



Life @ SJC



Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness... In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side.

- Pope Francis, *Admirabile Signum* (On the Meaning and Significance of the Nativity),
December 1, 2019

SJC News - December 2020

Christmas & New Year's Mass Times

Celebrate Christmas with us! This year, our Christmas and New Year's celebrations will take place over Zoom, and we invite you to [register here](#). All are welcome!

For more information, please contact [Fr. Jim Stenberg](#), SJC's Chaplain.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

SJC Christmas Mass Schedule:

Celebrate with us! 

Christmas Eve:	8:00 PM
Christmas Day:	10:00 AM
New Year's Eve:	7:00 PM
New Year's Day:	12:00 PM





Thank You for Your Generosity to SJC

In this holiday season, we want to celebrate and thank the SJC community. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to present unprecedented challenges for the college, and the many donations that you make are integral to supporting continued services and programs for our students.

In total, **over 250 parishioners, former students, and friends of the College have contributed more than \$100,000 during this Advent Season.** We can't thank you enough!

If for some reason you didn't receive our most recent letter, and invitation to support the college, you can find the information on our [webpage](#). Please [email us](#) if you'd like to receive written communication in addition to this e-newsletter, and there is still time to make an end of the tax year donation!

Give to

SJC Responds to Covid-19

This year our faculty and staff have gone above and beyond to support our students. Their service has allowed us to implement COVID-19 safety plans, resident programming, check-ins, meal delivery, and have helped our students feel safe and at home in the midst of uncertain times. Likewise, in the classroom we have maintained strong enrolments while shifting to remote learning. We also look forward to re-opening our chapels as health measures allow.

As supporters of SJC, you too have been a part of this amazing effort to continue the work of furthering our mission and identity. Thank you for helping us to remain a strong community, able to keep welcoming people into our spaces, whether physical or virtual.



Theresa & Mona-Lee hosted a virtual Fireside Chat to check in with residents at the end of the term.

yegSpark



yegSpark Engages Volunteers & Has SJC Connections

The Edmonton Catholic Agencies Network (ECAN), of which St. Joseph's College is an integral part, has launched new volunteering initiative called yegSpark. yegSpark recruits volunteers for organizations in need through a number of charities, non-profits, and social service agencies in Edmonton.

And the SJC connection doesn't stop there! Rielle Gagnon - SJC Alumna, current board member, and second year law student at the U of A - has been involved in yegSpark's development from the beginning. You can hear more from her in [this recent Grandin Media article](#), or in [her live interview on Global News](#).

Sign up to volunteer on the [yegSpark website!](#)

A Reflection from our Campus Minister on Isaiah 40:28-31

*"The Lord is an everlasting God,
he created the boundaries of the earth.
He does not grow tired or weary,*



*his understanding is beyond fathoming.
He gives strength to the wearied,
he strengthens the powerless.
Young men may grow tired and weary,
youths may stumble,
but those who hope in the Lord renew their
strength,
they put out wings like eagles.
They run and do not grow weary,
walk and never tire”*

Isaiah 40: 28-31

As we read this in Morning Prayer a few weeks ago, I was given comfort in the midst of the news of another provincial lockdown. It feels to me, and I am sure for many of you, that we were coming to the end of a long race, only to be told this final stretch is uphill. While we have some indications that the finish line is near, it is still not quite in sight. What is in sight is the strenuous hill that feels daunting and exhausting after what has already been a perilous race.

But then I read Isaiah.

Powerlessness. It could probably be seen as a theme overarching for all of 2020. There have been many times in my life where powerlessness and surrender were symbols of weakness. I have the tendency to want to put on my superhero cape and try to conquer my own life, and the world. But then, inevitably I stumble, I fall, or like in COVID times, I am faced with things so far out of the realm of my control. This place of powerlessness has left me feeling frustrated, angry... but under the frustration and anger was fear. I still find myself in this place of anger and fear at times.

Powerlessness now means something totally different to me. Today when I hear powerlessness and think of surrendering and trusting in the Lord, I hear freedom, comfort and peace. We hear in Isaiah an image of flying on eagles wings, strengthened and lifted by the Lord. In order for God to lift us, we need to surrender. **Sometimes, for me anyway, this surrender needs to happen multiple times a day: *I can't do this, you can, thy will be done.*** And truly, more than anything, I am surrendering the illusion of being in control.

Trust, like love, is less of a feeling and more of a decision. We can look back on moments in our life and see that we trusted. And so today, let us step out in trust, surrender to God from a place that acknowledges all the things we are powerless over, and know that in these moments that God will lift us up as we “put out wings like eagles”.

With love,
Theresa Robinson
Campus Minister, St. Joseph's College

Christ has only one mother in the flesh, but we all bring forth Christ in faith.

-St. Ambrose

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