

SCHOOL NEWS

SJB Early Bird Registration OPEN for New Families St John Brebeuf registrations for the 2024/25 school year OPEN to new families with students entering Grades 8-12. For more information, visit <https://stjohnbrebeuf.ca/announcements/registration-open-for-new-families>

St. Joseph's Church Preschool taking Preschool registration for the 2024/2025 If you are interested in enrolling your child, or would like information about our programs, you can check out our website at www.stjosephschurchpreschool.com Registration forms with updated pricing for the 2024/2025 school year are available to download off the website. If you have questions, call Angela at 604-530-4288

40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2024 CAMPAIGN: PRAY FOR REVERENCE FOR LIFE!

Nightly Zoom Rosary – Register through Behold <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/vancouver-life-soldiers-friday-night-zoom-rosary-2>

SHARE LENT COLLECTION The only **major fund-raising campaign of *Development and Peace***, the official international development agency of the Canadian Catholic Church. This year Share Lent Collection will be held **Sunday March 17**. This year's focus "Reaping our Rights – Create Hope." By giving, you help **create hope** for millions of people in the Global South who are sowing justice to **reap their rights and dignity**.

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 "Week Four /Return: Lent with Fr. John Burns"** Register at www.formed.org then look up by parish postal code V3A 4G5. For further questions contact the parish office.

The Jesuit Spirituality Apostolate of Vancouver is offering an **online version of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola** in daily life. The lectures and spiritual direction sessions are online. The application is due March 14. Cost \$100. Please forward to your friends, families and faith communities. Contact coordinator@jsav.ca if you have any questions.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays 6:30 pm following all day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - All Fridays' during lent.

ST. JOSEPH'S PENITENTIAL SERVICE

7:00 PM Thursday March 21

with several priests to hear confessions. This is your best opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation

Extra Confession Times during Lent –

Friday, March 15 & 22, 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm, Good Friday March 29

9:00 am – 11:00 am; Holy Saturday, March 30 10 am – noon.



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.

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Readings 2 Chronicles 36:14-17a, 19-23; Psalm 137: 1-6; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3: 14-21

God So Loved the world

Laetare is a Latin word meaning rejoice – Rejoice Jerusalem! Today we are invited to move back from the austerity of our Lenten practices to reflect on God's love for us. This is not a new love, it is implicit in creation, but today we make it explicit in our response of faith.

King Zedekiah refused to listen to God's warning to him through the prophets which makes him and all of Judah liable to God's judgement which leads to the Babylonian exile. King Nebuchadnezzar breaks through the walls of Jerusalem and destroys the temple, taking the people into exile. But God through the prophet Jeremiah announces that the exile would end after 70 years. His word is effective and after Cyrus, King of Persia, defeats the Babylonians he fulfills the prophecy by commissioning the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. God does not take his love away. While our refusal to listen to him has real consequences in our life, he is always ready to share his love with us.

In the wilderness the people rebelled against God. As punishment he sent poisonous snakes among them, but He also provided a remedy. He has Moses fashion a bronze image of a snake on a pole and lifted it up. All who looked on the image in faith were healed (saved!) Jesus says that, "the Son of Man must be lifted up, that all who look at him in faith will be saved." This is the first of three times that he makes this statement. This lifting up has two meanings; 1) that Jesus is lifted up on the cross physically and 2) that Jesus is lifted up – he is exalted.

At the core of John's (and all Christian) theology is the conviction that God's love is the dynamic principle for world salvation. God has gifted the world with his own son, not to condemn it, but that it may be saved. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Jn.3:16 The world, in particular it's human inhabitants, is the object of God's love. The world also becomes symbolic of those who refuse God's love – who refuse to believe.

Human actions play a part in salvation. Our response is essential. Light becomes symbolic of good work while the dark reflects evil works. St. Augustine says, "(People) love the truth for the light it sheds, but hate it when shows them up as being wrong." We have a choice. To come into the light of God's love, or to remain in the darkness. The light exposes sin, sin so that we may be forgiven. The Father's love never diminishes. Those who do not believe in God's love avoid the light and remain trapped in guilt and condemnation of their sin. God's love is available to everyone. Allow him to scatter your darkness and enter into a deeper experience of his love. This is what Lent is all about.

St. Paul recognizes the God of mercy in Christ Jesus. God is rich in mercy, he even offers salvation to the Gentiles while they are dead in trespass, that they may be alive in Jesus Christ and raises them to be seated with him. Salvation is God's free gift of immeasurable value. It comes through faith, not self effort, so we cannot boast as if it were our own. In Christ Jesus we are made for good works - we become part of God's plan for salvation. We are not saved merely for our own benefit, we are called to serve Christ and to build up his Church. We are called to be people of gratitude, as we owe everything to God.

Let us spend this week contemplating God's love for us and our world, thanking God and asking him how we can more fully respond to his love and advance the salvation he has planned for us and all those around us.

Fr. Patrick.

This past Sunday we celebrated the 1st Scrutiny for our elect, those chosen by the Church, through the Rite of Election, celebrated by Archbishop Michael, to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for; **Abi Vilio, Stephanie Robertson, Lisa Van Hees, Kate Lee, Renen Adoca.** 2nd Scrutiny Mass Mar 10, 9am Mass, 3rd Scrutiny Mass Mar 16, 5pm anticipatory Mass

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

Welcome to the Parish: Emily Roche, Jennifer & Dennis Deduque, Pauline & Albert Gozon, Priscilla & Edward Balderas, Carol & Matthew Tse.

Recently Baptized: Avella Suva.

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Debbie Dowbiggin, Isabel Reinhart.

Baptism Preparation Class: Tuesday March 19, 7 pm for parents wanting their babies baptized. Call the parish to register. 604-534-3303

Senior's Luncheon: Hosted by the K of C & CWL: Wednesday, March 20,- 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.

Youth Ministry : : Lifeteen- and Edge For more information please contact Analiza: youth@stjosephlangley.com Parishioners can support our youth ministry by volunteering to provide dinner for the core team on youth nights. Upcoming nights , March P 17 and 22 Email Analiza at youth@stjosephlangley.com to volunteer.

***Thinkfast Retreat: Grades 8-12's in good health. (24 Hour Fast Holy Thursday to Good Friday):** Register now for Thinkfast! We'd love for you to come join us for our annual retreat where we fast, play games, pray, and more! Email youth@stjosephlangley.com to sign-up

St. Joe's Young Adult sports Night!! Join us Wednesday nights! Starting March 13, from 7-9pm for volleyball or basketball for those 16 and up! It will be every week alternating which sport at **St.Catherine's elementary school!** Any child under 18 must have a parent or guardian attend and they are free to participate as well. All are welcome for an evening of fun and fellowship! Cost: Free. Any questions feel free to contact Maria Van Vugt at thesaint900@gmail.com

RESTORE: A women's evening of worship and Eucharistic Adoration. Next date: Monday, March 25 at 7 pm in the Church. Open to women of all ages and stages! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tiffany 604-209- 8269 or tiffany.valle.anaya@gmail.com

St. Joseph's Bereavement Support: a 9-week structured support group. Beginning Thursday April 4, 9:00 am – 11:30 am. in the parish annex room. Registration limited to 8 people. We will work with a book "Grieving With the Help of Your Catholic Faith" by Lorene Duquin. Cost of materials and book \$35. To register and for information. Contact Carla Vangool 604-308-0050 or carlavan@shaw.ca

CWL NEWS: 1) If you are starting your spring cleaning and come across and Gently Used Religious Items consider donating them to the Catholic Women's League (CWL) for our upcoming sale. We will be collecting these items the weekends of April 6/7 and 13/14 at the Information Desk. Thank you. 2) **It's Bursary Time:** Please see the Bursary's available for your children to apply for. St. Joseph's CWL offers a \$2,000. bursary for a girl in grade 7 furthering her education and another \$2,000.00 for a student entering post secondary school. The Vancouver Diocese also offers a \$1,000 bursary to a boy or girl. Hard copies are available on our CWL bulletin board.