**Mass Intention**

Friday, January 18th  **†** Marcel LeBlanc

**Ordinary Time** We begin the time of the Church calendar called Ordinary Time; it begins with the Monday following the Baptism of the Lord. Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church - the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting or in more severe penance but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. Ordinary Time celebrates "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects". The normal liturgical color - for those days when there is no special feast - is green, the colour of hope and growth. There are 33 or 34 Sundays in Ordinary time, split in two parts, the time between Christmas and Lent, and the time after the Easter season.

**Feast of the Baptism of Christ** A wonderful day to call to mind and renew our own baptisms with a family celebration. Bring out the baptism garments, light the baptism candles, look at the photos of the special day, sprinkle everyone with some blessed water. If possible, connect with the godparents or even have them over for a simple meal perhaps, reminisce, say the creed altogether, sing a hymn like Baptized in Water, River of Glory, or Flow River Flow.

**Living in the Word** \_ It is truly beautiful to be a Catholic. What begins at Baptism is a way of life that is shaped by sacred teachings, strengthened by sacramental celebration, and marked by loving service of neighbour. When this life is fully embraced in faith, hope and charity, it bears within itself the promise of eternal life! Is it any wonder that I thank God often for the decision my parents made to have me baptized? (Archbishop Smith, *Pastoral Letter,* September 14, 2017)

Baptism makes us *missionary* disciples, endowed with many gifts and talents for the service of others in the name of the Lord. If a person is baptized in infancy as I was, it is very easy to take for granted the wondrous gift bestowed by that sacrament. Pope Francis wants us to be fully aware of what it means to be baptized, to rejoice in the gift, and to embrace completely the Christian way of living. (Archbishop Smith, *Pastoral Letter,* September 14, 2017)

**Marriage – A Gift and a Challenge**

January is the month that has the highest rate of couples seeking marriage help.

Help is available. Retrouvaille – A lifeline for troubled marriages! Is your marriage in crisis? Helpourmarriage.ca, 587-598-4357, info@helpourmarriage.ca

Next Edmonton Retrouvaille Program starts March 15-17, 2019

Marriage Encounter – Make your good marriage better! Marriage enrichment! Wwme.org, 780-464-2874, gvankup@telus.net

Next Edmonton Marriage Encounter Program starts April 27, 2019

**HELP IS NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ON MONDAY** The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m.. Help is needed to disassemble and pack the trees, crèche and decorations. It is a big job and many hands are needed. Please meet in front of the altar and members of the Decorating Committee will direct you from there. Strong arms are also needed for carrying heavier items. Thank you for your help.

**GREETERS’ MINISTRY**

Greeters for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses are asked to pick up their schedule for January, 2019 through March, 2019 at the back of the church.  Greeters, if you are on the email list you will receive the schedule via email.

We are always in need of additional parishioners who would be willing to help with this important ministry—especially for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m.Sunday Masses.  It would involve at most only one Sunday every month or 6 weeks from September through June.  If you would like to join this ministry please call Paul Weisenberger at 780-929-5150.

Members of the Knights of Columbus sell No Frills and Sobeys **gift cards** before and after all weekend Masses. Please take the time to support the program regularly.

The Bible Study will resume on January 14/28, 2019. We are still doing the study called **Mary, Virgin, Mother, And Queen**.

The Knights of Columbus **Pancake Breakfast**

after the 9am & 11am Masses **Sunday, January 20**

Share a meal with your Parish family

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

Are you expecting a child in the near future? Consider taking Baptism Preparation now while you are waiting for the birth of your son or daughter. **The classes are for parents and sponsors (godparents).**

Attending now eliminates the need to find baby-sitters, rearrange feeding schedules etc. plus it adds to the joyful anticipation of your new arrival.

Parents wishing to register for the **next course** which will be held on **Monday,** **February 25th at 7:00 pm** please call the parish office.

**2019 DONATION ENVELOPES**

Sunday Offering Envelopes 2019 Offering envelopes for the new year are now available for pick up by parishioners

**NOTE TO SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPE USERS:** Please put your name and address on at least one 2019 Sunday collection envelope so we can ensure we have the correct information in our database.

**World Youth Day at Home**

**Saturday, January 26, at St. Theresa Parish, Edmonton**

World Youth Day begins this month in Panama, but many young adults are unable to go. Not to worry -- if you are aged 18-35, you are invited to join us for World Youth Day at Home, the official alternative event in our diocese. The day includes include a special speaker, highlights from World Youth Day attendees, an evening Mass with an opportunity for Reconciliation before, a dinner, and a social. Our direct signup page is located at [**https://goo.gl/forms/uD0dq4fr97jaf5Bq1**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001x9_qmpAIiXMB3cUUotHNZEIYmD0bKZ10i4vuFWy1q5-6tTUVFGr6iyJFvUtV6ExlJRXPKzF0rNp99pjgeXIKKt0J3A5QJVT3RzKW5lu1LnEHivCIP7an5PrWn2rEyj6E1sHVX5DgBebVHeRa1WxBmulh-1MofVVSjrQXfe7iyPU=&c=p1Zg-TNUSNF5xyGXeRc_TaN5-Yrswu3IfBlBnUsWmEHrGH6e-qgXRA==&ch=d1Zhfhm9d2jOeCYDd73Zkav6qZi0WivEZ6wMngbtsPxYa-rzIyiGww==). We ask just $5 for supper and to support our amazing speaker, Colm Leyne, from the Diocese of Saskatoon.﻿

**Did you know…**

**The importance of Prayer:**

Personal prayer is God’s gift to the “humble and contrite heart.” (Ps. 51:19.) It expresses the covenant relationship that binds God to the person and the person to God. The connection is Christ, the Son of God made flesh. He is the new and eternal covenant...The Holy Spirit inspires hearts to pray, removes obstacles to living in Christ, and leads humanity into communion with the Father and the Son. Personal prayer permeates the daily life of the Christian and disposes him or her toward liturgical, communal, or public prayer. *Taken from The Catholic Source Book, 2007*