



“He fasted for forty days
and forty nights...”

Mar 10, 2024

St. Stephen's, St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Mar 9, 2024	Confession Holy Mass Holy Mass (St. Anthony)	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sun Mar 10, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 12, 2024	Lenten Mission – Mass followed by “Evening of Empowerment” w/ Joe Carignan	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Mar 13, 2024	Weekday Mass w/ Lenten Lunch Lenten Mission – Prayer Service followed by “Evening of Empowerment” w/ Naomi Holland	12:05 PM 6:30 PM
Thur Mar 14, 2024	Penitential Service	7:00 PM Olds
Fri Mar 15, 2024	Weekday Mass w/ Holy Trinity School Stations of the Cross- ALL	9:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds, Didsbury, Sundre
Sat Mar 16, 2024	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 17, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM TROCHU 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF
 Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
 Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired
 Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
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 Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic
 Office Hours
 Mon – Thurs 9-3:00
 Friday 9-Noon
 Stat Holidays - closed

MASS SCHEDULE
 Tuesday – 6:30 PM
 Wednesday – 9:00 AM
 Friday – 9:00 AM
 Saturday – 5:00 PM
 Sunday – 9:00/11:15AM
 Sunday - 7:00PM

 Confession every Saturday in
 Olds at 11:00 AM Unless
 otherwise posted. .

Our Lady of Fatima – Sundre
 1st Friday Mass – Feb 2, 2024 7PM
 Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
 Friday - 10:00 AM
 In case of inclement weather, the
 Marian Cenacle and Chaplet may be
 cancelled.

St. Anthony - Didsbury
 Feb 10, 2024 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners, People of God,
Prayerful Lent and God's manifold blessings!

Today's readings on this fourth Sunday of Lent are filled with contrasting images — God's vision versus human vision, the light of Christ versus the darkness of sin, spiritual blindness versus spiritual sightedness. Embracing a stewardship way of life can free us from spiritual blindness, allow us to see as God sees and help us to reflect the light of Christ's love in the way we live our daily lives. Let us participate actively in our Parish Mission and also to our Penitential Service this week. The first reading, from the First Book of Samuel, recounts God's choice of a king for his people from among the sons of Jesse. Surprisingly, it was not the oldest or the strongest of the seven brothers that God chose to lead his people. It was the youngest, the least likely candidate by the world's standards, that God chose — "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." Our Heavenly Father is not impressed by our job title or athletic achievements or the number of Twitter followers we have. He is pleased by the condition of our hearts when they are conformed to Christ and by the way we use the time and gifts He has given us to serve others. Our Second Reading, from Ephesians, gives a further reminder of the aspect of our identity that truly matters to God and encourages us to live in a way that reflects this. "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Because of our Baptism, we have the "light" of the Blessed Trinity dwelling within us. In the difficulties and messiness of daily life, it's easy to forget this glorious truth about ourselves. It can also be difficult to determine whether we truly are living in a way that reflects Christ's light. The stewardship way of life, with its emphasis on the rightly ordered use of the gifts of time, talent and treasure, gives us a guide we can consult on a daily basis to help ensure that we really are living as "children of the light." In our Gospel passage from John, Christ says of Himself, "I am the light of the world." This passage recounts a miracle our Lord performs, restoring sight to a man born blind. The man responds to the Pharisees who question him about his healing by declaring to them that Jesus "opened my eyes." These Lenten days are an excellent time for us to ask Jesus to open our eyes, too. Let us ask Him to show us where we may be suffering from spiritual blindness, perhaps even in subtle ways. Are we truly reflecting His light in our use of time by giving first priority to our prayer lives, regularly attending Mass and Confession, giving our full and consistent attention to our loved ones? Are we reflecting His light in the sharing of our talents by supporting the ministries in this parish, by community involvement, by being good neighbors to those near us who may be in need? Are we reflecting His light by sharing our material blessings in a committed and intentional way as an act of gratitude to the God Who has given us all that we have? As we continue on our Lenten journey, let's intensify our efforts in any of these areas where we have become a little blinded so that by Easter, we are truly living as children of the light. It is also God's call and tremendous blessing to pray and to care and look after our sick and elderly brethren, especially the dying and those who need the last rites of the Church whether it is day or night, please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-3521524 or 403-4156183. This is also a ministry and the Sacrament of Healing entrusted by Jesus to His Church. Blessings!

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

EASTER TRIDUUM MINISTRIES

Sign-up sheets are posted in the foyer for Liturgical ministries for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. If you are able to assist, please sign up as soon as possible. Sign-up sheets will be removed on March 25, so please sign up prior to that date.

Please note: if you are signing up for either Adult Server or Altar Server for Good Friday, you are expected to participate in the Stations of Cross as Cross Bearer and Candle Bearers prior to the Good Friday Service. The Stations of the Cross start promptly at 2:30p.m.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST COMMUNION – First Communion classes will resume on Saturday March 23, 2024. Participants will have received an email from the Sacramental Prep team.

CONFIRMATION - Feb 25th – Class this weekend. The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAQUE

A friendly reminder that memberships are now due. Please see Laurel Arvay, Jo-Anne Sell or Joanne Fewster to pay. If you are interested in joining CWL please speak to any member. First year memberships are free. Come out and see what we are about, you have nothing to lose. Our next meeting is Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

CWL is collecting travel size personal care items to be included in welcome bags for refugees. We also collect toiletries and clothing for Morningstar an organization in Red Deer that provides aide to women who live on the street. Donation baskets are in the upper room to avoid congestion in the foyer

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

We have a few books still that have been donated to our Parish Library that are being made available to our Parishioners to take home with you. They will be out on a table in the foyer leading up to Lent. A donation towards the parish is welcomed and appreciated.

EVENING OF EMPOWERMENT – St. Stephen's Parish Mission 2024

Join us on Tuesday March 12th, 2024 for Mass at 6:30 PM followed by a presentation by Joe Carignan – a retired RCMP officer who will speak to us about Domestic Violence and share some information about the future Women's Shelter and the importance of that facility to our community. The Mission will continue on Wednesday with Prayer Service at 6:30 PM followed by a presentation by Naomi Holland – Redeemed with Purpose- who will speak on "Human Trafficking today – What we need to know". Lastly, we will wrap up our Lenten Mission with our Penitential Service on Thursday March 14th at 7:00 PM.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH

There is still one conference available to any Men interested in attending at the end of March. This conference is very worthy of your consideration as an opportunity to grow in your walk with the Lord. It is good once or twice a year, as men, to refocus ourselves on our relationships with god, our spouses, our families, fellow men, our workplace colleagues and our communities. Many men from our parish have attended events like this in the past and it would be good to get a group together to attend this event. It is a Catholic based ministry and the benefits would be substantial in many ways. Please consider signing up and attending. It would be great if we could get some groups of men from our parish to attend and travel together to reduce the cost. Please pray about what god is asking you to do. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Larry - 403-556-2360.

In HIS most Holy name, AMEN

God Squad – Way to the Father – March 22 and March 23 – Ascension Parish, Calgary, AB

ST PATRICK DAY KITCHEN PARTY – MARCH 16, 2024

You are all invited to the **St. Patrick's Day Kitchen Party** to be held Saturday, March 16th after the 5:00 Mass. Please bring a plate of your favorite finger food or appetizers to share, and stay for the music and the fun! This is a jam-session, so you are asked to bring your musical instruments, if you've got 'em. You don't have to be Irish to take part in this gathering, but you are encouraged to wear the green. Donations at the door are appreciated!



THE SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH – MARCH 19, 2024

Join us on Tuesday March 19, 2024 for Rosary and Prayers at 6:00 w/ Solemn Mass at 6:30. Please note that the Mass will include the use of incense for anyone with sensitivities. Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall

TAX RECEIPTS – IMPORTANT

We have made the executive decision to postpone mailing the tax receipts for one more week as there are many familiar names on the envelopes. We have pulled any out of town receipts or any where we have received a request to mail and they are on their way. If you could take a moment this weekend to stop by the table and pick up your tax receipt, that would be appreciated. They will be located front and center this weekend! They will officially go into the mail next week – but hopefully the pile will be small..

MENS GROUP – BOOK STUDY – Upcoming Meeting

Attention **men** of the parish! If you are interested in participating in a book study of C.S. Lewis's classic Christian story, *The Screwtape Letters*, we will be holding our first meeting Monday, March 18th at the church. The book offers a thought provoking look into the little ways the devil tries to separate us from God. We will read the passages during the meeting, so you do not need a copy of the book to participate. If you have any questions please contact John Templeton.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU – Marriage Prep Weekend

Our heartfelt thanks to all the people who helped with the marriage preparation course: the presenting couples, the prayer couples, our cooks, those who supplied food and/or helped to serve, those who turned out to help clean up, and our wind-up host couple. To mention you all by name would fill the page! Special thanks also to Fr. Nilo for his support and encouragement, and for our closing prayer service. We could not have done it without the enthusiasm and participation of our parish. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community.



LENT