

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1- **There's a Box at the back of the Church** intended as "Mass offering box for the Deceased". Prayers will be offered on "All Souls Day"-Nov.2nd, 2018.
- 2- Join us every Thursday for a **10 week multi-parish small-group retreat** that delves into the simplicity and grandeur of Consoling spirituality. This retreat is based on the popular book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, Consoling the Heart of Jesus.
Duration: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Venue: St. Paul Hall Please contact the following to sign up; *Aaron Bessong: 780 880 4440*
Maria E Hernandez: 780 880 8496
- 3- **RCIA- Every Wednesday** at 7pm at St. Paul's Church.
- 4- **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. Thank you.
- 5- **We need more volunteers** for the **various ministries** in the Church. We would like to request everyone, those **existing volunteers** and **new volunteers** to sign-up.
This will allow us to:
 1. Have your latest contact info.
 2. Ensure you get any updates / changes regarding this ministry.
 3. Follow-up if you have not already signed the Safe Parish Form.
 4. Scheduling purposes.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and we pray that you will continue to serve our parish.
- 6- 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.



St. Paul Parish-
Fort McMurray
NIGHT VIGIL
PRAYER MEETING
November 9th
at 7:00pm

All are invited



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

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Website : www.stpaulparishwb.com

Email: office@stpaulparishwb.com

November 4, 2018 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Jestoni Porras

jestoniporras0903@gmail.com

Bro. Jayson Durante

jvdurante@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: *Deacon Joe Simangan*

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:

1-Outside of the Mass:
November 11 & 25
at 2:00pm.

2- For within Mass:
- Saturdays, 7:00pm
- Sundays, 9:00am

Pls. arrange with office.



COLLECTIONS

(Weekly—October 28, 2018)

Loose Bills & Coins :	\$ 1,506.50
Envelopes:	2,883.75
PAP	2,758.25
Kids for Kids	621.70
Votive Candles	769.45
Total	\$ 8,539.65



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 First Sunday in Ordinary Time B - Can we get closer - 4 November, 2018.

by: *Deacon Raymond Chan*

In this Sunday's readings, we're reminded that beyond the laws, our faith proposes is the love with which we observe them and to which we're called. Even if we begin simply observing them for other motives, they pave the way for us to go beyond them and achieve what the Lord truly wants from us.

In the First Reading (Deuteronomy 6:2-6) Moses promises the Israelites that if they are observant and faithful to the covenant they made with the Lord, they will be blessed with a prosperous life. Moses exhorts them to see this as the secret to their success. And, he takes it a step further: he exhorts them to love the Lord with everything they've got: unconditionally. The Law that comes from the covenant has the potential to pave the way to a deeper relationship with the Lord and with each other.

In the Second Reading the Letter to the Hebrews (7:23-28) St Paul reminds us that without Our Lord we are weak in maintaining a good relationship with God. Mediation and strength pave the way for us to go beyond the law and achieve what the Lord wants from us: our unconditional love.

The Gospel reading (Mark 12:28b-34) brings us to the end of a series of debates in Mark's Gospel with the chief priests, scribes, and elders, and it ends on an encouraging note. After various attempts to exploit discussion on God's word to score political points or discredit Our Lord, we find a refreshing change of pace: a scribe who is actually interested in seeking the truth and want to know the answer. I think he is serious when he asked Jesus what was the first of all the commandments. There were 613 laws that Moses gave in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. They were treated with such importance that there were a whole series of laws written to protect these 613. For example, the law, Keep Holy the Sabbath, was protected by detailed laws on what was and wasn't viewed as work during the Sabbath. They would say that a person could not carry water from a well if that well was not next to the house. They even define how many steps are not too far. This might seem peculiar to us, but really the heart of all this was how sacred those 613 laws were and how seriously the Hebrews followed them. But the Jewish scholars asked the question, "**Which is the first of all the commandments?**" For centuries the learned scholars have debated this question.

Jesus, a nobody from Galilee with no formal education, instead of arguing over the fine points of this or that law, he merely quoted two verses from the Torah, one from the *Book of Deuteronomy* and one from the *Book of Leviticus*. From *Deuteronomy* the Lord took, "**You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, whole mind and whole strength, and your whole soul.**" And from *Leviticus* he quoted, "**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**" The scribe reached the moment of truth, and said, "**You are right in saying that the love of God and love of neighbour are more important than all the burnt offering and sacrifices one could make.**" The scribe then heard what his heart was yearning to hear. Jesus said to him, "**You are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven.**" How about us? How far are we from the Kingdom of Heaven? Can we get closer?

The answer is simple but it doesn't mean it's easy. If we had to do what Jesus asks, it would take us out of our comfort zone. Sometimes it is mere fear of something different. Jesus is always offering us something different, some of which we may not want. We want to stay in our rut. We have surrounded ourselves with limited horizons and are afraid to stretch them. As Pope Francis said on annual Day of Prayer in July 28, 2013: "**All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.**" In order to love God with our whole heart, mind and soul, we need to love all those he created in his image and we have to love that image within us and not just our own image in ourselves. When Jesus says there are two greatest commandments (**loving God and loving our neighbour**), he insists that the way we love each other is a key way in which we love him. Jesus said whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we do it to him. There is a recent news about the province is considering bringing abortion to Fort McMurray. When we stand before God to make an account of our lives as pro-life people, we will not only be asked if we prevented people from dying. We are asked to protect the unborn and to support not just spiritually but physically the mother who decides to keep the child. We will also be asked how well we nurtured and cared for the quality of life of the least among us. How often do we sacrifice from our own needs to share with the hungry? How often do we extend compassion to those in prison? Are we irritated or moved by the homeless? **May our love for you, Lord and those around us be similar to the love you have shown to us so that we can get closer to the Kingdom of Heaven.**