

Our canticle from the first chapter of Luke is often called the Magnificat as the Virgin Mary magnifies the Lord. Her spirit rejoices in God her savior, in what God is doing through her. She recognizes herself as a “lowly” servant. It’s God’s plan to over throw proud human expectations and exult the lowly – this is God’s mercy.

St. John introduces us to John the Baptist as one sent by God to witness to the light. The symbols of light and darkness are important themes in the Gospel of John. Darkness reflects the human condition that is alienated from God. John has come that by renouncing sin and reforming their lives, people may be open to the light, that our lives May be open to the salvation that Jesus brings to the world.

John is not the messiah or Elijah or even a prophet (by his own estimation.) He uses the words of the Prophet Isaiah “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘made straight the way of the Lord.” While he baptizes with water... “among you stands one whom you do not know ...I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”

It is obvious that John is witnessing, not to himself but to the Messiah. Yet the people who he is witnessing to cannot comprehend who Jesus is. . They would like to put him in a category, This means they cannot be open his newness of the good news he brings. Advent is an important time for us to reflect on who Jesus truly is and how he is the cause for great joy even in the midst of worldly chaos and suffering.

St. Paul speaks to us of his own joy and asks both the Thessalonians and us to follow his example. Joy does not fluctuate due to circumstances or feelings. It is a life lived in the perspective of faith. Through joy, prayer and thankfulness Paul is able to live in the Spirit and give encouragement to others. It is his prayer that our “spirit and soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Salvation is for the whole person. Paul reminds us that it is God who calls us and he is trustworthy.

As we journey through this third week of Advent keep your eyes on a God who transcends our present circumstances and wants to gather us to himself so much so that he entered his own creation to share his life with us. Rejoice!!

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 **\$119,699.04 = 144 gifts, 11% participation of 1331 families, which brings us to 190%** of our diocesan goal (\$63,00.00) **or 75% of the parish goal** If you would like a tax receipt for 2023, you have until December 31st. 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
irissramsdales@gmail.com

CWL

We would like to extend a BIG thank you to the 80 ladies that joined us for this year’s very successful CWL Christmas dinner. Sisters Jeannine and Linda were our guest speakers, helping us to better understand their roll in “The Spirit of Formation for everyone”. All the ladies went home with a lovely Christmas card, handmade by Nancey Thomson and Anne Marie Sullivan.. Marg Rodrigues gifted everyone present, with a bundle of her creative delectable chocolates. The evening ended with Silent Night and wishes for a very Merry Christmas

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 promote CHRIST and bring focus on the true meaning of Christmas

Verso L’Alto Young Adults Team: for more information and check out events email:
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). 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: www.stcatherines.ca

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 “Rooted”** 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 **BY DECEMBER 31 2023** to be eligible for 2023. Donations received after this date will be applied to 2024.

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