

St. Joseph Church – Grande Prairie (since 1920)

10404 102 Street, Grande Prairie AB T8V 2W3

To ensure access to the church, please schedule your Pilgrimage visit in advance:

- **Online** (<https://booking.appointy.com/ArchGM>)
- **Email** (exec.agm@live.ca)
- **Phone** (780-532-9766)

During the Year of St. Joseph, pilgrims are welcome to visit

Monday – Friday	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

For information about Sunday and daily Mass times and how to register visit <https://saintjoseph.ca/>



DID YOU KNOW...?

Before receiving the name of Grande Prairie, the area was known as 'Buffalo Plains'. In 1881, the Hudson Bay Company had a post near Bear Lake. In 1899, the Company moved closer to Saskatoon Lake where a small group of settlers had established themselves. In 1901, a house-chapel was built there for visiting priests. This mission site was named St-Vincent-Ferrier.

With a growing community east of the mission at Saskatoon Lake, the house-chapel was moved and a church was built in 1908. As more settlers moved in and opened farm land all around, chapels were built where people could gather when a priest visited: Rio Grande in 1916 (a larger church was built in 1929 and was the last church blessed by Bishop Grouard); Buffalo Lake in the Spring of 1917; at Kleskun Hills in the autumn of the same year; and at Clairmont in 1918. (After 1931, the chapel in Clairmont was moved to Sexsmith.) Before the end of 1932, churches were built in Hythe and at Webster.

Construction of the first St. Joseph Church in Grande Prairie began in 1920 and was blessed on May 15, 1921 by Bishop Grouard. In April of 1932, at the invitation of Bishop Guy, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the Redemptorist priests, was asked to assume the pastoral care of the Grande Prairie region, as well as Dawson Creek, Chetwynd and Fort St. John in B.C.

On November 9, 1952, Bishop Routhier blessed a new church building for the community of Grande Prairie. However, on December 12, 1966, fire destroyed the church. Miraculously, the tabernacle and its content were found intact in the ruins (La Voix, 1967, p.20).

On 12 May 1968 a 'sod-turning ceremony' was held for the construction of a new church and pastoral centre. The estimated cost was set at \$400,000.00. The Catholic population at the time was approximately 3000 souls. On Sunday May 11, 1969 they celebrated the blessing of the new St. Joseph Church by Archbishop Henri Routhier.

Construction of the present church complex was completed and blessed by Archbishop Pettipas in 2007.