

**Living in the Word of God**

**'Hear the Word of God and Do It'**

St. John writes these beautiful words at the beginning of his first letter: "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testified to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete." (1 John 1:1-4)



(Archbishop Smith, Pastoral Letter, September 14, 2017) [caedm.ca/letter](http://caedm.ca/letter).



**Grace with lines inspired by the Readings for September 16, 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You bid us to ask ourselves who you are in our lives.

**All:** Lord, may we discern your presence in our lives.

**OR**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You invite us to follow you through a life of self-denial. (Mk. 8:34)

**All:** Lord, we ask you to help us to be instruments of peace for others.

**OLPH Financial Report**

Week 37 - September 9, 2018

A more detailed breakdown of the budget can be found at [www.olph.ca](http://www.olph.ca) or at the Parish Office

| Financial Report August  | ORDINARY RECEIPTS    | BUILDING FUND                   |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Average weekly cost of running the Parish (based 2018 budgeted amount) | \$25,000.00          | Weekly target amount \$2,596.00 |
| Donations September 9  | \$ 23,156.00         | \$ 2,177.00                     |
| <b>Week 37</b>   | <b>\$ - 1,842.00</b> | <b>\$ - 419.00</b>              |

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**



**This week:** Focus on Pre-Authorized Donations [PAP]

Approximately 33% of our regular Sunday donations reach us through automatic debit payments from parishioner accounts. Thank you so much!

The balance of our parishioners use contribution envelopes or provide their Sunday offering as loose or utilize yellow envelopes. We also thank you for your contributions!

Pre-authorized donations are simple to set-up, are very secure and virtually error free, avoiding any potential errors in counting or allocating the donations you are making.

Interested to try it out? Please drop by the Parish office to speak with Jenny or Robert and bring a voided cheque with you so that we can make sure we have the right banking information for you.

**We would be delighted to make this easy for you!**

The good news is that you can still put your envelope in the collection basket each weekend, if you wish. Any questions, please let us know – [robert@olph.ca](mailto:robert@olph.ca) or [jvelazco@olph.ca](mailto:jvelazco@olph.ca). Looking forward to hear from you!! God Bless!

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

*A Roman Catholic Christian Community*

*We come together at our Lord's invitation to worship God, celebrate the sacraments, and deepen our faith.*

*We strive to be thankful, generous and welcoming, and are sent forth to help advance God's Kingdom on earth by proclaiming the Gospel and serving others.*

**September 16, 2018 Twenty Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time Cycle B**



**Christ offers us freedom from all our fears.**

**He opens our ears and our mouths to share the love we have received.**

**Welcome, Welcome, Welcome**



There you have it, a genuine Trinitarian **Welcome**. My dear friends, it is a time of grace when we are able to take time away with family and friends from the often many and challenging pressures of our day to day lives. For those of you who were able to escape for a period of time this summer, **Welcome**. For those of you who are new in our parish community,

**Welcome**. For those of you who have been away from Church for a while for whatever reason, **Welcome**. For those of you who stayed home and looked after your garden, **Welcome**. This weekend we celebrate within Our Lady of Perpetual Help community, the grace and the gift of the many relationships in our lives. Our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others. We are a people who have been created to be in relationship, (Gn. 2, 18). So, we need to celebrate this and that is what we are doing this weekend after all Masses. Please take time to join us after the Mass. Renew old acquaintances, make new friends, celebrate the gifts that our Lord has blessed each of us with. **Welcome, Welcome, Welcome**. By the way, did I say **Welcome**. God bless you and yours as we enter into and **Welcome** an exciting time in the life of our OLPH parish community.

And a special OLPH **Welcome** to Deacon Parker Love who will be assisting us here at OLPH on weekends. Deacon Parker is a transitional deacon who joins us from the Archdiocese of Regina. He hopes to be ordained in the upcoming year. **Welcome!** Blessings, Fr. jim



Please accept my humble apology. St. Bernard's Marian prayer that we prayed at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful at the September 08/09 Sunday Masses was ill chosen for our Parish faith community. I am sorry to those who may have found this prayer troubling. I will endeavor to choose prayers that more accurately reflect the needs of our faithful.

Blessings, Fr Jim

**Weekend Mass Times Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 7:00 pm**


*We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe 13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7  
Telephone: 780-467-5470 Fax: 780-467-0530 email: [info@olph.ca](mailto:info@olph.ca) Website: [www.olph.ca](http://www.olph.ca)  
Archdiocesan website: <http://www.caedm.ca>*

**Liturgy Schedule**  
**Mon. Sept. 17 - Sun. Sept. 23**  
Weekday Mass 7 days a week at 8:30 am  
**Monday:** 8:30 am Mass  
**Tuesday:** 8:30 am Mass / 6:15 pm Mass/  
**Wednesday:** 8:30 am Mass  
**Thursday:** 8:30 am Mass, 6:15 pm Mass  
**Friday:** 8:30 am Mass  
**Saturday:** 8:30 am Mass

Weekend Mass Times:  
**Saturday:** 5:00 pm  
**Sunday:** 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 7:00 pm Mass

**St. Francis of Assisi, Tofield, AB**  
**Mass: Sundays 11:00 am**

**† In Loving Remembrance....**



We extend our deepest sympathy and the assurance of the prayers of God's people here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help to:

**Deborah & Lynn Kurach**, Deborah's father, Peter Frehlich passed away on Sept. 2 in Saskatoon.  
**Rod Frank and family**, Rod's mother, Lavine Frank passed away on September 12.  
**To Robert Bekius and family, Robert's wife, Eileen Bekius**, Eileen passed away September 10 in Fort Saskatchewan.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
(780)416-0931 Help Line: ext 1 Donations: ext 2  
Poor Box Collection: 3rd Sunday of the Month

***This Week's Mass Intentions.....***

**Mon. Sept. 17:** Norm & Adelaine Hope, Judy & Paul Stemmler, Spike Maynard†  
**Tues. Sept. 18:** Mary Ellen Rajotte†, Martha & Michael Lobo†, Norm & Adelaine Hope, Judy & Paul Stemmler, Lucille Duffault  
**Wed. Sept. 19:** Gladys Rodriguez†, Helena Viegas Pereira†, Barb Bonin, Norm & Adelaine Hope, Judy & Paul Stemmler, Lorraine Corkery

**RECONCILIATION**  
1/2 hour prior to all weekday Masses and from 9:15 am to 11:00 am on Saturday or by appointment.

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday - Sunday 7:30 am - 8:30 pm**  
**Open during lunch hour**

**Pastor**  
**Fr. Jim Corrigan** - jcorrigan@olph.ca

**Associate Pastors**  
**Father Sathiaselan Kulandaisamy SDB**  
**Fr. Sathia** - frsathia@olph.ca

**Father Jojappa Chinnabathini SAC**  
**Fr. Jojo** - frjojo@olph.ca


**Pastoral Assistants**  
Betty Donovan - pastoralcare@olph.ca  
Sue Boyne - pastoralcare@olph.ca  
Monna Senez - msenez@olph.ca  
Raylene Yuzyk - ryuzyk@olph.ca  
Pat Lemire - pat@olph.ca

**Financial & Business Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator**  
Robert Gaudet - robert@olph.ca

**Administrative Assistants**  
Lorraine Dotto - ldotto@olph.ca  
Jenny Velazco - jvelazco@olph.ca

**Thurs. Sept. 20:** Del Reinhart†, Norm & Adelaine Hope, Judy & Paul Stemmler, CWL intention  
**Fri. Sept. 21:** Norm & Adelaine Hope, Judy & Paul Stemmler, Norbert Kloster† Spike Maynard†, Georgina Slade†  
**Sat. Sept. 22:** Marlene & Hermann Freinbichler, Lorraine Corkery

**Parish & Community News**




**Anniversary Gala**  
The Catholic Women's League 60th & The Knights of Columbus 50th

**Tickets available after all Masses**

Saturday, October 13 Mass 5pm  
Cocktails 6:15 pm Banquet 6:45pm  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall  
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB


**Admission:**  
**\$30 per person**




**Catered Event,  
Live Entertainment**

**ARE your ducks in a row?**

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Homes will be presenting a Ducks in a Row Workshop in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm. Come join us for a relaxed open discussion on what to do before and/or after a death occurs. This is the perfect opportunity to have all of your questions answered. Light refreshments will be served so please pre-register by calling (780)590-0626 or by registering on our website at [www.connelly-mckinley.com](http://www.connelly-mckinley.com) and click on the ducks!



**See you there!!!**



**Can you help??** ABJ High School has been asked to help find billet families for student leaders from across Canada. The Canadian Student Leadership Conference will be held September 25-29, 2018. If you can help by billeting a student please contact Justin Gabinet at [justing@cics.ab.ca](mailto:justing@cics.ab.ca)

**OLPH Prayer Laudators**

We pray for others. Prayers of praise and intercession are offered to God our Father. Confidentiality is respected at all times. Contact: **Doreen** at 467-0597 or **Josie** at 467-0197.



*Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; announce his salvation day after day. Tell God's glory among the nations; among all peoples, God's marvelous deeds.*



**The Members of Music Ministry invite you to join us!**

OLPH Parish is blessed with several different musical ensembles that minister each week at the various Weekend Masses, as well as Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other Liturgies and celebrations. We invite you to share your time and talent by singing or playing an instrument and worshipping God through the gift of music.

These are some of the groups welcoming new members in singing or playing an instrument with them:  
Adult Choir - sings twice a month at the 10:30 Mass, rehearsals are wed nights; The Stang Group & Young Adults Group

If you would like information about joining a group or starting your own, please contact Sharon Darbyshire at 780-288-5594 or [sharon\\_darbyshire@shaw.ca](mailto:sharon_darbyshire@shaw.ca)

## ***GIFT - Growing in Faith Together***

### **Catholicism 101: What Do Catholics Believe?**

*“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15*

**Evening Course – Tuesdays, Sep 18-Nov 27, 7:00-8:30**

**NEW! Morning Course – Wednesdays, Sep 19-Nov 28, 9:30-11:00**

Catholicism 101 is absolutely FREE but pre-registration is required, as space is limited! For more information and to register, contact Alana LaPerle at 780-446-9009 or [alaperle@telus.net](mailto:alaperle@telus.net)

**Back by popular demand!**

**Living in the Word Scripture Seminar – The Gospel of Matthew**

**Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:20 pm / September 19-November 28**

**OLPH Parish**

Join Dr. Stéphane Saulnier, Professor of Sacred Scripture, Newman Theological College, as we read and reflect on the Gospel of Matthew. This is a free, drop-in program. No charge, no homework, no pre-reading.

**Please pre-register to help us plan. Contact: Pat at [pat@olph.ca](mailto:pat@olph.ca) or 780-467-5470.**



## **VISION UPDATE AND PLANS**

After a relatively quiet summer, the new Parish Visioning Initiative is picking up speed! We are pleased to announce that as today, we have 7 of the 8 Vision elements assigned to dynamic champions/leads!

The seven Vision elements and their assigned champions/leads are:

|                                      |   |                       |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Parishioner Engagement</b>        | - | <b>Greg Szott</b>     |
| <b>Evangelization &amp; Outreach</b> | - | <b>Billy Spindler</b> |
| <b>Ministries</b>                    | - | <b>Sandy Prather</b>  |
| <b>Leadership</b>                    | - | <b>Jerry Heck</b>     |
| <b>Finance</b>                       | - | <b>Trever Blunt</b>   |
| <b>Infrastructure</b>                | - | <b>Rick Senez</b>     |
| <b>Community</b>                     | - | <b>Mary Ann Platz</b> |

Many of you will recognize these parishioners and will be familiar with some of their service to our Parish already. Our OLPH website will be updated shortly to include each of their bios.

The remaining Vision element, **Youth Engagement**, does not have an assigned champion/lead yet. If you or someone you know is interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Robert at [Robert@olph.ca](mailto:Robert@olph.ca) at your earliest convenience. Robert will be able to explain the time commitment required for this mission journey and the timeline along with expectations on the work required.

**Watch for the Fall kick-off with all teams and more. Thanks for your patience!**

## **Friday Night Parish Potlucks**

Our very successful Friday Night Parish Potlucks are returning for the third year, starting in October! We need a few planning coordinators and creative thinkers and doers! Drop by the Parish office and leave a message for Robert – more hands make lighter work! Looking forward to hearing from MANY of you – let’s keep these evenings going! Blessings and thanks! [Robert@olph.ca](mailto:Robert@olph.ca)



## ***Children’s Sacraments Information and Children’s Programs***

### **Sacrament Information**

**First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion**-Grade 2 or older:  
Registration Parent Orientation Meeting-Monday, Sept. 17, 2018 7:00pm at OLPH Parish

**Confirmation**-Grade 6 or older:

**Registration and Parent Orientation Meeting at OLPH Parish**

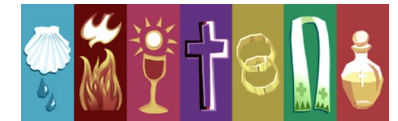
Monday, September 24, 2018 7:00 pm **OR** Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7:00pm at OLPH Parish. More information is available on [www.olph.ca](http://www.olph.ca)

### **Parents**

Have circumstances prevented you from celebrating the sacraments within the common time frame?

Concerned that it is “too late” or your child is too old to celebrate the sacraments? Worried that you might be judged or “in trouble”? This is simply not true. We welcome all your children to prepare and celebrate the sacraments of baptism, first reconciliation, first communion and confirmation. Your child is in grade 5? Doesn’t matter! Grade 10? Doesn’t matter!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!! SACRAMENTS DO NOT HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE!!**



Come and register your child. We will work with you and your child to receive the gift and the grace of our Catholic sacraments. Contact Raylene at 780-467-5470 or [ryuzyk@olph.ca](mailto:ryuzyk@olph.ca)

### **Religious Education Program**

#### **Catechetics (Religious Education) Home Program**

As we begin a new school year, we also think of religious instruction for our children. If you have a child who is not in our Catholic Schools, there is a Home program for Religious Education. Please contact Christine, **780-417-4773**, for information and materials to begin the program. A catechist will journey with you during the year to provide ongoing support. As well we will offer home program families the opportunity to come together two to three times during the year, beginning with a session just before Advent.



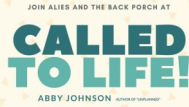
Young Disciples is an interactive faith program for children and teens that meets each Wednesday night from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the church basement. The cost for a whole year of faith, fun and snacks is only \$40 per child, or \$100 for a family with 3 or more children. Mark your calendars; we will be holding a

**Registration night on Wednesday, Sept 26 at 7:00 pm** in the basement of the church.

**Classes will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 4th.**

Young Disciples is looking for volunteers to help in our games area and our kindergarten group. If you are looking to get engaged in our parish or are a student looking to earn community service hours please email Melissa Vaci at [olph.youngdisciples@gmail.com](mailto:olph.youngdisciples@gmail.com). Young Disciples is a youth faith formation program which runs on Wednesday nights throughout the school year. Come join the Fun!

## Parish & Community News



**ProLife Event** - "Save the Date" for ALIES & The Back Porch's annual educational event this fall. Guest speaker, Abby Johnson is a former Planned Parenthood Director, turned prolife advocate and best-selling author. Join us to hear her testimony during a banquet dinner at the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre [on Friday September 21st](#). Doors open [at 5:30pm](#). Tickets are \$25 and are available at [www.alies.ca/event](http://www.alies.ca/event).

### RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

# RCIA

**What:** The RCIA process welcome new members into the Catholic Church.

**Who:** RCIA is for any adult who is baptized in another faith tradition or not yet baptized, interested in becoming Catholic.

**Where:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**When:** Thursdays beginning September 20 @ 7 – 9:00 p.m.

**Why:** Guided by the Holy Spirit you will discover what it means to follow Christ as a Catholic

**Contact: Please pre-register to help us plan. All are welcome.**

Call Pat Lemire @ 780-467-5470 or [pat@olph.ca](mailto:pat@olph.ca)

### SENIORS' CURLING Starts September 19th!

Senior's "drop-in" floor curling every Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall downstairs. New members are very welcome! For more information call

**Theresa at 780-478-5438.**



Tuesday Morning Bible Study



**Bible Study opened its new season on Tuesdays 2018 at 9:15 am in St. Joan Room, lower level**

Bible study is an opportunity for biblical conversions and reflections done with a sharing community of fellow parishioners. Pope Francis encourages us to go deeper in our faith and explore and search for the hidden depths of our rich Catholic faith. Please call Dan Bingham 780-464-5941 or Lawrence Bonin at 780 464-2337.

### 2018 Fabulous Fall Market

**Saturday, November 3rd in the OLPH Parish Hall**  
Vendors and Crafters wishing to reserve a table(s)

Call Pat 780-218-8009 \$30 each or 2/\$50

(This in a CWL sponsored event)



### Marian Gift Shop Hours

The Marian Gift Shop will be open following  
Saturday 5:00 pm Mass, Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am Mass.

## Celebration of Sacraments

**Welcome to our Newest OLPH Parishioners who were baptized on September 8, 2018**



**Lachlan Dziekciarz & Jake Lipsett**

### Wedding Congratulations

Our congratulatory prayers and best wishes go out to:



**Jackie Marquez & Andre Cadrin**  
who were married here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on September 8, 2018

## Parish & Community News



**St. Augustine aptly wrote ... "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page." So what are you waiting for?**

The JETS Airline is set to resume weekly flights to new and exotic destinations and we have reserved one First Class seat just for you!! Travel with us on Fridays at 9:35 am from our Departure Lounge (also known as the St. Joan Room in the lower level of our great Parish); flights leave promptly at 9:47 am and in-flight snacks and beverages are always provided complimentary of the JETS women's group. Female passengers should be between the ages of 18 and 108, although we do make exceptions. Fly with us every Friday, once a month or once a year – all are perfect!

Further information on departures and childcare options is available by contacting our flight captains Aida D. at 780-922-2156 or [issaaida33@yahoo.com](mailto:issaaida33@yahoo.com) and Nancy F. at 780-464-5356.

**Sept. 28** - Seniors' Lodge Yard Clean-up, **Oct. 12**—Root Vegetables & More

**Oct. 19**—Dance & Drumming!, **Oct. 26**—Grocery Store Nutrition Tour

### OLPH Dinner Groups

The Eight Annual OLPH Dinner Groups are in search for a coordinator for the 2018 – 2019 year. If you are interested and have previously participated in Dinner Groups at OLPH, please let Robert know – [Robert@olph.ca](mailto:Robert@olph.ca) or directly at the Parish office. The process is very simple and rewarding as well – don't wait too long - Dinner is Almost Ready!



**No one should be forced to flee their home.**

This fall, Development and Peace will be joining [Caritas Internationalis](#) to "Share the Journey". This Campaign is Pope Francis' invitation to all peoples to walk in the shoes of migrants and refugees. Please join us, **September 22 at Newman Theological College** (10012 84 St NW) to learn about the root causes of forced migration and ways we can take action here in Canada. The **Annual General Meeting from 9:30-10:15 AM** will be followed by the **Fall Action Workshop from 10:30-3:00 PM**. In a communication on July 27, Archbishop Smith indicated continued support for the educational initiatives of Development and Peace. There will be a *Soup and Sandwich Lunch by Donation*. **Please RSVP to Sylvianne Perry 780 462-2529 | [nsperry@telus.net](mailto:nsperry@telus.net)**

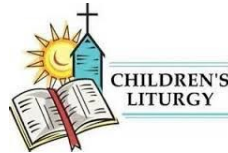
## Parish & Community News

### Walk for Life

Edmonton Prolife invites you to join their annual Walk for Life on **Saturday, September 15**, (registration at the Rundle Park Family Centre 8:30-9 a.m.). For more information, please contact Karen at 780-425-1637.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAMS

The Children's Liturgy Program will start up again September 9th, at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. The program is aimed at children ages 4-6. Please sign up in the foyer before Mass.



### Experiencing the Lord through Scripture

We invite you to join our scripture study group, "Experiencing the Lord through Scripture", on Monday afternoons from 1:15 - 2:30 pm. For more information please call **Irene** at 780-464-7393 or **Barb** at 780-464-4257.

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO COUPLES AT OLPH

Robert & Marisol Gaudet would like to invite Parish couples that are interested to deepen their faith and meet other couples with similar interests to join them at an information gathering on the Christian Life Program [CLP] and Couples for Christ on Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> after the evening mass. We will gather in St. Joan Room at 7 pm for a very brief review of our experience with Couples for Christ. Come, see and bring your questions! The next CLP program begins on October 6<sup>th</sup> – all are welcome! Contact Robert or Marisol at (780) 416-4771 for more information, [robert@olph.ca](mailto:robert@olph.ca)



## From the Archdiocese of Edmonton/Quid Novum

The Archbishop's Office has received many messages from people expressing their distress, their frustration, and their anger over how the Church has dealt with the issue of sex abuse in the Church in the past. We've also received many messages through our social media channels. Some have also included constructive suggestions for how we could do better in the future. We are grateful for all of them.

Later this fall the Canadian Bishops will release [new guidelines](#) addressing child abuse in the Church. And Pope Francis has called [an unprecedented meeting in February](#) with the presidents of bishops conferences around the world (including the CCCB) to talk about protecting children and stopping abuse.

So I still have hope that we can get through this. Here are some of the links to connect with the Archbishop Office for any concerns.

<http://archbishopsmitth.blogspot.com/>  
<https://caedm.ca/pastoralscene>

<https://twitter.com/archbsmith>

## Parish & Community News

### A prayer for our Church in these difficult times

Heavenly Father,

In every age, you have been our refuge.

Yet again and still, we stand before you asking for your protection on your holy Church.

For the victims of abuse and their families, pour out your healing and your peace.

For the Bishops of this country, continue to inspire their decisions, and guide them with your Spirit.

For the thousands of good and faithful priests, who have followed your call to serve you and your people in holiness, sustain them by your grace.

For the faithful who are angry, confused, and searching for answers, embrace them with your love, restore their trust,

console them with your clear Gospel message, and renew them with your sacraments.

We place our Church in your hands, for without you we can do nothing.

May Jesus, our High Priest and true compass, continue to lead her in every thought and action – to be an instrument of justice, a source of consolation, a sacrament of unity, and a manifestation of your faithful covenant.

Grant this through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**From: Quid Novum, Sept. 11, 2018**



*From the Desk of Fr. Jim*

My dear sisters and brothers in the Lord; “Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, (1 Cor. 5, 6).” St. Paul’s words of warning to the people of Corinth two thousand years ago spoke to my heart about the elephant in the room that all Catholics and the world for that matter are very aware of today. Suffice to say, I refer to the recent findings of the grand jury in Pennsylvania and the allegations of cover-ups against some of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. The numbers are staggering, 1000 victims, 300 priests, regardless whether the time span is the 70 years leading up to 1985.

It is an understatement to call this a grievous breach of trust over a period of many years, by clergy, perpetrated on the most vulnerable. This travesty occurring in the Church, making this an ever more painful experience. I write this article with no excuses. In AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), one of the maxims is that when you are able to name a problem you are half way to resolving it. As we all would agree, if we do not name it, there is not much chance anything will ever change.

Painful as it has been to witness, my prayer is that we have hit bottom and are now in a position to be ever more vigilant and proactive in putting the necessary checks and balances in place in order to avoid anything like this ever again. Though it has been a painful implementation process over the last 6 years or so, I am very grateful, that within the Archdiocese of Edmonton we have the “**Call to Protect**” program which includes criminal record checks and children’s services investigation checks for anyone who will be involved with the vulnerable sector of our communities and in particular, our young people. Is this enough? I am not sure, but we need to start by naming it and then in a very objective and open way, we need to ask; what are we to do?

All this to say friends, that our Lord and Saviour instituted a perfect Church. The problems began when He left humanity in charge. There is no question that we have all inherited the proclivity to sin from our first parents and we need to be diligent in the way we live our Catholic faith for ourselves, for our families and our community. Friends, at moments like this in the Catholic Church, one of our options is to turn away and say I want no part of an organization like this. That is your right, but I ask you to consider this thought. The one relationship, that is of utmost and paramount importance to us and our families is the relationship we have with Jesus Christ. Our Lord and Saviour, who in Jn 14, 6 states clearly; “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.”

There will always be a reason to turn our back on the Church if we are inclined to look for one. Remember this please; the Church is our Church, we are the Church, we are the body of Christ and Jesus is the head of the Church. We cannot allow anyone, or anything to get in the way of, or impede our relationship with the Lord, Who is, the way, the truth and the Life. Jesus left us the Church in order that it mediate and assist our relationship with our God.

Certainly, some days are better than others in this respect. My prayer for you, for your families and for our Holy Catholic Church is that we will move forward with hearts that are open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. If we do this, our Lord will have His way with us and allow us to see past the frailty of a sinful humanity and church, to the glorious eternity that He desires for each and every one of us, His children.

**Blessings,  
Fr Jim**