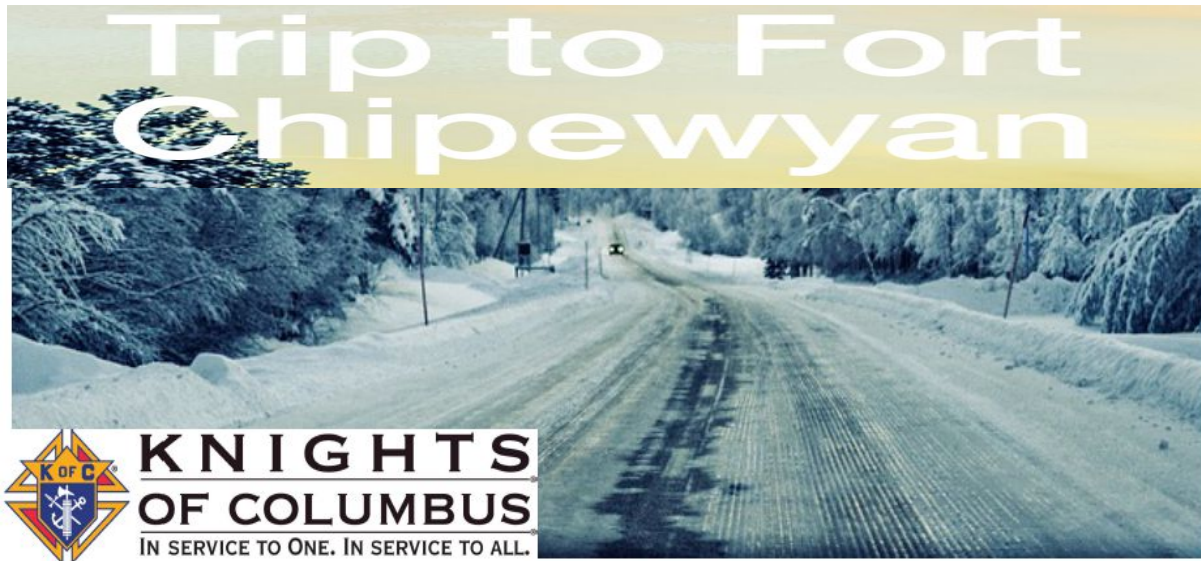


ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN: *Journey to Communion* is beginning a new cycle for children in grade 2 and up. Your child will be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. **Registration is available online at stjohnthebaptistparish.ca/journeystocommunion.**



Presented by the
Knights of Columbus

February 23, 2019
Departure: 6:00am
Cost: \$60 per person

Meeting Locations: St.
Paul's & John's
Churches

Join the Knights of Columbus for a day trip in Fort Chipewyan. Transportation and hot lunch are provided. The participants will witness some of the festivities of the Winter Festival also happening that weekend. There will be usual visit to the Bicentennial Museum. The tour will be concluded with the mass at the historic Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church. The mass will serve as the farewell to Sister Cecile, the pastoral resident of the NBV Church.

To register, please contact:
Andy Mariyadas - 780-838-0839
Malcolm Edirisinghe - 780-715-5844
Nelson Contreras - 780-714-0864

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

January 27, 2019 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time-C

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

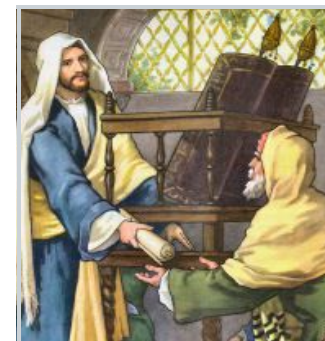
Bro. Jayson Durante
jvdurante@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Deacon Joe Simangan
office@stpaulparishwb.com

COLLECTIONS

(Weekly— Jan 13, 2019)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 1,066.50
Envelopes	2,953.15
Hall Rental	150.00
Total	\$ 4,169.65



"Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all (Luke 4:14-15)."



PAP collection will be reported at the end of the month.

THANK YOU!

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time C

January 27, 2019

A new era had begun

by Deacon Raymond Chan

“The Gospel message is a source of joy: a joy that spreads from generation to generation and which we inherit.” (Pope Francis)

Prior to the writing of the gospels that have become the core of the New Testament, most of the material the authors used were stories about Jesus circulated by those who were spreading the Good News, except those of St John who, being one of the apostles, used his direct witnesses. The four gospels authors put the material together within the time line of a continuous story leading to the passion, death and resurrection of the Saviour. Each of the four also brought out themes that were dear to them and the communities they belonged.

We are in Year C reading the **Gospel of Luke**. St Luke is also identified as the author of the Acts of the Apostles. Some experts date the composition of the combined work to around 80–90 AD, some others suggest 90–110. St Luke tells his readers that the gospel he is introducing is an honest expression of faith: **“events that were eyewitnesses from the beginning and have been handed down to us by ministers of the word. I have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.”** (Luke 1:1-4). In his gospel, Luke, a well educated, gentile convert, conscious of the needs of his fellow converts reveals himself as a warm hearted and sensitive interpreter of the faith, bringing out such themes as: **the joy of believing, the blessings found in prayer, the central role of the Spirit in our Christian lives, the important place of women in the public life of Jesus, and the privileges the poor have in God’s designs.**

This Sunday’s first reading is from the chronicles of Nehemiah (8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10) describing a moving moment in the re-establishment of the Jerusalem community after the return from exile in Babylon. The Jews finally had their city back and rebuilt the Temple where they could worship. After 50+ years of exile, a lot of Jewish people, especially young ones, ignorant of Israel’s traditions, were drifting away from God. Many even worshiped foreign gods. Ezra, the scribe, stood up on a high platform reading plainly from the scroll **“the Book of the Law.”** **“Today is holy to the LORD your God.... Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!”** Now the Jews heard the Word of God again. **The new era had begun!**

Four centuries later we find Jesus of Nazareth making a similar return. This Sunday’s gospel reading begins with Luke’s famous account of his research of the traditions of the first Christian communities (1:1-14) but omits the account of Christ’s infancy, his baptism by John, and his forty days in the wilderness, etc.

It continues with a text describing the **beginnings of Jesus’ ministry, preaching the Kingdom of God in Galilee** (4:14-21). Like Ezra, he takes up a scroll, this one containing the **Book of Isaiah** that had been written during the previous Jewish exile. He reads a passage which says that **the Spirit of the Lord has sent him to “bring glad tidings to the poor, ... to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a time of favour from the Lord.”** (Isaiah 61:1-2). This is similar to what Ezra had proclaimed in the First Reading. But Jesus’ mission is much, much more. Luke has the ministry in Galilee leading into the courageous journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem to meet his fate, as he prepares his disciples for what lies ahead. **The teaching of Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth completes his fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies.** We too can make the words of Christ our own and have them fulfilled in our hearing. We can let the love of God shines through us to show that Jesus Christ is not a memory but is living among us today. **A greater new era had begun.**

The climax of today’s gospel is the claim of Jesus that **he brings ‘fulfilment’ to the splendid hopes of old Israel.** The Christian Church is following the example of Jesus himself, as it treasures the traditions in which the faith of God’s people has been expressed. Today we live in a relativistic world where truth is whatever we want it to be: “Whatever makes you comfortable”. Jesus breaks the mold of relativism, revealing the lie hidden within it and proclaims that he is the Truth. When the Gospel makes demands on our life, do we shift into relativism and believe that it makes no difference how or if I respond at all? If the Gospel makes us comfortable, we will obey, but if not, then... Truth can be demanding, but what a blessing it is that, in the person of Christ, **truth is also love, mercy, goodness and joy.** Do we love the truth and strive to live in the light? **Jesus mission is to rebuild our hearts as well as our communities, to return them to God, who is our real home, the absolute truth. Would we accept this startling new era?**



12 Hours Adoration Every Friday

**Exposition at 9:00
AM to 9:00 PM**

**Holy Mass at 7:00
PM, followed by
Adoration and
Benediction**

Contact Syriac & Celin 780-370-2883
and 780-607-2889.



**Baptism Preparation course will be held on
February 19, Tuesday at 7 PM**

**The Sacrament of Baptism will be
celebrated on February 10 & 24, Sunday at 2
PM**