



## St. Anthony's Parish

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Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9am- 4pm; Wednesday 9am-12nn; Thu 2pm—5pm

Visit to the Sick at Home: by appointment.



Dear Parishioners of St. Anthony:

It is this time of the year that feeling of inner joy come and beset in all Christian hearts wherever they are in the world. The spirit of Christmas simply penetrates our being and there is nothing that can stop it.

Everything changes: from green trees to brown or totally losing their leaves, green surrounding to snow-filled-ground, warm to cold weather, house sparkling with Christmas lights and decorations.

As part of everything that God has created, may we ourselves be touched by God's love and allow Him to change our hearts for the better as He would always want every day of our lives.

Merry Christmas!

Dennis Gonia  
Pastoral Assistant

### **World Day of Peace – 24 Hours for World Peace Online Vigil**

A 24-hour on-line international vigil for world peace is to be held this coming January 1, 2014, the World Day of Peace. Its goal is to show the hope we hold and share for all of humanity on the first day of the new year. This initiative "was motivated by appeals made by Pope Francis and the CCCB to pray and fast for peace in Syria last September." To participate in the vigil and to follow along with preparations, subscribe at: <http://24hoursforworldpeace.org>.

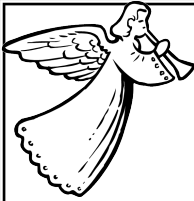
**DAYS OF OBLIGATION.** In Canada there are two holy days of obligation: January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; December 25, Christmas: the Nativity of the Lord. Mass Schedule on **Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, World Day of Prayer for Peace, New Year's Day - **9am Mass (St. Joseph's Parish, Smithers) & 11:30am Mass (St. Anthony's Parish, Houston).**

### **Parish Christmas Gathering & Family Day**

Please mark your calendar: we will have our Parish Christmas Gathering on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.** It will be a potluck lunch to be held at the parish basement after our usual 11:30am Mass. This is an opportunity for us, as a parish to celebrate Christmas together. See you there!!!

### **Ministry Schedule for January 4 & 5, 2014, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

Jan 5: Greeters - Shirley Collins & Jane Wardrop; Lectors - Jenni Halladay, Vic James; EMC - Barbara Jarvis, Gail James; Altar Servers - Lucas, Alicia, Isabelle, Tiffany; Gift Bearers - Robert & Devynn Perrault, Georgina Dotto



**St. Joseph's Parish**

4023 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
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 Smithers, B.C.  
 V0J 2N0



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 Website: <http://stjosephsmithers.com> ▪ e-mail: [sjparish@telus.net](mailto:sjparish@telus.net)  
 Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am—3pm

**Parish Christmas Gathering & Family Day**

Mark your calendar for our Parish Christmas Gathering & Family Day on **Saturday & Sunday, January 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. We will have a very simple celebration marking the end of the Christmas Season. Cake, coffee and tea will be served after each Mass. See you there!!!



**"St. Joseph's Parish 100 Years Jubilee:  
 Celebrating God's Faithful Blessings  
 yesterday, today and forever"**

As previously announced, our next scheduled activity in relation to the observance of our 100 Years Jubilee is an evening of **story telling** of parishioners early experiences at St. Joseph's Church. Save your stories, come and join us on **Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7pm at the Parish Center**.

**Reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation &**

**First Holy Communion** will take place on May 2014 with Most Reverend Bishop Stephen Jensen. Sacramental preparations will begin on January. If your child is in **Grade 2 (or older but have not receive these Sacraments yet)**, and you would like him/her to celebrate these Sacraments at around Easter time, please contact the parish office to register. Parents who have children receiving the Sacraments are required to attend a **meeting with Fr. Rector on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm at the Parish Center.**



**Ministry Schedule for January 4 & 5, 2014, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

Jan 4: Greeters - Gary & Mary Heinbecker, June Philpot; Lectors - Jim Schwab, Gemma Gillis; EMC - Willy K., Maria S.  
 Jan 5: Greeters - J & M Ziegler, M Vandermaal ;Lectors - E Bouvier, M-E Kallio ;EMC -C deGelder, Theo S, D Cardinal

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 ★ Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish & St. Anthony's Parish, Sisters & Brothers in Christ,  
 ★  
 ★ "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep  
 ★ darkness – on them light has shone." (Is. 9:2)  
 ★  
 ★ The long darkness of night that we have during winter months is an obvious darkness  
 ★ that people experience. In the lives of other people and in some other parts of the  
 ★ world, there is an experience of different kinds of darkness surrounding lives:  
 ★ calamities, wars, chaos, sickness, lost of a job, or even conflicts in marriage and family.  
 ★ People's unbelief in God and turning away from Him can also be considered darkness  
 ★ that is present in today's world. In this darkness the message of Christmas may be  
 ★ found valuable and could be better appreciated.  
 ★  
 ★ Christmas is the Solemnity of the Nativity of Christ - the Word made flesh, who dwelt  
 ★ among us. In the history of our salvation, Prophet Isaiah foretold this birth as a great  
 ★ light who dispels the darkness in this world. The Evangelist John described it as: "The  
 ★ true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." (Jn. 1:9) Christ, later on in  
 ★ the same Gospel introduced himself: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will  
 ★ never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." (Jn. 8)  
 ★  
 ★ Christmas invites us to turn to Christ as the Light of the world; as the brilliant Light that  
 ★ shines in the darkness surrounding creation, giving hope; as the Divine Light who came  
 ★ to this world bringing life.  
 ★  
 ★ Every tiny light on a Christmas tree, in the streets, or at home should lead us back to  
 ★ Christ, the Light of the world. In the same way that every little act of kindness,  
 ★ goodness and generosity should be a real manifestation of the light that we received  
 ★ from Him.  
 ★  
 ★ Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and St. Joseph, may  
 ★ we become instruments of God in bringing the Light of Christ  
 ★ into this world!  
 ★  
 ★ A Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all!  
 ★  
 ★ With my Christmas Blessings,  
 ★  
 ★ Fr. Rectorino M. Tolentino, Jr.  
 ★  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*

