

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

6 pm; 9 pm (Dec-24 11 pm Carols);

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

Parish Office Christmas & New Year's hours - Closed December 24 to 26, Open December 27 -29, Closed for New Year Jan 1.

THANK YOUS

Thank You to Our Christmas Helpers: For Simbang Gabi pre-Christmas novena: The Simbang Gabi Coordinators; the Filipino parishioners; the various parish groups and choirs. For the Christmas Creche, Decorations of the Church and Foyer. Dorothy Miller and helpers ; Flower arrangements, Josie Sivaloganathan; For Christmas Liturgies: the choirs, servers, lectors, ushers and Eucharistic ministers.

Our 29th Annual St Joseph's Christmas: Sophia Ponvelan, Director of Christmas Dinnner 2023 and her many helper, wish to thank Chef Kees Mijinke, all the volunteers and Parishioners who donated food, financial support and volunteered their time, at the 29th Annual Christmas dinner in the Church hall.

Thanks for the many Christmas cards and gifts: Fr. Patrick and Fr.Nevin are very grateful for your kindness and generosity during the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER: at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. December 25th, Doors Open 4:30 pm. Invited! At no charge! Are the homeless, senior citizens, the lonely and people who have nowhere to go or to share a meal with on Christmas Day. **Cash Donations may be made** – by e-transfer to <u>Autodeposit.sjl@rcav.org</u> or dropped off in the collection basket in an envelope labelled "Christmas Dinner", or handed into the parish office.



Pastor:

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

20676 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4G5 Ph: 604-534-3303 Fax: 604-534-6458 Email: <u>parish.sjl@rcav.org</u> website: <u>stjlangley.rcav.org</u> **Office Hours:** 9:00 am. – 5:00 pm. Mon – Fri Closed for Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 pm. 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 23 2023



Christmas 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Advent is only one day so in this bulletin we will go directly to Christmas. That's what we have all been waiting for !!!!

Today we celebrate God in human form. You might think that the all-powerful God would enter into history as a powerful man able to demand Love and Fidelity from all people. God does not force us to accept him rather he invites us to share his life as he shares ours. We have to remember that true love cannot be forced, but has to be given freely.

In his depiction of the nativity Luke tells us that it was a historical reality. At Jesus birth there were a number of "Important" men, Cesare Augustus the emperor, Quirinius the Governor of Syria. These men commanded others. A census meant that Joseph and Mary had to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem to the town of David to be registered.. There was no room at the inn so Jesus was born in a stable and laid in the manger. In Augustus' world there was no room for God, but humbling himself God found a place.

Jesus birth was not proclaimed to the rich and powerful, but to the shepherds in the hills watching their sheep. These men by their very position were humbled and in their humility they received the message of the birth of Jesus from the angel host and were prepared to go down into Bethlehem to check it out. There they "Found Mary and Joseph and the child

lying in a manager" and "they made known what had been told them about the child. Mary for her part treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart while "the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they has heard and seen, as it had been told the."

As Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of great darkness – on them light has shone." St. Luke speaks of Jesus as the Light of the Human Race, he notes that he came to his own, and his own people did not accept him, but to all who do he gives the power to become children of God. The ability to have a share in his eternal life.

As we celebrate the birth of the Messiah – God's entry into history – it is important for us to be humble before him that his life can live in us. That we can have a share in the victory he has come to give us. To make the time to be with the baby Jesus and his mother. To make room for him in our hearts and in our lives, that the love he wants to share with us may be ours. As Mary pondered all that happened in her heart let us join with her in pondering her son.

As a parish community it means dusting off our traditions, but also looking to begin others. Making Jesus present to ourselves and others.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, Fr. Nevin, Deacon Dan and the parish staff to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. May Jesus Christ always be at the heart of who we are and what we do.

Fr. Patrick

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE! To Project Advance - 2023:

Empowering our Parish Vision We would like to thank you for your generous support to date

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 **\$124,914.04 = 162 gifts, 12% participation of 1331 families, which brings us to 198%** of our diocesan goal (\$63,00.00) **or 78% of the parish goal** If you would like a tax receipt for 2023, you have until December 31^{st} .Please visit <u>projectadvance.ca</u> 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 irissramsdale@gmail.com

Men's Mini Retreat: with Fr. Nevin Saturday January 13. Theme : "How to speak with Jesus – A Personal Prayer". Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. For all the men of the parish. Cost \$10. Incl. Coffee, Water, Muffin.ts, payable at the door. If you require more information contact Bob Latta 604-760-5500

Verso L'Alto Young Adults Team: for more information and check out events email: <u>youngadults@stjosephlangley.com</u>

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 (<u>www.stjohnbrebeuf.ca</u>). Completed applications for new students are due February 1st, 2024.

St. Catherine's Elementary School is now accepting Kindergarten Applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Students must be 5 years of age by Dec 31, 2024 to apply. Application deadline Jan 31st, 2024. Please visit our website for information and Application Form:<u>www.stcatherines.ca</u>

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. **Movie of the week "Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ"** Register at www.formed.org For further questions contact the parish office.

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. Do not use before 2024 the numbers assigned are different each year.

2023 Contributions: all donations must be **DATED AND RECEIVED** by the parish **<u>BY</u> <u>DECEMBER 31 2023</u>** to be eligible for 2023. Donations received after this date will be applied to 2024.

