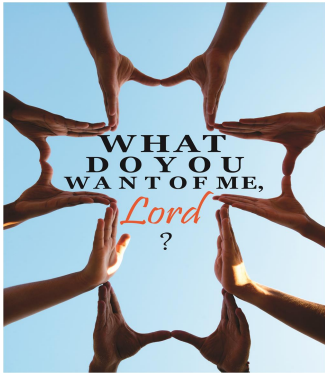


# December Newsletter



"They shall call him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1)

## Dear Parents,

We have arrived at yet another new beginning: the start of a new liturgical year and the beginning of our journey through the holy season of Advent. Each year is filled with beginnings and endings, but none are quite as hopeful as these. The start of the liturgical year is full of promise, as we journey through

the seasons, growing in our faith each day. The anticipation that Advent brings is unmatched, as we walk in the knowledge that Our Lord and Saviour will once again come to us in the humblest of ways – as a baby in a manger. The sheer joy and wonder of His coming are not to be found in our earthly

pursuits, but rather in the divine presence of Christ in our hearts. As we embark once again on our Advent journey of hope, let us open our hearts with every step so that we are truly ready to welcome the Christ child at Christmas.

## St. Joseph's Parish Mission

St. Joseph's will host a Parish Mission, from December 1-5, led by Fr. Lucien Larre. He will preach all the weekend English Masses and the evening program for Dec 3-5 will be as follows:

Rosary at 6:10pm • Mass at 6:30pm • Talk at 7:10pm • After the talk there will be confession

Titles of the talks:

- Weekend Masses Dec.1/2: The Most Important Decision in Life
- Monday Dec. 3: Clinging to Faith in a Godless Society
- Tuesday Dec. 4: Maintaining Hope in Hopeless Situations
- Wednesday Dec. 5: Bringing Love to a Violent, Hateful Society

## Advent Assemblies

As a community, we will mark the weeks of Advent at our morning assemblies. Our morning prayers will focus on preparing ourselves to welcome Christ at Christmas, with the lighting of the candles on our Advent wreath. Our final Advent assembly will be held on Friday, December 21 at 9:00am. Please join us for our assemblies if you are able.

## First Friday Mass

Our monthly Mass will be on Friday, December 7 at 9:00am at the church. The Mass will be prepared by the grade three class. Please join us in our liturgical celebration if you are able.

**Important****Dates:****December 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>–**St. Joseph's Parish  
Mission**3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>–**

Advent Assemblies

**7<sup>th</sup> – First Friday Mass****11<sup>th</sup>– Penitential**

Services for students

**13<sup>th</sup> – Winter**

Breakfast

**14<sup>th</sup> – Purdys orders**

to be picked up

afterschool

**19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas**

Musical and Bake Sale

**20<sup>th</sup> – Christmas**

Colour Day. No

money required

**22<sup>nd</sup> – January****6<sup>th</sup>Christmas Holidays****January 7<sup>th</sup> – School**

re-opens at 8:40am

**January 9<sup>th</sup> – Bottle**

Drive

**Penitential  
Services**

As part of our preparations for the coming of Christ, the students from grades three through seven will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the church on Tuesday, December 11. Please help your children to prepare themselves for confession.

**Christmas  
Musical**

The Christmas Musical will be held on Wednesday, December 19 at 1:00pm (Matinee) and 7:00pm. The choir will begin our evening with some carols at 6:30pm. The students need to be at the school by 6:15pm. A list of costumes for each grade will be sent home shortly. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to create the necessary costumes for those students who have an individual role in the play.

**Celebrate the Season!**

Come and celebrate our community with a winter breakfast! On Thursday, December 13, we welcome families to our school gym for a cup of coffee and a muffin and some fun. From 7:30am until 8:30am, parents and children will gather for a bit of conversation and good cheer. What a wonderful way to start your day! We hope that many of you will drop by on that morning to say hello and to take a few minutes to relax. Come one, come all!

**Purdys**

The Purdy's chocolates will be available for pick-up on Friday, Dec. 14. Please claim your chocolates promptly, as we cannot guarantee that they will be stored at an appropriate temperature at the school, and we certainly don't want them to spoil! Thank you to all of our families who supported this Christmas fundraiser. We hope you enjoy your treats over the holiday season.

**Bake Sale**

We will have a bake sale at the evening performance of the Christmas concert and we are looking for donations of baked goods. Please make sure that all items are wrapped or bagged. All donations should be dropped off at the school office by 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 19 so that they can be priced and laid out.

**Christmas Colour Day**

To celebrate the season, the students are invited to wear Christmas colours instead of their uniforms on Thursday, December 20. There will be no charge for this Colour Day and the students may wear red, green, sparkles, or anything that shows their Christmas spirit. Be creative! We're looking forward to a festive day.

**Dismissal for Christmas Holiday**

The students will be dismissed at **12:00pm** on Friday, December 21 to begin their Christmas holidays.

## Congratulations to Our Speech Arts Candidates

Congratulations to our intermediate students who participated in the St. Joseph's School Speech Arts Festival on November 27. It was a wonderful afternoon of celebrating the spoken word and we appreciate all of the time and effort that the students put into their presentations. Congratulations to the following students: Alyson Nguyen, Madilyn Kozikowski, Annabell Nguyen, Micaella Bento-Romano, Alicia Silvestre,

Timothy Truong, Teresa Nguyen, Brandon Tran, Angela Tran, Brittney Nguyen, Malaya Vickery, Alexander Borowski, and Anthony Silvestre. In addition, we would like to congratulate all of our students in grades four through seven, as each one of them presented either an individual poem or persuasive speech in their classrooms, as part of our Speech Arts program.

## Looking Ahead

School will re-open after the Christmas holiday on Monday, January 7. We will have Mass on that day at 9:00am, to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. We hope that you will be able to join us.

## St. Patrick's Regional Secondary Open House

Anyone interested in attending the school in September 2019 is invited to St. Patrick's High School Open House on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. There will be a short presentation on "Life as a Celtic", a tour of the facility and the opportunity to meet our staff and many of our students and to get all of your questions answered. This will be the **first** opportunity to pick up an **Application Package**. Please visit their web site [www.stpats.bc.ca](http://www.stpats.bc.ca) and click on **Information** and then read the **Information Booklet** for a comprehensive overview of our school.

**NO ENTRANCE EXAM REQUIRED.**

## Maintenance thanks

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard recently to make our grounds neat and tidy. Particular thanks to Mr. Jason Nguyen, Mr. Joseph Romano and Mr. Jaime Martinez, who spearheaded work parties to trim, rake and blow. Thank you also to Ms. Tanya Khuu for making our sidewalk garden look so lovely with her plants. We truly appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to our school!

## Save Your Bottles

Please save your bottles and cans during the Christmas holidays, as we will have a bottle drive on Wednesday, January 9. On that morning, please bring your empties to the school parking lot, where they will be sorted and picked up at

the end of the day. The money raised from this event will go to support co-curricular activities, such as field trips, in order to lessen the overall cost to parents. Thank you to Mr. Evans and to the grade seven students for their hard work in making this event a success.

## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Casual Day and Hot Chocolate sale last month. Together, we raise \$535 to donate to the Covenant House Christmas backpack program. Your generosity will bring some Christmas comfort to youth who are working hard to rebuild their lives. Thank you also for supporting our Colour Day last month. Together, we raised \$365 to donate to the Holy Childhood Association, which helps children in developing nations. Thank you for supporting our outreach programs

Special thanks to all of the families who attended our Scavenger Hunt on November 14. It was a great evening, which gave everyone a chance to visit every area of the school and to learn some new things about St. Joseph's. The teachers worked hard to prepare their fun activities and we appreciate your support of our efforts.

## **We need your feedback! Please complete and return this form.**

As you know, we embarked on two new initiatives to communicate your child's learning this year: interim reports that you received earlier in the term; and three-way conferences instead of parent/teacher conferences. We continue to strive to make our communications meaningful to you, and we are asking for your feedback regarding these changes. Could you please take a few minutes to reflect upon the interim reports and the three-way conference format by completing the form below and returning it to us. Thank you very much for your help.

### **Interim report:**

- I found the interim report very useful and informative.
- I found the interim report somewhat useful and informative.
- I did not find the interim report useful or informative.

Please explain your thinking:

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### **Three-Way Conferences:**

- I found the three-way conference very useful and informative.
- I found the three-way conference somewhat useful and informative.
- I did not find the three-way conference useful or informative.

What did you find helpful about the three-way conference?

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What are some ways that we can make the three-way conference more meaningful to you?

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