



Prayer
Fasting
Almsgiving

*St. Stephen's Parish
St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima
Nilo Macapinlac
Mar 19, 2023*

Sat Mar 18, 2023	Confession Holy Mass St. Patrick's Day Party (Potluck and Music)	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds **Following Mass
Sun Mar 19, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM -Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 21, 2023	Mass is cancelled***	
Wed Mar 22, 2023	Weekday Mass w/ Lenten Lunch	12:05 PM Olds
Fri Mar 24, 2023	Weekday Mass Holy Mass w/ Penitential Service	9:00 AM Olds 6:30 PM Olds
Sat Mar 25, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 26, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds

Mass on Tues March 21, 2023 is cancelled due to Penitential Service in Red Deer.

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 9-2pm

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

Apri –see Easter Triduum Schedule
Friday's – Divine Mercy Chaplet &
Rosary – 10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury

Fridays – Stations of the Cross
April – see Easter Triduum Schedule

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners,

Prayerful Lent! “Not as a man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but God looks into the heart.” On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, which is also called Laetare Sunday, we are close to the middle of our 2014 Lenten journeys. This past Thursday was the actual “midpoint” of Lent this year, but this Sunday, as the closest to that, is a time set aside for us to “Rejoice!” It is fitting that our readings for this Sunday point to important aspects of our faith that we need to recognize and embrace. Although each reading has significance by itself, all of them together bring us to a deeper understanding of what Lent is all about, and what we need to be doing to fulfill and complete our Lenten promises. The first reading from First Samuel is the story of how David was chosen by God to be king. The Books of Samuel were written some 600 years before the birth of Christ, but as is usually the case with the Old Testament, it anticipates the New Testament. We need to acknowledge the fact that the name David means “beloved” in Hebrew. What an ideal anticipation of God declaring at Christ’s Baptism, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17) David, of course, was rejected when it came to the initial selection, and he stayed in the fields with the sheep while his brothers were brought before Samuel. This, too, anticipated Jesus: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” (Matthew 21:42) We are reminded that our focus must be on Jesus Christ. The preferred Psalm for this week is the 23rd Psalm. Is there another Psalm with which we are so familiar? “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose. Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.” In the middle of Lent we need that reassurance that comfort, that reminder that God is with us. Saint Paul takes us one more step on our journey in his letter to the Ephesians, our second reading. We are called to reflect the light of Christ, “Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” To really reflect this light, however, we need to seek it, recognize it, and clasp it. That is what Lent is about. That is what stewardship is about — our willingness to see that it is time for us to be the light, time for us to commit ourselves to lives that take us closer to God and to holiness. Light is an important representation throughout Scripture; it tends to represent knowledge, wisdom, happiness, and holiness. What a profound and beautiful story is found in the Gospel reading from John! We have to, as is frequently the case, look more deeply into what Jesus and Holy Scripture are telling us. We are told that the blind man whom Jesus cures has been blind since birth. This makes this miracle even more powerful. Jesus often healed the blind, but the fact that this man has *never* seen makes the healing even greater. Just as God revealed in the reading from Samuel that He looks beyond the obvious, into the heart, Jesus does the same in this instance. This man could not see Christ, but Christ could see him; in fact, Christ could look into the depths of his heart. Christ came into the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind — to us. On this Laetare Sunday, we need to rejoice, to take the light of Christ given us by Christ, and to share it and spread it through stewardship with everyone we know and everyone we meet. ? As part of our gratitude, let us always be ready in looking after the needs of those around us. In caring our sick and elderly, the dying and those who need the last rites of the Church, please do not hesitate to call me at 780-3521524 or 403-4156183. St. Joseph, pray for us. Thank you!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

~Are you Catholic and in your last year of High School? Are you planning to attend post-secondary school after graduation? If so, the Didsbury CWL is offering one (1) \$500.00 Scholarship.

Note: The application process requires an essay and two (2) letters of reference.

Deadline to submit application is May 26, 2023

Applications can be emailed to Maxine Moreau max22moreau@gmail.com

~During the Christmas season, copies of *Holy Moments* were distributed to the homebound. There is interest in acquiring more copies. If you are interested in additional copies for family or friends, please let Maria know – 403-415-6833. A bulk order will reduce the cost of shipping.

FAITH FORMATION

Junior Altar Servers There will be a practice for the senior and junior altar servers on Sunday April 2nd following the 11:15 Mass to prepare for the Triduum the following weekend. Families of servers are invited downstairs for a potluck lunch and social.

The Chosen is an American historical drama television series... It is the first multiseason series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. **Catholic Commentary on The Chosen** with Dr. Michael Barber and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger aims to help Catholics actively engage with this immensely popular TV series. Please join us on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Stephen's hall as we watch episodes from *The Chosen* as seen on FORMED

Next Confirmation Class - March 19, 2023

Confirmation Journals- The season of Lent is upon us. As we *Journey with Jesus* towards the Lenten season, the confirmandi are taking notes in their journals during Mass. If you, too, would like to write down something that really touched you during Mass, such as a line of music, a verse from one of the readings or one of the prayers, or an idea that Father expressed during his homily, there will be pencils and paper available on a table in the foyer. Please don't let your children write in the songbooks.

Please join the Journey with Jesus Confirmation class on Friday March 31st as they lead Stations of the Cross.

FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device. FORMED's Bible studies, sacramental prep materials, documentaries, books and audio talks from leading Catholic experts will help you grow in understanding your faith. If you are using FORMED.org, please let the office know. We need to know at the end of the year how many users who can benefit from this faith formation tool. We are paying for this and need to know how to maximize its usage.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for upcoming dates during Lent;

Stations of the Cross – Fridays throughout Lent – Olds, Sundre, Didsbury
Parish Penitential Service - Fri Mar. 24th

SUMMER PLANS - Stephen's Parish will be holding a family campout on the weekend of July 21-23rd. Mark your calendars for a fun time! More details to follow.

COFFEE PARTY - There will be a coffee party in the foyer on Sunday Mar. 19th following the 11:15 Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION

For students in grades 5 and up who haven't yet made your Confirmation, please come for classes resuming Sunday January 15th at 10 a.m. for an hour in the Upper Room. See Donna at the parish office to register. Cost of the book is \$12.50. We are using the *Decision Point* program by Dynamic Catholic.

Our dates for First Holy Communion gatherings will begin in March.

Saturday, Mar 25, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

Saturday, Apr 29, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH

Deacon Charles will lead the Stations of the Cross at St Anthony's on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM. All are invited to join him.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Youth grades 6 and up - mark your calendars!

Thursday May 4th – Mantracker

Thursday June 1st – TBD

Times and locations are coming-For more information, please email monica.andrew@rdcrs.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Saint Joseph- On Sunday March 19th, prior to the 11:15 Mass, the Knights of Columbus will be offering a prayer service in honour of Saint Joseph and where the K of C Pilgrim Icon of Saint Joseph will be displayed. We will begin about 10:15 and invite you to attend as we join together to give honour to Saint Joseph – Patron of Canada, Patron of the universal Church. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Killoran at 403-415- 5627. All are most welcomed!



The K of C are organizing a Novena for Life and are asking for your participation. We have two prayer cards, available on March 12th, for your use at home from March 16th to March 24th. Please try to pray these prayers for the nine days of the novena. We will also lead a rosary on 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.

Knights of Columbus Membership Dues - Council dues are now past due. If you have not yet received a current membership card, please send dues to matthewcadrin@hotmail.com at your earliest opportunity. Thank-you

The K of C are running their annual Wheelchair Fundraiser in partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, who are able to provide wheelchairs at a cost of just \$195.00. It is estimated that over 100 million people are in need of a wheelchair, but few will ever be able to afford one without our support. Those who find themselves in need of a wheelchair are dealing with disabilities caused by physical handicaps, accidents, disease, or may have been the victims of war or natural disasters.

During this Lenten season, we encourage individuals, families or groups of families to consider how they might raise money for this cause through sacrifice and almsgiving. Any donations are appreciated. Donation forms can be found on the table in the foyer.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL MASSES

Once a month, we welcome the students and staff from Holy Trinity School to Morning Mass. They will join us on the following dates:

Wednesday March 15 – 9:15 AM ** Time to be confirmed**

Wednesday April 19 – 9:15 AM

Wednesday May 24th – 9:15 AM

Mass will begin at 9:15 AM on these dates to allow time for the students to be transported by bus. We encourage you to join us at Mass.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY – MARCH 18, 2023

Join us this weekend for a good ole’ fashioned St. Patrick’s Day kitchen party – Saturday, March 18th, 2023 following Mass. This date is also the eve of the Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary.

Please bring a potluck dish to share, and stay for music and fun! There will be a casual, live music jam-session. You are welcome to bring your instrument and join us. Admission is free, but we encourage you to bring a donation to help with the cost of running this event. You don't have to be Irish, but please wear your green and wear you're smiling eyes, too! See you there :)



Due to Icy Conditions in the parking lot during the winter,
we encourage everyone to drop your family at the door of the church.