

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. The Knights of Columbus and CWL are hosting a New Year's Eve celebration at St. Paul's Hall on **December 31st starting at 7:30pm**. There will be party favors, food and music to bring in 2019. This is open to all parishioners 18 and over. Come out for an enjoyable evening with friends. Check out the posters at the back of the churches. **Tickets at \$30.00 each** are for sale after the Mass.
2. Those who are using the following unregistered 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.



No weekday morning Masses on December 15 to 24, and 26 to 28, 2018.

Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn" (Lk 2:7).

- Pope Francis, Christmas message 2018

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 23, 2018 - Fourth 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 16, 2018)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 2,074.63
Envelopes	2,643.00
PAP	2,156.00
Donation & Rental	4,365.88
Total	\$ 11,239.51



THANK YOU!

Now, Jesus' birthday is very near. May his birthday bring joy and happiness to all of us as we try to be more like Jesus every day.



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

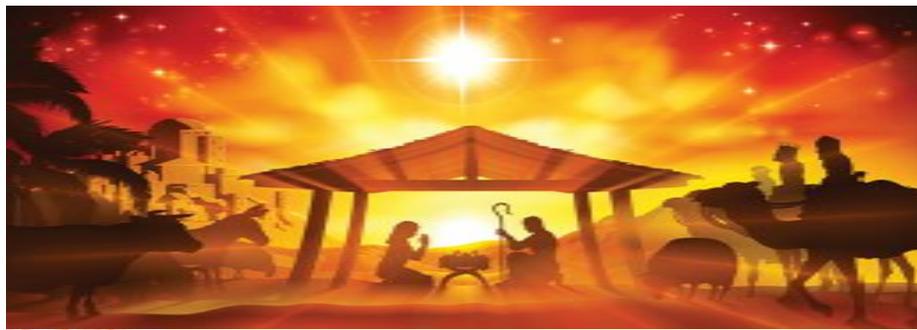
Father Turcotte School Gymnasium
(Franklin Avenue & Hospital Street)



No Friday Adoration on December 28, 2018.

We resume on January 4, 2019.

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

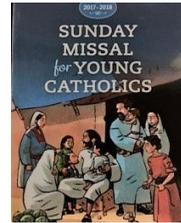
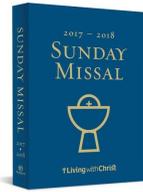


St. Paul Roman Catholic Parish
484 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, T9H 4R7

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent C — The great light!

December 23, 2018

by: *Deacon Raymond Chan*

The gifts are wrapped. The cards are sent and received. The food for tomorrow is in the fridge. The children are curious what the food will be. They are also looking up the chimney, and begging Dad not to start a fire no matter how cold it gets. Like the children, we are all excited with anticipation.

Is there anything more exciting in our world than children waiting for Santa? Sure there is: a pregnant woman waiting for her little love to be born. This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:39-45) presents two such women. Mary and Elizabeth are excited with anticipation and expectation. Mary is a young girl, newly married, with a baby announced by an angel and conceived miraculously. Elizabeth is an older woman, one who thought her chance to have a child had passed. Her baby, conceived naturally, was also announced by an angel, the same angel Gabriel. The women knew that not just their lives would be changed, but the world would be changed. They greeted each other, and the baby within Elizabeth, the future John the Baptist, recognized the presence of the Messiah within Mary and "leaped for joy". Elizabeth was overwhelmed with excitement as she realized that her child would have a vital role in God's plan for His people. Both women proclaimed their gratitude to God for working His wonders within them.

Perhaps, as a final preparation for Christmas, we can spend a few moments reflecting on the great Gift God has given us and focus on the gratitude we owe Him. The great gift of Christmas, of course, is the gift of His Son, the light. With deep gratitude let's pray: **Lord of all love, you have come to us so we can come to you. We thank you for choosing us to be part of your plan for allowing us to join Mary and Elizabeth in the excitement of your Coming Presence. We ask you now to give us the strength and the courage to proclaim your Presence with our Lives.**

There is a 2017 biographical drama film *The Man Who Invented Christmas* depicting Charles Dickens at the time when he wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, and how Dickens' fictional character Ebenezer Scrooge was influenced by his real-life father, John Dickens. Charles was suffering financial hardship from the failure of his last three books after the great success of *Oliver Twist*. *He remembered* his young days when his father was in prison for debts. At the age of 12, Charles found himself working in a rat-infested blacking factory that produced bottles of liquid shoe polish. He was bullied around. The work left scars on his imagination that was never properly healed. He set out to write a new book to restore his finances. As Christmas was near, he began writing *A Christmas Carol*, due in six weeks in order to be published by Christmas. As Charles began to develop his story, he interacted with the characters he was writing about, most notably Ebenezer Scrooge, in his dreams. One of his servants, Tara, an Irish immigrant, tried to help by giving him advice. While writing his book, his father whom Charles viewed as immature and fiscally irresponsible arrived. The scars of his childhood appeared in his dreams. Charles' relationship with his family was increasingly strained as he struggled to finish the book in time. Hearing that Charles intended to let Tiny Tim die, Tara suggested a resolution for Scrooge by having him save Tiny Tim instead. Adamant that nothing can change somebody from bad to good, from mean to mercy, Charles rejected her help and fired her. Additionally, Charles had a falling out with his father and sent him away. Returning to the long-abandoned blacking factory of his youth, Charles was forced to confront his own insecurities through Scrooge and saw light at the end of the tunnel. **Charles realized that his story should be one of reconciliation, redemption, and forgiveness**, and raced home to finish his manuscript with a happy ending: Scrooge finances Tiny Tim's recovery and treats him like his own child. He invited Tara back and rushed to the train station to invite his father to stay. Reconnecting with his family, Charles submitted the manuscript in time for publishing before Christmas. *A Christmas Carol* is an overnight success. It becomes one of the best selling books in history, **forever changes the way we celebrate Christmas and reminds us the joy to be found in friendship, kindness and generosity**. The film ends with the Dickens family celebrating the holiday together that they have missed for a long time.

Tomorrow evening is Christmas eve. One of the greatest lines of the Christmas liturgy echoes through our memories, even if we miss hearing it when we are at Mass: **"The people who wandered in darkness have seen a marvellous light."** Charles Dickens sees the great light when he travels back to the long-abandoned blacking factory of his darkness. How many seasons of darkness have we walked through in our lives? How many of them have destroyed us completely? None. Our hearts are still beating, we have survived. Grace, gift, and light have found their way through the darkest shadows, even if not yet completely. This is the promise and reality of Christmas, that in spite of whatever evil threatens to overtake us, God is sending His Son into the messy mangers of our lives. **Light has been promised, and so we celebrate that God has conquered every darkness, even the ones yet to come.**

**2019 DONATION
ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE**

**GET ONE SET AND REGISTER
YOUR NAME - ADDRESS - PHONE NO.
IN THE ENCLOSED INFO SHEET AND
DROP IT IN THE COLLECTION
BASKET OR AT THE OFFICE**

Baptism preparation course
will be held on **January 8 & 22,**
Tuesday at 7 PM.

*The Sacrament of
Baptism* will be
celebrated on
January 13 & 27,
Sunday at 2 PM.

