

## 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 (Parish Wide) Christmas Party:** Karaoke & Silent auction, Saturday Dec. 16, 6 – 9 pm in the Parish Hall, Entry Fee \$20, incl. Tapas and Drinks. Selling tickets after all the masses this weekend. 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](mailto:youth@stjosephlangley.com)

### St. Catherine's Christmas Concert "The Christmas Chronicles"

All are welcome to join St. Catherine's school for their Christmas Concert

Show times are: Dec 19/23 @ 1:00pm; Dec 20/23 @ 10:00am; Dec 20/23 @ 7:00pm

**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](https://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](mailto: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 **Food Donations** sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/HXMFA> or drop by the table in the Church Foyer after weekend Masses.



## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

20676 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4G5

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Email: [parish.sjl@rcav.org](mailto:parish.sjl@rcav.org)

website: [stjlangley.rcav.org](http://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.

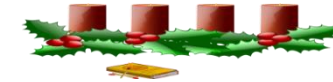
**Spanish Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month) 5:30 pm**

**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 10, 2023



### Second Sunday of Advent:

*Readings : Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85: 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.*

Making Room for God in Our Lives

If we read the first verse of the Gospel of Mark quickly we can miss it's importance. It is really a summary of Mark's message. "The beginning" looks back to the creation. "The good news," these glad tidings. "Jesus Christ, the Son of God," let's not beat around the bush, Jesus is the promised messiah.

Jesus didn't just come out of the blue, his coming was prepared for. Israel had been without a prophet for 400 years, now John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" It is not by accident that John is in the wilderness, the desert is a place of deprivation and loneliness, the stripping away of comforts and a place of testing. The 40 years in the desert following the Exodus from Egypt was a time of encounter with God, a time of building the relationship between God and Israel. It was a time of conflict, but ultimately a time of intimacy with God.

John is preparing the way of the Lord by calling people back to an intimacy with God. His baptism of repentance made a powerful impact by calling people to a metanoia, a change of heart and a deep interior relationship with God. To recognize one's personal need for forgiveness. The time of complacency and self-sufficiency is replaced by humble contrition and a turning back to God who is our strength and our protector. In his baptism John uses both symbols and gestures. Calling people

to the Jordan River he's recalling the Israelites coming into the promised land and living out their faith in God as a community and nation.

St. Mark associates John with the prophets, particularly Isaiah, but also Elijah and Malachi. Mark explicitly refers to that part of Isaiah known as the Book of Consolation where rhetoric of sin and punishment is replaced by God's caring and concern for his people in exile in Babylon. Ezra links the end of the exile with the decree of Cyrus, the King of Persia while Isaiah links it to the decree of the Lord. The passing power of humanity to the unshakable power of God's word. Isaiah sees the return of the exiles – the way – as a triumphal procession, a reenactment of the Exodus and a revelation of God.

On a human level many Jews stayed in Babylon. They were happy with their new lives and not prepared to embrace the hardships of returning with a prophet to rebuild Jerusalem. Isaiah is urging them to accept God's deliverance. To recognize that God is with them with power, but also with loving care. He uses the symbol of the shepherd as one who cares for his flock, particularly the weak and the humble. He will remove the obstacles. As it were rolling out the red carpet, that they could pass through the desert with its trials and suffering and achieve the life that God wanted for them.

The psalmist points out that only people who fear the Lord can hope to enjoy his salvation. Attitudes of kindness and truth... justice and peace make fit a place for God to dwell.

In our second reading St. Peter is writing to a people who think that because the world has not ended and they have not experienced judgement that it wasn't going to happen. St. Peter points out that this delay is orientated towards salvation, giving us time for repentance and reformation. God will judge! What we have to realize is that he is not on our time table. He is immortal and eternal. For him one day and a thousand years are the same. Leading lives of holiness and godliness prepares us for the day of God, that we may be found at peace. We are called to live in the realization that time is short and that God seeks recreation not destruction. New heavens and a new earth will be realized by a people who do not become lazy or complacent, but who live in eager expectation. Advent is a time of preparation and expectation. It is a time to make more room in our lives for God by purposely seeking him out. By imitating God's care and concern for us in the way we treat others, particularly who cannot return the favour. That being more aware of God's presence in our lives we may become more aware of God's presence in Christmas.

These are difficult times. It's hard to plan when we don't know what will happen. Many plans we have made have to be set aside and many of our cherished Christmas traditions are no longer allowed. It's very easy to get upset and depressed. We have to make the best of it and know that God's presence doesn't change, only our awareness of it. As we prepare focus on God and not the things around and realize that we will have even more to celebrate next year.  
Fr. Patrick

- The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults-

This weekend St. Joseph's parish will be celebrating the Rite of Welcoming during the Saturday 5pm Mass and the Rite of Acceptance during the Sunday 11am Mass. These liturgical rites are for those entering into or deepening their relationship with Christ and his Church through the RCIA process

**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](mailto: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. **LIMITED SUPPLY**

**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@stjosephangleley.com](mailto:youngadults@stjosephangleley.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](http://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 “The True Meaning of Christmas – Advent & Christmas” with Dr. Michael Barber** Register at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) For further questions contact the parish office.

**Project Advance – 2023: Empowering our Parish Vision**

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 **\$117,124.04 = 144 gifts, 11% participation of 1331 families, which brings us to 186%** of our diocesan goal (\$63,00.00) **or 73% of the parish goal**  
Please visit [projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca) to learn more about the Archdiocese Projects and to give online