WELCOME!

This is “move in weekend” for U of A students, so if you are a new face, please be assured that you are welcome. If you see new faces, please be nice to them!

FORMED UPDATE

It turned out that we had money left over from last year’s appeal, which with the amount collected is just enough to put us over the top! Thanks to all who contributed! If you’ve never tried “Netflix for Catholics” see the quick guide in the AT A GLANCE section on the back of this page.

COVID STUFF

St. Joseph’s College Chapel is very cozy, but this is hardly an advantage in COVID times. We ask that you wear masks in the chapel (except from when you actually receive communion) and use a “bow of peace” instead of a handshake. Good air circulation is a necessity, so please feel free to open an extra window near you. And of course if you haven’t been vaccinated, please do so if you are eligible!

Over the next few weeks we may tinker a bit with things around the edges. Like putting holy water back in the font, or rearranging seating. I as Chaplain am struggling with the impulse to “go back to normal” while recognizing that when the numbers are worsening it seems strange to relax restrictions. I appreciate your patience and ask for your prayers.

COLLEGE PROGRAMMING

There are various activities from Campus ministry and the broader College community that will begin in the next few weeks. Keep an eye on the bulletin board; I will also try to give notice, as space allows, in this bulletin. The College is a vibrant and multidimensional entity, and as a member of the worshipping community you are an integral part of it.

The AT A GLANCE section gives various ways to follow goings on at SJC, if you use social media. Just type in SJCUOFA (That’s SJC U of A all squished together) into your favorite social media platform and you’ll likely find us.

Visit us online
StJosephsCollege.ca

Chaplain
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT DECLARATION

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ("Orange Shirt Day") is approaching. In case you hear a Land Acknowledgment Declaration at mass and wonder what is going on, please see the following excerpt from a communication sent to all priests in the Archdiocese by Archbishop Smith on June 16 of this year. It is has been trimmed a little to fit here.

Recently the practice has arisen of making a public acknowledgement of Treaty land at the beginning of civic events. The motivation is the desire to reach out to the Indigenous peoples of Canada in reconciliation and friendship through an acknowledgement that the territory they now share with non-Indigenous people is their ancestral land. With respect to making such acknowledgments in a church, or at liturgical events hosted in Catholic institutions, the Bishops of Alberta offer the following direction.

We must recognize that, for the Indigenous peoples, “land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values” (Pope Francis, Laudato si, n. 146). Furthermore, they understand treaty as a solemn covenant, entered into between equal and sovereign peoples, to confirm and preserve the respective rights of each party. It is a sacred agreement of peace and friendship, witnessed by the Great Spirit (God), and thus summons each party to a relationship of mutual respect, marked by honesty, kindness, sharing and strength...

...To be suitable for use in a church, outside of the sacred liturgy, or at a liturgical event in a Catholic institution, the formulation of acknowledgement must be not a political but a theological statement. In this regard, we recognize that the Church’s theology of creation finds an echo in the Indigenous respect for the land as gift of the Creator. Acknowledging God as giver of the gift is in itself an act of praise. Therefore, where it is deemed appropriate to offer a treaty land acknowledgment at an event held in a Catholic church or at a liturgical event hosted in a Catholic institution, the following formulation is to be used:

“We acknowledge that [Treaty N.] territory, on which we stand, is the ancestral traditional land of the Indigenous peoples, and is common home to everyone in virtue of God, our Creator’s, gracious gift.”

BAPTISM
Contact the SJC Chaplain at least 2 months prior to date of Baptism.

MARRIAGE
Contact the SJC Chaplain at least 1 year prior to date of Marriage.

SACRAMENTS
For other sacraments, please contact the SJC Chaplain.

AT A GLANCE...

Email
jim.stenberg@ualberta.ca for more information.

Go to st-joes.formed.org to log in to our FORMED account ("Netflix for Catholics")

To donate online, go to https://www.ualberta.ca/st-josephs/giving/index.html

For pre-authorized giving, email elsie.liu@ualberta.ca

To check out the website, type the following in your browser: ualberta.ca/stjosephs

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