

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. The office of St. Paul Parish will be closed from December 24, 2019 to January 1st, 2020. We will re-opened for January 2, 2020.
2. The **2020 Sunday Donation Envelopes** are now available at the back of the church. Each year we need to correctly identify the **Envelope Number** with appropriate donor. Please register your **Envelope Number**. If you want to use the **PAP (Pre-Authorized Payment)**, form is available in the foyer and in the parish office.
3. The **Knights of Columbus** are hosting the **25th Annual Community Christmas Day Dinner** on December 25 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM at **Father Turcotte School**. The entire community is welcome to this free event. Please see poster for more details.
4. The **Sunday Missal 2020** are now available for \$5.00/each at the back of the church and in the parish office.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH 484 Signal Road, Fort McMurray

Advent 2019 Highlights

- Advent begins the weekend of November 30/December 1.
- The *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is transferred from Sunday, December 8 to Monday, December 9.
- Advent Penitential Service* is Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- Simbang Gabi — Novena of Masses* is December 15 to December 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve — *Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord*
Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day — *Nativity of the Lord*
Wednesday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Church also
11:00 a.m. at St. Julien's Church in Fort McKay

New Year's Eve — *Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and Mass of Thanksgiving*, Tuesday, December 31 at 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Day — *Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God*, Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Like Christmas and New Year's, Sunday Masses on December 28/29, feast of the Holy Family, and January 4/5, Epiphany of the Lord, remain as holy days of obligation with a regular Sunday schedule.

Please see the parish bulletin or stpaulparishwb.com for full weekend and weekday Mass schedules during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Wishing all parishioners and visitors a blessed Advent,
a holy and merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

“LOVE GOD. LIVE THE SACRAMENTS. BUILD HIS KINGDOM”

480 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 4R7

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

Website : www.stpaulparishwb.com

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December 22, 2019 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Schedule

Monday-Thursday

Rosary & Mass 8:40 AM

Friday Adoration after Mass at 7:00 PM

Weekend Masses

Saturday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 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

Asst. Parish Priest

Fr. Jayson Durante
jvdurante@gmail.com

Deacon Marvin Tanquerido
tanqueridomarvin@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary: *Ruby Smart*
office@stpaulparishwb.com

COLLECTIONS

(Weekly— Dec. 8, 2019)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 803.95
<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>2,397.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,200.95



PAP (Pre-Authorized Payment) donation for December will be reported by the end of the month

THANK YOU!



Let's pray to St. Joseph to help us do what he did
by **Deacon Raymond Chan**

The readings for this Sunday are an immediate preparation for Christmas. Instead of hearing about the Second Coming of the Lord in the First Sunday of Advent and about the instructions and the mission of John the Baptist in the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, we are brought to the events that took place within nine months of Jesus' birth. This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24, and yes skipping the long list of the genealogy of Jesus, the forty-two generations that stretch from Abraham to Christ, Matthew 1:1-17) gives us the opportunity to focus on one of the main figures in the stories of the Birth of Our Lord, the **Infancy Narratives**, St. Joseph. **Infancy narratives are the Christmas stories as found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.** The Prologue of the *Gospel of John* gives a theological presentation of the Eternal Word of God become flesh, and John starts his narrative with the events that took place when the Lord had already become a man, the preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of the Lord. The Infancy Narratives in the *Gospel of Luke* (1:26-38) present Joseph as the foster father of the Lord, but the main focus outside of Jesus is placed on Mary. It's the *Gospel of Matthew*, this Sunday's gospel that focuses on Joseph. This makes a great deal of sense. Matthew's main audience were Jewish Christians. Joseph was of the line of David. The Jewish people were very much aware that God had promised David that his Kingdom would never end.

But the Gospel also makes it clear that Joseph was not the birth father of the Lord. Mary was a Virgin. The child was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary, an unmarried woman, was expecting! Everybody knows that pregnancy doesn't occur without sex. According to Jewish law, premarital sex is punishable by stoning to death. So, Mary's pregnancy out of wedlock exposes her to the penalty of death. And in Mary's society, no one wants to marry a sinful woman and supports an illegitimate child. It is clear, then, that Mary's pregnancy exposes her not only to legal penalties but also to suffering and shame. And poor Joseph, what should he do? Dump Mary? Marry then divorce? Or get married and treat the baby as his own? In his dream, Joseph was told, "**Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."** Joseph was given the opportunity to do as the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife. Joseph opened himself whole-heartedly to God in quiet faith. No spoken word of his has been recorded but his life shows us a person utterly obedient to the word of God. A humble man caring for his wife and peacefully watching the growth of the child Jesus in wisdom and maturity. So, a potential shameful humiliation to Mary turns into a joyful celebration for the Joseph family. As such, Jesus becomes part of the line of David through Joseph. **One unplanned pregnancy brings joy to the world!**

In just two days, we will sing sweet carols about the Babe of Bethlehem. Although we know that this is the Second Person of the Trinity, we also know that he chose to become totally one of us, to be conceived and carried in a womb, to be an infant, toddler, child, teenager and young adult before revealing himself to the world at his Baptism by John the Baptist. And so we focus on his infancy. We tell him in song to "**sleep in heavenly peace.**" We sing of the unexpected "**Joy to the world**". We have a responsibility as Christians to celebrate the pregnancy of our sisters in Christ in the parish, the diocese, the whole world and the arrival of babies. They are all our babies. They are part of our family. They are made in the image and likeness of God. They will radiate His presence in a way the world has never experienced before. They will be capable of being saviours, saviours to their parents, saving them from selfishness, saviours to those whom they will love or be loved in their lives. It is clear from the scripture that Joseph provided for more than Jesus's external needs. He loved the child. He took him into his family. He named him. And, I am sure he held him and rocked him to sleep when Mary was exhausted. He celebrated this unexpected child and in doing so celebrated the presence of God's love on in the service of Christ. His example gives us courage to face problems in a similar spirit and to keep on believing when all seems hopeless. Along with Mary he is singled out as the one who can best prepare us for Christmas.

Let's pray to St. Joseph to help us do what he did: listen to God's earth. Joseph gave everything message, act on that message, trusting despite doubts, questions and fears; protect and guard that "tiny gift of God" that's going to save the world. Let's prepare to celebrate: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room. And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing."



Baptism preparation course
is given every **third Tuesday** of the month.

The next one will be on
January 21 at 7 PM.

The *Sacrament of Baptism*
will be celebrated on
January 12 & 26 at 2 PM.



25th Annual Community Christmas Day Dinner

December 25th, 12pm to 2pm

The entire community is welcome to this free event.
Complimentary Christmas Day bus route provided by Sparksman Transportation beginning 10am including the Salvation Army, the Center of Hope, Marshall House and Father Turcotte School.

Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve meals, play music, sing, clean up or simply be a friend to a stranger.



To volunteer call Dan at 780-881-1170.
To make a donation call Lloyd at 780-714-1435.
For general inquires and information call James at 587-644-2111.

Event Location
Father Turcotte School Gymnasium
(Franklin Avenue & Hospital Street)