

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. If you are ready to experience your faith in a new and different way, the **Neocatechumenal Way** will be presenting sessions with **Fr. Bartek** and his **Missionary Team** at St. John the Baptist Church every Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 PM at St. Paul Church every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please see poster for more details.
2. The **2020 Sunday Donation Envelopes** are 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 **PAP (Pre-Authorized Payment)**, form is available in the foyer and from parish office.
3. **Spanish Mass** is celebrated regularly every 2nd Sunday of the month, 6:00 PM at St. Paul Church. Everyone is invited.



2020 TRIP TO FORT CHIPEWYAN

The Knights of Columbus cordially invites the Parishioners of St. Paul and St. John Churches and Guests to join the outreach visit of Fort Chipewyan

ASSEMBLY POINTS:

St. Paul Church (484 Signal Rd.) and St. John the Baptist Church (3 Hospital Street)

WHEN : February 22, 2020

TIME : 7:00a.m.

COST PER PERSON

\$60.00—TRANSPORTION AND HOT LUNCH ARE INCLUDED

CONTACTS

Andy at 780-838-0839
 Malcolm at 780-838-7326
 Nelson at 780-714-0864

Camp St. Louis Hiring

If you are a young adult looking for the best summer job in the world. We are currently accepting applications for Male Team members. To download the application package, go to <https://www.campstlouis.ca/apply-for-team>, or contact Aaron at aarondebusschere@dostp.ca for more information. Application are being accepted until February 29, 2020, so don't delay: Apply now!

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

Email: office@stpaulparishwb.com

February 16, 2020 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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— Feb. 9, 2020)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 1,559.90
Envelopes	2,705.85
Total	\$ 4,265.75
Special Collection for Feb.	\$ 986.40



PAP (Pre-Authorized Payment) donation for February will be reported by month's end
THANK YOU!



The Gift of Reconciliation
by **Deacon Raymond Chan**

There is a story of a married couple who argue frequently. They have been married for 40 years. Both have strong characteristics and were quick to temper. One evening they were engaged in yet another heated and emotionally charged conversation. The wife, reaching a point of no return, decided to pack a few things and walk away. While packing, her husband placed another suitcase next to hers and started packing as well. With a huff, she asked him, "Where in the world are you going?" Her husband responded, in an angry tone, "I don't know. I am going wherever you are going!"

Immediately after His Baptism and following the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew, presents a discourse of moral teachings we have come to know as "**The Sermon on the Mount.**" This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:17-37) is a portion of these instructions. Jesus eloquently presents a series of specific law of Moses and contrasts them with a renewed way of looking at these matters. He begins these laws with, "**You have heard that it was said,**" and concludes with, "**but I say to you**"; thus, presenting the true intent of the law through the lens of His message and sets the standards for all Christians. As **St. Augustine of Hippo** stated in his book "**Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount**": "**if anyone, will piously and soberly consider the sermon which our Lord Jesus Christ spoke on the mount, as we read it in the Gospel according to Matthew, I think that he will find it, so far as regards the highest morals, a perfect standard of the Christian Life**".

One of those standards highlighted in the Gospel is **reconciliation**. "**Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**"

(Matthew 5:23-25) Jesus, through specific examples, shares with His disciples the negative impact of unresolved and conflictive human interactions, offering at the same time a mechanism for accountability and a path towards mending broken relationships. For **real reconciliation** to occur, we must not only meditate and identify the offence, but also **value the relationship that may be jeopardized by such offence. It requires openness of heart to engage in dialogue and to seek the restoration of that particular relationship.** God desires for us to live in relationship with one another. When our relationships are broken, our lives may become off-balance and we will not be able to function normally and fully.

Broken relationships separate us from one another and, in some ways, from God. At times, we are oblivious to the impact of our actions in the life of others. Our intent may be genuine or without malice, but the impact on others may be devastating. Pride may also play a significant role, impeding us from reconciling with those whom we love and love us, and from those who differ from us. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves. We are called to build bridges, not walls. Nowadays, any difference in opinions could cause a visible divide among families, friends, and communities. It is practically a common occurrence to hear friends "de-friending" or "not following" each other's pages in social media as a result of political debates or opposing points of views about relevant and challenging topics. How may we find common ground in the midst of our differences? How may we, even during challenging and uncertain times, create space for dialogue and reconciliation? Jesus came to this world to reconcile us with God. **It is that ministry of reconciliation that encourages us to create space for healthy and productive dialogue and**

and urges us to remain faithful to our vocation of love where we reject sin while embracing the sinner.

Empathy is the ability to take on the perspective of another person while staying out of judgment, recognizing the emotions in other people. It is a skill that can bring people together and make people feel included. As Brene Brown, an author and researcher once said: "Empathy feels connection while sympathy drives disconnection. Empathy is a choice and it is a vulnerable choice." We can choose to nurture our divides and remain in a state of tension and dissension, or, we may decide to be open to the movement of the Spirit and focus on that which unites us, God's love for humanity, and work together through our disagreements. Similar to the case of the married couple, our disagreements, political or not, are not sufficient ground to separate us. We are bonded by something greater. Avoidance of contact is a defence mechanism we may use to evade our responsibility to foster reconciliation and unity. **Reconciliation is hard work. It is holy work.** As a church, we have a unique opportunity to become bridge-builders instead of wall-erectors. **We have a chance to exercise our prophetic voices in powerful and unique ways while we spread and teach the gift of reconciliation.**

Jesus, our model, faced confrontations with determination and compassion. It is a healthy and necessary balance to mend and maintain challenging relationships. Jesus's determination ensured that the dignity of every human being was respected. His compassion showed God's love to those who were difficult to love. Jesus invites us to relate to God and each other in a new way. He does not lay down rules and regulations for every situation in life but asks us to check our inner attitudes, our motivation. **Let's find holy balance in these challenging times to maintain a reconciliatory tone while challenging the injustices against God's children in a way that foster dialogue and build bridges. Not an easy task, but a necessary one. Amen.**



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

The next one will be on
February 18 at 7 PM.

The Sacrament of Baptism

will be celebrated on
February 9 & 23 at 2 PM.

God
Will not allow you
To be lost if you
Persist in your
Determination
Not to lose Him.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina