

Fifth Sunday Of Lent



Mar 17, 2024

*St. Stephen's, St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac*

Sat Mar 16, 2024	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 17, 2024	Holy Mass - <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 19, 2024	Weekday Mass - <i>Solemnity of St. Joseph</i>	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Mar 20, 2024	Weekday Mass w/ Lenten Lunch	12:05 PM
Fri Mar 22, 2024	Weekday Mass Stations of the Cross- ALL	9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds, Didsbury, Sundre
Sat Mar 23, 2024	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 24, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds

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
Ststephen102@gmail.com
 403-556-3084
<http://www.ststephens-olds.ca>
 Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic
 Office Hours
 Mon – Thurs 9-2:30
 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 – April 5, 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
 April 13, 2024 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners, People of God,

Prayerful Lent and God's manifold blessings!

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today's readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much. What's more, these readings give us wonderful guidance on just how to make this grateful response. In our first reading, from Ezekiel, the prophet speaks God's own words to us. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord." Our God wants only goodness for us. He wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. And He has promised He will do it. But only if we allow Him. He will not force His way into our lives. That would not be loving and God is Love itself. We must invite Him in. We must make room for Him by making Him the priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him. How can we please God by putting Him first? Our second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, gives us good instruction. "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you." To be "in the flesh" means that we allow our own selves — our whims, our pleasure, our comfort-seeking — to determine our daily decisions. To be "in the flesh" is to spend our time, talent and material gifts primarily on ourselves. When we are in the flesh, we leave no room for the Spirit of God to fill our thoughts, our hearts and our souls. The disciplines of Lent and the disciplines of a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to "the flesh." The sacrifices we make in a particular way during this holy season, and every day when we truly embrace a stewardship way of life, are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary — they are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God. In fact, the more we allow God to take over every aspect of our lives, the freer and more joyful we become. And our loving God is always ready to renew His Spirit within us whenever we find ourselves led astray by the temptation to selfishness. Today's Gospel passage from John recounts Jesus' raising of His friend, Lazarus, from the dead. In Jesus' poignant reaction to the death of Lazarus and the grief of his sisters, we see once again how closely our God identifies with us and all of our sufferings and burdens. His tenderness and compassion teach us that we can safely surrender our lives to Him knowing that He will care for us. His raising of Lazarus from the dead demonstrates His power over all things, even death itself, reminding us that it would be foolish not to surrender to such an awesome God! As we journey ever closer to the powerful days of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God. 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

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

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 - March 17th – Class this weekend. The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Please join the Confirmation Class as they lead the Teen Stations of the Cross on Friday Mar. 22nd at 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAQUE

Thank you to the Parish Community for their support of the Parish Lenten Mission. We were blessed to have the speakers from Mountain View Women's Emergency Shelter Society and Redeemed with Purpose present us with information that impacts so many of the vulnerable in our local communities and globally. A special thank you to Joanne Fewster, Deb Britton, Sandra Boutwell, Tara Bruder and all members of their team who helped plan and execute these evenings – many hours went into bringing this event together. If you didn't get the opportunity to support either one of these organizations on the evening of the presentation, you can include your donation in this weekend's contributions either by envelope clearly marking (March 12/ MVWESS or March 13 / Redeemed with Purpose or by retransfer – ststephen102@gmail.com with info in reference line.

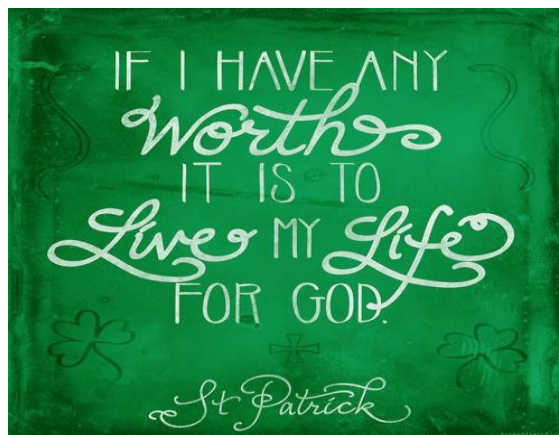
ST PATRICK DAY KITCHEN PARTY – MARCH 16, 2024

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.



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.



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 2:30 p.m.

TRIDUUM MASS SCHEDULE

ST. STEPHEN'S MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday	7:30 PM	Olds
Good Friday	11:00 am	Sundre
	3:00 PM	Didsbury
	3:00 PM	Olds
Easter Vigil	9:00 PM	Olds
Easter Sunday	8:00 AM	Sundre
	10:00 AM	Didsbury
	11:15 AM	Olds

ST. ANNE'S MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday	7:30 PM
Good Friday	3:00 PM
Easter Vigil	8:30 PM
Easter Sunday	9:00 AM

HANDICAP PARKING

As we move through the busy Lenten season and approach the Triduum weekend where we will see extra visitors and higher attendance for Mass, it is very important that we DO NOT PARK beyond the Four Handicap spaces allocated in the front. Cars or trucks parked beyond the four spots impede the Fire Lane and make it difficult for vehicles to drive through to the parking by the rectory. We thank you in advance for adhering to this parking rule.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - PARISH BATHROOMS

Have you ever wondered how the washrooms stay clean or how there is always toilet paper on the roll? We have a wonderful group of volunteers who help with this, however, our group is getting smaller. Some of our teams are getting older and no longer physically able to do the job as easily as they once could, and we need to find some replacements. We are looking for individuals or a team of 2 who would be able to dedicate approx 1 hr, one week a month, on a rotating schedule. Please contact Sandy Heilman if you are able to help out. 403-556-6693.