

**Sunday December 24 Mass Schedule: Anticipation Mass –Saturday Dec. 23 5 pm.  
Sunday Dec. 24 9 am, 11 am – NO 8 pm Mass.**

### 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)

**DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS:** Your help is very appreciated and needed to prepare the church for the Christmas celebration. The more hands we have the better the end result. If we do not have enough helpers we will have to reduce the amount of decorations.

Friday, Dec 22: 3:00 - 5:00 pm Men and women requested to set up trees

Saturday, Dec 23: 10 am - 12 noon continue the set up in the foyer.

Saturday, Dec 23: 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We are in need of a new crew of men to set up the crèche and decorate the church - men and women requested.

Take Down Decorations Saturday, Jan 7: 12:00 - 5:00 pm - Your help is appreciated again.

It would be helpful to know who we can expect to attend therefore please contact Dorothy Miller @ 604 833 1754

#### 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

**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** All food donations must be dropped off on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Hall doors will be open from 9 am to 3 pm. **Sign up** <https://volunteersignup.org/HXMFA>



## 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](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.

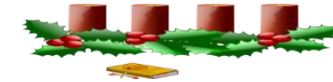
**Spanish Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month) 5:30 pm**

**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 17, 2023



### Third Sunday of Advent:

**Readings :** *Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11; Luke 1; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28.*

The third Sunday of Advent is often referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This label comes from a Latin word for joy. In the early history of the Church Advent was the counterpart to Lent. A time of fasting, penance and preparation for Christmas and so the third Sunday was set aside as a time to focus on the gladness of the promised salvation and the nearness of the Lord's coming. As part of the celebration the fast was temporarily suspended.

Now that Advent has become more of a time of parties in preparation for Christmas, to the point that at times we have challenges in getting past Christmas day, Gaudete Sunday loses its punch. However, as the priest wears rose vestments and lights the rose candle symbolizing the joy we are called to experience in the coming of Jesus, it is important to focus on the true meaning of Christmas: God's love poured out in his son and his presence in our lives, and the world, even if the world does not recognize him.

The prophet Isaiah rejoices that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him. He sees righteousness and praise springing up before all the nations. Realizing the age old mission of a servant of God has been given to him. It is God's desire to raise up the lower stratas of society through him. This same passage was quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18 to express his own mission.

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 31<sup>st</sup>. Please visit [projectadvance.ca](http://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](mailto: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](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.

**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](http://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](http://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.**