

## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK & ST PHILIP

### FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

At the stroke of midnight, we will be saying good bye to 2017 and saying hello to 2018. People around the world have various ways of celebrating New Year's Eve. In most countries, people celebrate New Year's Eve with parties, fireworks, family dinners, gift-giving and maybe community events that are cheerful and full of joy and laughter, and will commence on the last 10 seconds' countdown to officially welcome the brand New Year 2018. For me New Year is a time of thanksgiving, forgiving and a time of praying. It is a cycle where in we are doing it year after year. 365 days in a year, we encountered God in many ways in our lives through His blessings, inspirations, encouragements, challenges and trials. Some hard and some were frustrating and painful. In spite of those encounters, definitely, He never left us behind. In short, God is always with us, guiding and directing to move on. Since He is always faithful to us, it is then proper to submit our Thanksgiving.

A) Thanksgiving- we have so many things to thank Him for - like the blessing of life that He gave us; our friends and families; our works/ job; our spouses; our calling and our parish family. A lot of blessings we don't deserve but it was freely given to us through His Grace. As His priest, I cannot be blind to the challenges, trials and suffering of many of our brethren. Truly, 2017 was full of devastating calamities: both man-made and natural ones. Hurricanes in Texas and Florida; floods and storms in the Caribbean Islands and Puerto Rico; wild fires in Canada and California; shootings and massacres in Texas and Las Vegas and many more, a lot more in 2017. Despite those fearful trials, we still need to give thanks because it is still God's world and He is in control. As the suffering Prophet Job said, "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." So even by just feeling alive to watch the year changing, we are already survivors and we must thank God who makes all things possible.

B) Forgiving- As Christians, we need to forgive our enemies, friends and ourselves. None of us are perfect. None of us are without fault and none of us are sinless - we are all sinners and in need of redemption. In this regard, I would be the first to seek forgiveness. If there are some of you whom I have offended by my words or by my actions, I am so sorry and I am asking forgiveness. Likewise I will do the same. Forgiving those who have wronged us and being forgiven for our mistakes, give us a clean slate to start afresh and to learn from our mistakes. The Bible says, if we harbour grudges and iniquities in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us. A spirit of hatred is like a venom that would ultimately snap the life out of a person. The only antidote for hatred is love expressed in forgiveness. So at the change of 2017, we must all resolve to forgive and to start 2018 with a clean slate.

C) Praying- As Christians we observe the New Year by praying. At all times we must not cease praying. I must confess there are times I worry about the future of our parish family. There are lots of churches, parishes and congregations having a hard time financially and numerically. There are ministers struggling in their ministries and their lives. How can we survive as a parish family where pain, frustrations and tensions were inflicted or committed? How can we survive as a parish family and as a people of God? How can we grow? Whenever I worry about the future, God's Word always comes and Inspires me. God will provide. As Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China said in his quotations "Where God guides, God provides. God's work, done in God's way, in God's time, will never lack provision." Prayer is the language of the Holy Spirit that will keep us in peace by believing. "Jesus is the same

yesterday, today and always." His mercy is everlasting and His faithfulness endures from age to age. If He saved us in the past, He saves us today... And He will save us forever.

As we all say good bye to 2017 and say hello to 2018, let us walk and look to Jesus in prayer. Jesus alone can truly answer our deepest needs, Jesus alone can truly mend our broken hearts, Jesus alone can truly wipe away the tears from our eyes and Jesus alone can give us new and abundant life. MAY WE ALL HAVE A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AND A FRUITFUL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

Faithfully yours

Padi Joey Vallejo, + Priest -in -Charge

### **BANKVIEW CHRISTMAS SUPPORT**

For the third Christmas in a row, SMSP has offered support at Christmas to the residents of the Bankview Apartment associated with CUPS, in the form of Wal-Mart gift certificates. Padi Joey hand-delivered the cards to the Community Worker at the apartment building, and she delivered the certificates to each individual/family.

A thank you card was received in January from the Bankview Apartment residents, and Padi Joey hopes to continue to offer pastoral support to the building.

<b>Parish Priest: Rev.(Padi) Joey Vallejo</b>	
<b><u>Parish Officers</u></b>	
<b>Incumbent's Warden: Mary Smith</b>	<b>People's Warden: Andrew Daye</b>
<b>Treasurer: Andreas Pack</b>	<b>Envelope Secretary: Andrew Daye</b>
<b>Organist: Mary Ross</b>	<b>Sunday School Coordinator: Donabel Vallejo</b>
<b>ACW: Joyce Setters</b>	<b>Prayer Partnership: vacant</b>
<b>Altar Guild: Neila Russell</b>	
<b>Parish Council: Sam Bird, Harold Hippe, Sharen Stevenson, Leslie Miles, Marilyn Croot</b>	
<b>Lay Delegates to Synod: Leslie Miles</b>	
<b>Church Address: 1802 - 33 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2T 1Y9</b>	
<b>Phone: (403) 244-0198</b>	
<b>Email: <a href="mailto:office@parishofstmstp.com">office@parishofstmstp.com</a></b>	

### **GOING INTO HOSPITAL??**

If you are, it is helpful for the parish and clergy to know so that you can be remembered in prayer and visited. If you can't send a message yourself – let a family member, friend, or a member of the nursing staff know that your faith family is important to you and get them to phone and leave a message at the church: (403) 244-0198.

Don't forget- Automatic Debit is now available for your offerings. Please let Andrew Daye know if you wish to set up this automatic service.

**The deadline for submissions for the March issue of the newsletter is Feb 25, 2018.** There is a submission box outside the church office, or you can e-mail your submissions to [murmor01@telusplanet.net](mailto:murmor01@telusplanet.net) - (subject line: "SMSP Newsletter"). Thank you!