

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Dec 24 **6 pm; 9 pm** (Dec-24 **11 pm Carols**); &
Midnight Mass

Dec 25 **9 am., 11:am & 1 pm** (NO 8 pm Mass)

CHRISTMAS PENITENTIAL SERVICE at St. Joseph's, 7 pm
Thursday, December 14.

2024 Contribution Envelopes: Please collect your envelopes from the back of the church. They are in alphabetical order. Check your address to ensure it is correct. If your envelopes are missing, contact the parish office. Do not use before 2024 the numbers assigned are different each year

Youth Ministry Sunday is December. 3 The Archdiocesan collection assists the Ministries and Outreach Office in providing formation, training, and support for youth ministry. Youth ministry in our archdiocese continues to grow. Parishes with active youth ministry programming will receive a rebate from this collection. Please be generous in supporting the youth of our parish and archdiocese. **Youth (Parish Wide) Christmas Party:** Karaoke & Silent auction, Saturday Dec. 16, 6 – 9 pm in the Parish Hall, Entry Fee \$20, incl. Tapas and Drinks. All funds raised go toward supporting youth ministry at St. Joe's. **St. Joseph's Youth Ministry:** Edge Grades 6 & 7, & Lifeteen Grade 8 and over. For more information contact youth@stjosephlangley.com

St. Joseph's Book Study and Discussion Group "Meeting St. Mark Today" by Daniel J. Harrington, SJ. We will be reading and reflecting on this book on Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 am. at St. Joseph's Church, **beginning on December 6th.** Come and join us... For registration or more information please call the parish office.

Women's Adoration Evening: "Memento Mori" *Never Forget.* at St. Joseph's Chapel Monday **December 11,** 7 pm Adoration, 8-8:10pm Reflection, followed by Refreshments and Social.

Simbang Gabi (Advent novena masses): December 15 – 23, 7:00 p.m. (except 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday). Coffee and snacks after mass. This is a great way to prepare your hearts for Christmas. Everyone invited to this 9-day parish event.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER: Volunteers needed: Many volunteers are needed to work before, during or after the event. **Sign up to help** online volunteersignup.org/LCJ3A. **Donate food or supplies.**- drop them off at the tables in the church foyer. **Cash Donations may be made** – by e-transfer to Autodeposit.sjl@rcav.org or dropped off in the collection basket in an envelope labelled "Christmas Dinner", or handed into the organizers at the table in the church foyer



St. 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 am. – 5:00 pm. Mon – Fri

Closed for Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Chisholm **Assistant Pastor:** Fr. Nevin Jacob

Sunday Masses: 9 am, 11 am and 8 pm; Saturday Mass 5 pm

Daily Mass Monday to Friday 8 am, Friday eve. 7 pm. Saturday and Holidays 9 am.

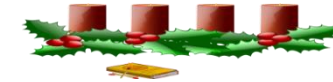
Spanish Mass (2nd Sunday of the Month) 5:30 pm

Friday All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Fridays 9:45am to 6:45 pm

Confessions: Saturdays between 10 am and noon.

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

December 3, 2023



First Sunday of Advent:

Readings : Isaiah 63: 16b-17; 64:1, 3-8; Psalm 80; 1corinthians 1:3 -9; Mark 13: 33-37

As we prepare for Christmas this year we are really preparing for two things; the first of course is the seasonal celebration of the birth of the child Jesus (God coming into the world); the second is the coming of Jesus at the end of time. At once our preparations are both familiar and challenging.

We of course have prepared for the celebration of Christmas. Growing up it was my favorite time of the year, filled with festivities and family traditions. Who didn't look forward to Christmas? At the same time we are challenged to be prepared for his coming at an unknown time. It has been said that God doesn't want calculation so much as he wants vigilance. Jesus' parable of the man going away and placing his servants in charge very much reflects Jesus and his Church. He had already delegated authority to the apostles and entrusted them with his work. Peter can be seen as the gatekeeper who assumes the greatest responsibility with providing the suitable welcome for the Lord.

In our 1st reading the prophet Isaiah recognizes the need for God, things were not going as they should – God has 'hidden his face' from his people "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down".

The people have lost their way – they need God's presence. Those who gladly do right and remember the Lord and his Way need to be reminded and strengthened. To recognize that we are

clay and that the Lord is the potter - we are all the work of his hand. At the same time we require tenderness and compassion.

The psalm recognizes that Israel was in need of restoration. Our salvation requires God's presence and his active concern for us. Three times the author calls upon God to "restore us". This restoration requires repentance and humility on our part. To receive forgiveness, it helps us to see ourselves more clearly.

In the First Letter to the Corinthians Paul gives thanks for the graces they have already received and prayers that God will complete the work he has already begun in them. That he will strengthen them to the end and that they will be found "blameless" on the day of the Lord. Reminding us that we are called to fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

True faith in Jesus begins with thanksgiving that like the Corinthians before us we recognize our spiritual gifts and what God wishes to accomplish through them. One of the problems that beset the Corinthians was that they began arguing over which of the gifts was more important.

Jesus tells us that we do not know when he is coming again, but it is near and we are called to persevere, be watchful and alert. Looking around us as the gatekeeper, we do not want to be found sleeping, but just as we know there are 37 sleeps until Christmas, there will be even more sleeps before the second coming. The point is not to be distracted from our final goal.

The 13th chapter of Mark's Gospel is all about how to live in the expectation of Christ's coming. Study God's word and live by its instructions; 1) Do not be led by idle speculation. 2) Do not be afraid to tell people about Jesus in spite of possible negative reactions. 3) Stand firm in faith and do not be surprised by persecutions. Morally alert, obedient to the commandments and found living God's word will allow us to welcome Jesus at the end of time realizing that judgement isn't something to be feared, but what allows us to enter into the fullness of God's life.

Fr. Patrick



This year our parish goal is \$160,000. The first \$63,000 will go towards the Archdiocese campaign with the remainder coming back to our parish for our own projects. **To Date** we have collected **\$115,829.04 = 139 gifts, 10% of 1331 families, which brings us to 184% of our diocesan goal (\$63,00.00) or 72.4% of the parish goal**

Please visit projectadvance.ca to learn more about the Archdiocese Projects and to give online

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the parish hall after the 9 am and 11 am Masses
If anyone is interested in helping a host group with their coffee service contact Iris
irisramsdales@gmail.com

2023 – 2024 Sunday Missals for your own personal use on sale following Weekend Mass at the Information Booth or at the parish office. Cost \$5 each.

R.I.P. Please remember in your prayers the soul of Joseph Henry Tecklenborg, Gerry Sprangers Rosamond Adams, Darlene Pugh, Noreen DeJulius.

Moms & Tots Group meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month: Outdoors gathering Thursdays Weather permitting. When the weather is not cooperating we meet in the Hall Lounge.

CWL



REMINDER: Pre-paid poinsettia order Pick-up: The plants will be in the Church Hall for pick up after the Sat. Dec. 9, 5pm Mass, and the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday, Dec. 10. THANK YOU.

All ladies are invited to our Christmas Dinner Tuesday, **December 12th**. Doors open at 6:00 pm- dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$40.00 ea. - available from Iris Ramsdale or Marg Rodrigues at the Information Desk following Sunday morning Masses. ALSO ...

Selling the Ralph/Meridian gift cards, they come in denominations of \$25.00, 50.00, 75.00 and 100.00. These make great 'Thank you' gifts, Christmas Gifts!!! If you are interested in purchasing any gift cards, please contact Suzanne Spanjers at. 604-427-4267. Thank you for your support

The Knights of Columbus charities RAFFLE!! – Tickets on Sale from Oct 1 to December 16. There are some great prizes and all proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus (BC) Charity Foundation. This organization funds senior housing and other worthwhile causes in our province. Knights will be selling after all the Sunday Masses (or you can take a card to purchase online) The Knights of Columbus are supporting a campaign "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" and are selling materials after the weekend Masses to promo CHRIST and bring focus on the true meaning of Christmas

Senior's Luncheon: Hosted by the K of C & CWL: **Wednesday December 13.-** Doors open 11:00 am. Meal by Chef Kees, after meal join us for BINGO (\$1.00 per card). Cost for the meal is \$10.

Verso L'Alto Young Adults Team: for more information and check out events email: youngadults@stjosephangleyley.com

St. John Brebeuf Regional High School Applications for new students for the 2024-2025 school year are available at the school or parish office, and on our website (www.stjohnbrebeuf.ca). Completed applications for new students are due February 1st, 2024.

FORMED.ORG: The Catholic Faith On Demand. Free videos, Movies, Audio Book and eBooks streamed right to your electronic devices. Inspirational, Educational, and Entertaining for all ages. **Talk of the week "Prepare the Way" by Bob Rice** Register at www.formed.org For further questions contact the parish office.