

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Every Friday, we have an **Adoration** which begins at 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM, but until Mid-night on the **First Friday of the month**. Please consider giving an hour of your time to come and adore **Jesus** in the **Most Blessed Sacrament**.
2. There is an **Indoor Stations of the Cross** every Friday during Lent at **6:30 PM** followed by **Holy Mass** and **Adoration** at St. Paul Church. The next group to lead the Stations of the cross on March 20 is the **TOOL - Teams of our Lady**.
3. Are you a **Mom** who would like to grow in community with other moms in the Parish? We warmly invite you to come to the launch meeting of the **Moms Group** on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 PM at St. Paul Parish hall. Please follow the Parish Facebook page for updates.
4. 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.

### PRAYER AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful Father,  
We thank you for the life that is your gift,  
For the providence, that sustains us,  
And for your wisdom that directs the course of our days.

Forgive our sins against your love,  
Against each other and against your creation.

The threat of an infection of Coronavirus is upon us today.  
This disease causes fear among us and has claimed some lives.

We humbly beg you, loving Father  
To deliver us from this and other diseases.  
Heal those who are afflicted and stop the spread of the virus.  
Strengthen us in charity to care for each other.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
One God for ever and ever. Amen

## ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

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March 15, 2020 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

### 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.

The **World Health Organization** has declared **Coronavirus** a pandemic. Therefore, the **Diocese of St. Paul** is putting in place the following measures to prevent the spreading of the **COVID-19** virus.

We must temporarily withdraw:

- Communion from the cup
- Communion on the tongue
- Holy Water fonts are to be emptied
- At the Sign of Peace, refrain from shaking hands, a simple bow, nod, or “Peace be with you” to your neighbor is appropriate.
- Pastors, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Holy Communion are to wash their hands before and after distributing communion.

These measures are to diminish the risk of contamination from a disease that threatens the common good of our communities.

### Parish Staff

#### Parish Priest

*Fr. Francis Khai Phan*  
[franciskhai@hotmail.com](mailto:franciskhai@hotmail.com)

#### Asst. Parish Priest

*Fr. Jayson Durante*  
[jvdurante@gmail.com](mailto:jvdurante@gmail.com)

*Deacon Marvin Tanquerido*  
[tanqueridomarvin@yahoo.com](mailto:tanqueridomarvin@yahoo.com)

Parish Secretary: *Ruby Smart*  
[office@stpaulparishwb.com](mailto:office@stpaulparishwb.com)

### COLLECTIONS

(Weekly— March 8, 2020)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 852.60
Envelopes	2,447.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,299.60</b>
<b>Camp St. Louis Collection- \$ 1,112.05</b>	



*PAP (Pre-Authorized Payment) donation for March will be reported by month's end*

THANK YOU!

*Jesus is thirsting to fill our hearts with peace, courage, and true self-esteem*  
by **Deacon Raymond Chan**

Every time I read the Gospel reading of **the Samaritan woman at the well** (John 4:5), it brought back memories of my early life in Hong Kong. Everybody knows water is an essential resource; without it, there is no life. In the 60s, Hong Kong saw a massive population increase along with a very severe drought. Since it lacked (and still lacks) natural streams, it depended on reservoirs to collect rain water. There was simply not enough water to go around and the government had to ration water supply by providing only four hours of usage every day. In 1963, the worst year, water supply was rationed for only 4 hours every 4 days. I had to queue on the streets to gather water with buckets and tin containers and then carry them up the stairs to take home for my family of six, hoping that the few buckets of water will quench our thirst and supply for all our needs.

**St. Teresa of Calcutta once said when Jesus said on the cross, “I thirst”, he is thirsting for our love for him, for the poor. Thirst is not only limited to water. There are many things in our life we “thirst” for, both physically, socially and mentally.** A Chinese mini-film “Mr Lim’s Reunion Dinner” tells about a dad Mr Lim, awaiting his kids’ homecoming for the traditional Chinese New Year Eve reunion dinner. As the day nears, he learns that both his son and daughter, who live and work overseas, aren’t able to make it home for the dinner. His son has work to finish while his daughter has plans to take her young son, Aaron, to Tokyo Disneyland. He doesn’t share with either of them that he is all alone for Chinese New Year. Instead he goes ahead with the preparation the next day with grocery shopping and cooking the dinner. He sets up the table, sitting alone facing the drinks and food. He’s not thirsty for water nor hunger for food. **His is thirsting for love, the love of his family.** An unexpected twist comes at the end when everyone, including Aaron and his father, suddenly show up in time for dinner just as Mr Lim begins to dig into the food himself. Their arrival is timely and brings joy to everyone: Love has arrived, love has quenched the thirst.

As for the Samaritan woman at the well, it was more than thirst for water. She came to the well at noon, the hottest hour of the middle-eastern day because she was a social outcast, avoiding contact with her peers. Jesus notices her anxiety that comes from an unstable life, but he also sees a spark of sincerity. Her wounded and suffering heart from many failed marriages and relationships was thirsting for true love. This provides an opportunity for grace, and our Lord, forgetting his own thirst, seizes it by restoring her dignity and changing her life forever. The Samaritan woman was so overcome with joy at encountering Christ, so eager to spread the news of her conversion that she left behind her empty water jar, her sinful past and reunited with her community. Jesus wants to quench the thirst from the absence of God in her life, in our lives, to redeem us, to give us a fresh start by having a relationship with him so we can find peace and rest in God.

I like to tune into the Catholic TV Network, one of my favourites. I can attend mass and receive the Eucharist (An Act of Spiritual Communion) daily which I thirst for. I can say the Angelus, the Holy Rosary, evening Divine Office... with Bishop Robert Reed, the auxiliary Bishop of Boston. It makes me feel I am not alone. I love singing since I was young though off tune most of the time. Having lost my voice since the stroke, I thirst to sing. Their “Going my Way” sing-along episodes is my favourite: Church hymns, Jazz, Irish folks etc. In one of the episodes, Bishop Reed dressed in his full red vestment and sang together with two other well vested priests, two love songs from Elvis Presley, yes Elvis, “The King of Rock and Roll”: **Love me Tender** and **Can’t Help Falling in Love**. That night in bed, I digested

and meditated on the lyrics. They sounded like a prayer. In the Gospels, doesn’t Jesus mention many time He is the Bridegroom and the Church, us, is the Bride? Isn’t it logical for the Bride, while waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom patiently, thirsts for His love? Isn’t it just normal for the Bride to pray to quench her thirst? **“Love me tender, love me dear, tell me you are mine. I’ll be yours through all the years ‘Till the end of time. Love me tender, love me true All my dreams fulfill. For, my darling I love you And I always will”** and **“I can’t help falling in love with you. ... Like a river flows, surely to sea Darling... some things are meant to be. Take my hand, take my whole life too. Oh, for I can’t help falling in love with you”**

I am sure we all have experienced God’s unconditional love in our lives one way or another. But we need to experience it more. We need to build our lives on it. We need the knowledge of God’s unconditional and redeeming love in Christ to penetrate every fibre of our being. To make that happen, God sent us the Holy Spirit, through whom, St Paul, in his letter to the Romans (5:5) tells us, **“...the love of God has been poured out into our hearts.”** Like the water in the reservoirs for drinking, we all have a reservoir of divine strength and courage in our hearts, established at our baptism, and enlarged at our confirmation. We need to bring water from that reservoir and drench every sector of our lives with it: our relationships, our hopes, our fears, our dreams, our difficulties, our sins, our weaknesses. We can only do that through prayer. If prayer is not the highest priority of our daily schedule, the reservoir stagnates. Daily, intimate, heart-to-heart conversations with Jesus Christ, our redeemer, allow his grace to flow freely in and through us. This is what the Samaritan woman discovered when she met Jesus at the well. While we are thirsting for God’s grace, His mercy, forgiveness, and ultimately His tenderness and unconditional love, **Jesus is there waiting for us at the well of prayer, just as he was waiting for her - thirsting to fill our hearts with peace, courage, and true self-esteem - the kind that only he can give in our search for the unending, the unchanging and the eternal.**

**GrACE Community Engagement Session**

GrACE stands for Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education. All Catholic School Divisions in the Province, in partnership with each Diocese, are hosting Community Engagement sessions.

There has been much talk over the last couple of years questioning the need for Catholic Education in the Province. There are those out there who believe there should be only one school system.

Come spend an hour with us on March 30th, 2020 at Father Beauregard school at 7:00pm to hear about the rich history of Catholic Schools in this community and discuss what you can do to ensure this rich tradition continues.

Powerful partners in Education; Home, School, Church, and Community.

George McGuigan  
Superintendent

Cathie Langmead  
Board Chair

FORT McMURRAY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



**Marriage Preparation Weekend**

May 1– 2, 2020

Contact :

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

Tel: 780-743 3980

Visit their link at:<https://www.stjohnthebaptistparish.ca/sacraments/marriage-prep/>