

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1- We have resumed 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 beside the garage. Thank you.
- 2- For those who are using the following un-registered envelope numbers: 325, 396, 111, 145, 233, 78, 225, 77, 178, 215, 90, 339, 807, 203, 364, & 797, Please send us your complete Name, Address and phone number for tax receipt purposes.



There will be no weekday morning Masses on December 15 to 24, and 26 to 28, 2018.

Simbang Gabi



Christmas Novena Masses run from **December 15 to 23, 2018** here at St. Paul's RC Parish. Masses are at **7PM**. All are welcome to attend and bring their own favorite food!

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
Email: office@stpaulparishwb.com

December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent

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

COLLECTIONS

(Weekly—December 9, 2018)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 1,231.35
Envelopes	3,015.90
PAP	2,506.00
<u>Hall Rental</u>	<u>145.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,898.25



THANK YOU!

Now, Jesus' birthday is nearer. We think of praying to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We say, "Thank you, God, for Jesus — your gift to us."



St. Paul RC Parish-
Fort McMurray

Day Adoration

on Friday, Dec. 21st
10am to 6pm

All are welcome to attend!

For more info, contact Syriac/Celin
@ 780-370-2883.



24th Annual Community Christmas Day Dinner

December 25th, 12pm to 2pm

To volunteer call Jim at 780-791-3045.
To make a donation call Lloyd at 780-714-1435.
For general inquires and information call Mike at 780-799-3777
or email dalmik@shaw.ca.

Event Location

Father Turcotte School Gymnasium
(Franklin Avenue & Hospital Street)

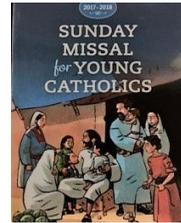
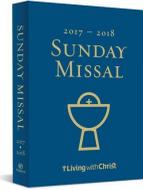


St. Paul Roman Catholic Parish
484 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, T9H 4R7

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

- Dec 15 – Dec 23, 2018** Simbang Gabi
(Christmas Novena Masses) at 7: 00 pm
- Dec 24, 2018** 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Dec 25, 2018** 11:00 am @ St. Paul’s Church
11:00 am @ Fort McKay
- Dec 31, 2018** 6:00 pm Mass of Thanksgiving
- Jan 1, 2019** 11:00 am Mary, the Holy Mother of God

For to us a child is born ...he is named Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)



**SUNDAY
MISSALS,
YOUTH
MISSALS
&
CALENDARS**

**ARE FOR
SALE**

**AT \$5.00
EACH.**

The Third Sunday of Advent C — How can we keep from singing for joy!

Dec 16, 2018

by: *Deacon Raymond Chan*

Rejoice! St. Paul commends in the Second Reading, (Phil. 4:4-7) **“Brothers and sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice.”** The word for rejoice in Latin is *gaudete*, so quite naturally **this Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday.**

Why all this rejoicing? Are we finally getting a break from somber Advent? Advent can be full of fear and worry, even though there are supposed to be celebrations of peace and love. What if things don't go right? What if our relationships are strained? What if our debt catches up to us? What if everything is changing and we do not know what to do? What if addiction, death, illness or unemployment have robbed us of joy? And it does. Just two weeks to Christmas, our mentor and good friend Rev. Fr. Deignan S.J. in Hong Kong, passed at the age of 91. Even what if the prime rib for Christmas supper is burnt? What if ... During this season, and in fact, every season, fear and worry can be useful emotions that invite us to change or protect ourselves from harm. But fear and worry are not states in which we are always meant to live. God wants us to be happy. Happiness comes from doing good, being honourable and showing concern for those in need despite our own weaknesses.

Advent is like a retreat that the worldwide Church is making. In this third week we will consider our lives in the context of the great beauty God has put in us and around us. Can we let it in? A line in the First Reading (3:14-18A) puts this in stunning terms. Zephaniah actually says that **the Lord “will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival.”** Have you ever in your life thought that God might break into song because of you? Yes, *because of you!* Have you ever allowed your idea of God expand that far? Have you ever imagined God as one who sings you into existence?

In the sixth book of **Narnia Chronicles** by **C. S. Lewis**, the **Magician’s Nephew**, the children arrive in Narnia before anything is created. They witness Aslan, (Lion, a Christ figure) creating the world of Narnia. He brought everything – from the creatures, to the landscapes, to the sky and the stars – into being from an empty dark void, by singing and roaring. When the voice goes high, birds, clouds and blue sky appear. At a certain lengthy tune, the mountains raise their heads. And a deep vibration creates the depths of seas. Creation seems to be made out of melody. God’s gladness sings out joyfully at every instant, and his song is the earth, the galaxies, the people, the plants, the animals, sunrise and sunset, and everything else that exists!

Two Wednesday ago, we attended the Holy Trinity High School Christmas band concert our granddaughter was in. The pieces were well chosen: March of Majestics, Carol of the Kings, The Legend of Greensleeves, etc and finished with 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. But I think the best pick is **The Christmas Truce of 1914**. Five months into World War I, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front on Christmas Eve. Many German, British and French troops sang Silent Night and other Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain point the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing. At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man’s-land, calling out “Merry Christmas” in their enemies’ native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, and sang carols and songs. The soldiers from opposing sides even played a good-natured game of soccer.

This week, prepare for Jesus with the words of the prophet Zephaniah: **“The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you with his love.”** If Christmas can bring truce in the middle of war, sure it will bring peace and joy in this hostile world. If our fear and worry are bigger than prayer, do not wait until after Christmas to reach out and ask for help or make changes. Remember, we are God’s song. **When God is with us and in us, how can we keep from singing for joy?** Let our life sing. Let our life be what it is: God’s joyous, interleaved and always consonant melody. It sounds outwards in peace and deepest joy. Could this be our Advent?

“My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentations. I hear the real though far off hymn, that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I’m clinging. It sounds an echo in my soul, How can I keep from singing. I lift mine eyes the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it. And day by day this pathway smoothes, since first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing. All things are mine since I am His, How can I keep from singing.” (Lyrics, *How Can I Keep From Singing*)

**2019 DONATION
ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE
NOW**

**GRAB ONE AND REGISTER YOUR
NAMES - ADDRESS— PHONE NOS. IN
THE ENCLOSED INFO SHEETS AND
SUBMIT THEM IN THE
COLLECTION BASKET**

Baptism preparation this month will be held on **December 18th** at 7 pm, at the Portable, St.Paul’s Parish.

The *Sacrament of
Baptism* is celebrated on **December 23,
Sunday at 2 PM.**

