

March 13, 2022
Father Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Mar 12, 2022	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 13, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 15, 2022	Holy Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Mar 16, 2022	Holy Mass w/ Lenten lunch to follow	12:05 PM Olds 7:00 PM Trochu
Fri Mar 18, 2022	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds 7:00 Sundre 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sat Mar 19, 2022	Holy Mass	5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 20, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds

Stations of the Cross will be every Friday throughout Lent at St. Stephen's, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony's.

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired

Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald
4302 57th Ave Olds, AB
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<http://www.ststephens-olds.ca>

Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic
Be sure to follow our Youth group
@st.stephens_youth_ on Instagram
Office Hours 9-2pm

NEW 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

The new schedule is in effect until
March as authorized by the
Archdiocese.

Our Lady of Fatima - Sundre

OLF celebrates a monthly Mass
on the first Friday of every
month.

OLF Weekly Schedule

Friday – Divine Mercy Chaplet
& Rosary – 10:00 AM
Stations of the Cross – 7 PM

St. Anthony's - Didsbury

Stations of the Cross – 7 PM
March 12, 2022 – Mass- 7 PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends in Christ,

Blessings to all of you! We are now on the second Sunday in Lent. In last week's Gospel, we followed Jesus into the desert where He fasted and prayed. This week, He leads us up a mountain to witness His Transfiguration. Why both of these experiences? He is preparing us to go with Him in a few short weeks to a hilltop, Golgatha, where He will lay down His life for our sake — and finally to take us to an empty cave where He triumphed over sin and death once and for all. Jesus perfectly understands our humanity. He knows we need desert experiences — times of self-denial and testing — in order to arrive at mountain-top moments when we see and feel His glorious presence in our lives. The purpose of these two types of experiences is summed up in the description of the Apostles who were with Jesus at that mountain-top experience in today's Gospel: "Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory...." The reason for all of our fasting and prayer and almsgiving during lent is to be reawakened to all God has done for humanity and to all that He has done for each of us personally. It is all too easy to get lulled into complacency in our daily routines, to "sleepwalk" through life, getting up and getting ourselves and maybe kids out the door, going to work, returning home for dinner and dishes, meetings or sports activities, and finally flopping on the couch to watch TV until bedtime. While there is nothing inherently sinful in this routine, as Christian stewards we are called to so much more! We are called to be fully awake and fully alert to the love of the Holy Trinity that dwells within us through our Baptism and surrounds us at every moment. How do we know this is true? We wouldn't be alive at all but for the love of God that sustains us second by second! And we would not have eternal salvation and the perfect joy of heaven awaiting us if Jesus had not come and died for us. The disciplines of lent are not meant to make us miserably "hangry" until Easter arrives, and we can eat chocolate in peace once again. The prayer and fasting and offering of ourselves to the poor are intended to shake us free from any apathy that has crept in to our lives so that we can see His glory in everyday moments. When we intentionally set aside time for prayer, He will give us exactly the wisdom we need to face what comes later in the day. When we bring a little discomfort into our lives by the sacrifices we make, we realize just how weak and dependent we are on Him. When we reach out to those who have less materially, we realize the abundance of blessings we have. These are mountain-top moments. They bring us back to our senses and fill us with gratitude to God — which in turn spurs us on to give Him more of ourselves in the sharing of our time, talents, and treasure. In this way, we train ourselves, or more precisely, we allow Him to train us to say "Yes" to His will and to offer our lives back to Him. In so doing we, too, become "transfigured." This is what it means to live fully awake; this is a stewardship way of life and it is glorious indeed.

Devotedly yours in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 22, 2022	St. Mary's	Red Deer	7 PM
March 24, 2022	Our Lady of Peace	Innisfail	7 PM
March 25, 2022	St. Stephen's	Lacombe	7 PM
March 30, 2022	Sacred Heart	Red Deer	7 PM
April 5, 2022	St. Stephen's	Olds	7 PM
April 6, 2022	St. Anne of the Prairies	Trochu	7 PM

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR THE UKRAINE

The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada has partnered with the Canadian branch of the Papal charity, *The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)*, to provide immediate humanitarian support for the people of Ukraine. Donations to CNEWA will help equip local Caritas centres to assist struggling families, including those who are displaced and in desperate need for food, shelter, medical attention, and more.

Please pray. Stay informed. And if you are able, please consider donating.

Online: <http://eeparchy.com/donate> and select "Aid to Humanitarian Crisis." OR

Mail: The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, 9645 -108 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1A3. **Payable to:** Eparchy of Edmonton **Memo Line:** Aid to Humanitarian Crisis

SYNOD DISCUSSION – *Companions on the Journey*

The Synod on *Synodality in the Church* will be focusing on how the Church journeys together. The next topic and question we will explore is: **AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION**

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.

1. How does our church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
2. How is authority or governance exercised within our local church?
3. How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice?
4. How are ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted?
5. Have we had fruitful experiences of Synodality on a local level?
6. How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)?

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a **Novena for Life** and are asking for your participation. We have two prayer cards, available this weekend, for your use at home from March 16th to March 24th, inclusive. Please try to pray these prayers for the nine days of the novena. We will try to use the prayer card at Mass, during this novena time. We should also include March 25th – the Feast of the Annunciation, which is also the Knights of Columbus “Day of the Unborn Child”. Please join us in this work for Life – from conception to natural death. When we have a disregard for “Life”, there is no telling what other situations may arise.

"A reminder to all members that dues for the 2022 Fraternal Year can be paid by sending an e-transfer to matthewcadrin@hotmail.com."

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

Thank you to our St. Stephens parishioners who volunteered to cook and serve our pancake breakfast for Shrove Tuesday and to St. Anthony's CWL for their generous donation to our breakfast program! We are so blessed to be loved by these communities!



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST RECONCILIATION &

Final Weekend – First Reconciliation - Friday, Mar 25, 2022, after school, retreat and sacrament

A Special Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for all the prayers for recovery & for the Mass that was said. I am so blessed to belong to such a wonderful, loving & caring parish family. I thank you for your continued prayers.

Diane Mahoney Dyck

FAITH & FORMATION

-There is a *Comments & Suggestions* box in the foyer on the shelf in front of the office window. If you have comments or suggestions you wish to convey to Fr. Nilo, the office staff or the Pastoral council please leave a message in the box with your name, phone number and the date. An approved volunteer will check regularly, and distribute to the appropriate person. Any messages without contact information will be disregarded.

-As part of our Lenten theme *United in Prayer*, we ask that you take a coloured bookmark from the table in the foyer, and pray for that family every day. If you wish your family to be included, please pick up a form to write only your family members' first names. The forms can be placed beside the basket with coloured bookmarks. The names will be available next week on the bookmarks.

-Calling all young people! Come and bring a friend to the *Praise and Worship* Hour on Monday Mar. 14th at 7 p.m. in the church!

-Come on Monday March 21st at 7 p.m. for an evening of *Truth and Reconciliation* stories and sharing with Doreen Bergum. All are welcome.

-For those who wish to discuss the Synod questions in person, please contact Maria for a meeting. 403-415-6833.

-The Catechism and Children's Liturgy committee is looking for volunteers to help. Whether you are experienced or new to the faith, we need you! Please fill out a form on the Catechism table.

FRANCISCAN SOCIETY

Did you know..... that there is a local Franciscan fraternity that meets on a monthly basis at St Stephens? With St Francis of Assisi as our Seraphic Father, we are lay people who try to more closely follow the gospel way of life through both contemplation and action in our day to day lives. If you would like to deepen your spirituality, are 18 years or older, a practicing Catholic and wish more information please call either Audrey Gross (403 586-4260) or Kathy Caron (403 507-7288) for more information. Pax et Bonum!

LIBRARY NOTICE

As in pre-pandemic times, we will again a selection of books in the lobby for the next two weeks for Lenten reading. Anyone from our Tri-Parish community is welcome to borrow books. Just sign the card at the back of the book and put in the container provided. If you prefer to take a book directly from the library, please do, but sign it out and return when finished.

We hope your reading will bring you closer to the Trinity and your friends at St. Stephen's as we transition back into a visible parish community after the restrictions of this terrible pandemic. God Bless.

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

The Catholic Bishops of Canada have announced an Indigenous Reconciliation Fund to advance healing and reconciliation initiatives. The Archdiocese is committed to working with the bishops of Canada to meet the goal of securing \$30 million over a five year period.

We have entered an era of reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples and this is an important step in our journey. Funds raised locally will remain in the area and will support culture and language revitalization, education and community building and healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

For the faithful who wish to contribute to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, there will be two special collections across the Archdiocese on March 5/6 and March 12/13 weekends. There will be envelopes for this purpose at the parish or through the on-line donation link found at <https://caedm.ca/IndigenousRelations>.

We are committed to continue the journey with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of this land. For more information, please contact the Archdiocese website caedm.ca or visit www.cccb.ca.