

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1- RCIA- Every Wednesday at 7pm at St. Paul's Church.
- 2- We will resume the "Recycled Bottle drive" for the Church Altar Flowers: We are requesting your generous hearts to donate your empty bottles and cans. Please put them inside the toolshed besides the garage. Thank you.
- 3- Are you a **Catholic woman** interested in developing leadership skills? The **Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (CWLF)** is accepting applications for its second Leadership Program for Canadian Catholic women. The Program will be facilitated by the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa. For more information about the CWLF, the Leadership Program, or to complete an application form, visit [www.cwlfcanada.ca](http://www.cwlfcanada.ca).
- 4- For those who are using the following un-registered envelope numbers: 325, 396, 111, 13, 145, 233, 78, 315, 225, 115, 77, 178, 215, 238, 90, 339, 807, 203, 364, & 797, Please send us your complete Name, Address and phone number for tax receipt purposes.
- 5- There will be a **Grade 4 Bible Retreat** at the St. Paul's Hall and Church from 8am-12pm on November 13-15 and November 19-22, 2018.
- 6- **Daily Masses for November 14-16 and November 19-22, 2018 will be held at the Portable same time.**
- 7- **Ministries Training** for New and Existing Volunteers will be conducted on Sunday, November 18, 2018 right after the 11:00am Mass and Monday, Nov 19th at 7:00pm.



**St. Paul Parish-**  
Fort McMurray

**Adoration is  
Cancelled for  
Nov. 16th**

**Will Resume on  
Friday Nov 23rd.**



## Knights of Columbus Pasta Dinner

Pasta dinner paying tribute to Veterans  
Friday November 16th at 6pm  
St. Paul's Hall

Come join the Knights of Columbus as we honour our Veterans in the month of November. We will also be celebrating the arrival of our new parish priest Father Francis Kai Phan

- \$15 per person or \$25 per couple
- For more information call:
- 780-715-5844 or 780-714-0864

## ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH FORT McMURRAY

480 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 4R7

Ph. No.: 780-791-4305; ; Fax: 587-258-6898

*Website : [www.stpaulparishwb.com](http://www.stpaulparishwb.com)*

*Email: [office@stpaulparishwb.com](mailto:office@stpaulparishwb.com)*

## November 11, 2018 — 32nd Sunday in Ordinary

### Liturgy Schedule

#### Monday-Thursday

Rosary & Mass 8:40 am

Friday Adoration after Mass at 7:00pm

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

The *Sacrament of Confession* is available  
30 minutes before the start of each Mass.

### Parish Staff

Parish Priest

*Fr. Francis Khai Phan*

[franciskhai@hotmail.com](mailto:franciskhai@hotmail.com)

Assistant Pastor

*Fr. Jestoni Porras*

[jestoniporras0903@gmail.com](mailto:jestoniporras0903@gmail.com)

*Bro. Jayson Durante*

[jvdurante@gmail.com](mailto:jvdurante@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: *Deacon Joe Simangan*

[office@stpaulparishwb.com](mailto:office@stpaulparishwb.com)

### BAPTISM

*Baptism preparation* on every THIRD  
Tuesday of the month. Next one will be  
held on **November 20th** at 7 pm at St. Paul  
Church.

The *Sacrament of  
Baptism* is celebrated  
Outside of the Mass:  
**November 11 & 25**  
at 2:00pm.



### COLLECTIONS

(Weekly—October 28, 2018)

Loose Bills & Coins :	\$ 1,077.05
Envelopes:	2,619.50
PAP	2,408.25
<u>Stole Fees</u>	<u>400.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,504.80</b>



*THANK YOU!*

Introducing...



#### WHY?

The gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community we are called in gratitude, faith and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools.

#### WHAT?

The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf. GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within the province of Alberta.

#### WHO? YOU!

GrACE invites all those committed to Catholic education, through the unity of the Holy Spirit, to be advocates and witnesses for our schools' successes and their future.

#### WHERE?

In your homes, your neighborhoods, your schools and your parishes. Watch for and get involved with your local GrACE team. Tell your stories of Catholic education. Let your voice be heard.

#### WHEN? NOW!

Every day is a celebration of Catholic education. Let us be grateful for our blessings and commit our support.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▲ Catholic education affirms parents as their children's primary educators and respects the rights of parents to choose the school that meets their needs
- ▲ In Catholic schools, it is our deepest desire to ensure that every child knows and experiences the love of God through the witness of their community
- ▲ Principles of diversity and inclusion are central in the teachings of the Catholic Church and permeate all aspects and curriculum in a Catholic school
- ▲ 180,000 students currently attend Catholic schools in Alberta
- ▲ Alberta is one of three provinces in Canada with publicly funded Catholic education. Ontario and Saskatchewan are the other two.
- ▲ Catholic education in Alberta is 158 years old
- ▲ An organized effort of public school lobbyists are attempting to disrupt Catholic education in our province. Your engagement, your advocacy, your voice is vital.

*"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen"*

Romans 16:24

## Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time B - Merry Widows - 11 November, 2018.

by: **Deacon Raymond Chan**

This Sunday's readings seem to focus on widows and it reminds me of a comedy operetta *The Merry Widow* by the Austro-Hungarian composer Franz Lehár about a rich widow, and her countrymen's attempt to keep her money in the principality by finding her the right husband. The widows in the Bible are rich too, not in wealth, but in faith.

In ancient Jewish times if a man died, his widow would be in a difficult situation if she did not have an adult son to care for her. The widow of Zeraphath in the first reading (1 Kings 17:10-16), a gentile, was suffering from the famine. She had a young son. No one cared about her, no one except God who sent the prophet Elijah to her. Sent though he was, Elijah seemingly was oblivious to her plight. He asked for food and drink for himself. She answered, **"As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was ... to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die."** But God has a trick for the treat up his sleeve. We hear it when Elijah now repeats what God had commissioned: **The God of Israel says, "The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the Lord sends rain upon the earth."** The widow trusted in God's goodness even in the face of impending death. She instinctively released her own control of things. This is the root meaning of trust. She follows the law of hospitality, caring for the stranger. When the chips are down, let go and let God. Even in her last extremity. God rewarded her generosity. I am sure she became a merry widow ever since.

One of the most beautiful stories in the Bible is the story of a widow and her daughter-in-law, Naomi and Ruth from the *Book of Ruth*. Naomi, a widow with husband and sons dead, told her daughters-in-law to return to their parents' homes for their own protection. One, Orpah, left her. The other, Ruth, a Moabite, stayed with Naomi to care for her. **"Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people. Your God, my God."** (Ruth 1:16). Naomi returned to Bethlehem along with Ruth. Naomi and Ruth survived on gleanings whatever was left over in the barley fields after the harvesters finished their work. God rewarded Ruth through a rich farmer Boaz, who was attracted by her kindness to her mother-in-law and her virtue. Boaz and Ruth married and God rewarded them beyond their fondest imagination. One of their great grandchildren would be King David. Another descendent, a thousand years away, would be Jesus Christ. God can never be outdone in generosity. Another merry widow.

Now, let's look at the widow of the Gospel reading (Mark 12:38-44). Another widow illustrates the same kind of generosity, putting the last two pennies she has into the collection box. Jesus sees a widow with nothing but **rich in faith, giving from the heart**. Jesus contrasted the widow with those who gave from their surplus, as an obligation and to show their wealth. So often the poor are more generous than the rich.

We live in a challenging society with people believing in materialistic capitalism thinking that the wealthy have the right to take advantage of the poor. Some actually say, "Might makes right." They will say that the division into the haves and have-nots is merely the survival of the fittest. Materialistic capitalism is the sum total of personal sins, taking advantage of the less fortunate for personal gain. We, the Church, cannot allow this. We have to protect widows. If we think that some must lose so others will gain, we too are uniting our personal sins of greed and materialism to the sum total of a sinful society. For this we need the mercy of God. It is not that wealth is bad. What is wrong and sinful is using improper means to gain wealth, to waste wealth regardless of the poor around us, to be self-centred, keeping God's gift as personal instead of sharing. What is hardest is to give ourselves in love and concern, it costs more than reaching out for our purses. Jesus marvelled that a widow who had so little gave to the Temple Treasury because she loved and cared. We, the haves, should rejoice when there is care for the poor. Indeed, the strength of our society, and any society, is measured by the love and concern we have for our weakest members. We need to care for widows. We have an obligation and need to turn them into merry widows. Starving will never be in the dictionary. Imagine the day: **"The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine.."** (Isaiah 25:6) with angle choir singing in the background: **"Love unspoken, faith unbroken, All life through. Strings are playing, hear them saying, "Love me true". Now the echo answers, "Say you want me too". All the world's in love with love And I love you."** (*Merry Widow* lyric)