’s Church Preschool will begin Preschool registration for the 2021/2022 school year on Monday February 1st. If you are interested in enrolling your child, or would like information about our programs, you can check out our website www.stjosephschurchpreschool.com or call Angela at [604-530-4288](tel:604-530-4288).

Holy Cross Regional Secondary will be hosting a **virtual Open House January 20**. Visit our website at www.holycross.bc.ca to register for the event. Our online application will coincide with the virtual Open House and families will be able to apply for the 2021/22 school year. Come and join Holy Cross Regional Secondary’s community on January 20th to see and experience our school in a virtual setting. We look forward to seeing you.

OTHER NEWS:

Drug or Alcohol Addiction Recovery

If you, a loved one, or someone you know, wants to be free from an addiction to drugs or alcohol, consider Sancta Maria House. Located in a beautiful part of Vancouver, we offer a structured and supportive Catholic Christian 12-Step recovery program, in a pleasant, loving, family-like setting. We accept women of all faith backgrounds. For more information, visit: agapastreetministry.org/healing-homes/sancta-maria-house-1st-stage-recovery-house/ or call 604-731-5550.