

March 20, 2022
Father Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Mar 19, 2022	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 20, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 22, 2022	Holy Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Mar 23, 2022	Holy Mass w/ Lenten lunch to follow	12:05 PM Olds 7:00 PM Trochu
Fri Mar 25, 2022	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds 7:00 Sundre 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sat Mar 26, 2022	Holy Mass	5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 27, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 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
Ststephen102@gmail.com
403-556-3084

<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

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear People of God,

Prayerful journey on this season of grace! Today's readings capture the essence of God's Lenten message to us, His people, offering words of compassion and mercy as well as warning of the need to repent and make the most of the gift of time He has given us. The First Reading, from Exodus, recounts Moses' first encounter with the living God who provides reassurance of His nearness to the people in their suffering and tells of His desire to deliver them from slavery into freedom and fullness of life. He tells Moses, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them... and lead them... into a land flowing with milk and honey." This compassionate God goes even farther, revealing His name to the people as a sign of intimacy with them and telling them, "This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations." Our Second Reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that God, though full of mercy and compassion, is also just, and that there will be consequences for our behavior. He admonishes us, **"whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."** Today's Gospel passage includes the familiar parable of the unfruitful fig tree. It is preceded by an interesting dialogue between Jesus and some people reporting the news of the day, asking for His "take" on the matter. They tell Jesus about a bloody massacre that some Galileans had suffered at the hands of Pilate. They expected Him to confirm their view that the Galileans had done something to deserve such a death. But Jesus defies their expectation, telling them that the people who died such an awful death were no more sinful than they themselves are. Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well? The season of Lent is a time to reflect carefully on the way we spend our time. Do we give first priority to God, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so. Our St. Stephen's Parish in Olds will have a Lenten Mission Talks on Sunday April 3 after Lunch. On April 5 Tuesday will be our penitential service at 7pm in Olds while on the following day Wednesday, April 6, Penitential Service at 7pm in Trochu. Let us use this opportunity to grow in our interior life and personal relationship with God. Blessings to all of you!

In Christ the Lord.

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: **DISCERNING AND DECIDING**

In a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.

1. What methods and processes do we use in decision-making?
2. How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures?
3. Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God?
4. What is the relationship between consultation and decision-making, and how do we put these into practice?
5. What tools and procedures do we use to promote transparency and accountability?

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Becoming a member: For any Catholic man, 18 years of age or older, looking to join the local Knights of Columbus and help us put our Faith in Action please contact our Membership Director Brother Dan Killoran at 403-415-5627 or by email at: dankilloran0521@gmail.com

CWL – GARAGE SALE

SAVE THE DATE! St. Stephen's Garage Sale is Going to happen Again!!

The garage sale will be on Friday May 13 and Saturday May 14, 2022. Please mark your calendars and gather your items. Watch for more announcements following Easter.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION

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

ST STEPHEN'S YOUTH – Upcoming events

6:00am pick-up. If there are any parishioners who aren't good sleepers, we are in need of a few volunteers to cover shifts throughout the night. Please contact Monica Andrew for a permission form if you haven't connected already. monica.andrew@oldsnet.ca

May 19th - St. Stephen's Youth Night – Grades 6-9 - 7:00-9:00 in the church hall. Join Jeannette for a Hunger Games activity. This activity is for youth grades 6-9 with grades 10-12 welcome as youth leaders. We are in need of adult supervisors for this event to run. Please contact Monica Andrew if you are able. More details to follow.

June 17th - Holy Trinity School – Live Action Crusades - from 7:00-9:00. Join Peter for live action Crusades. More details to follow.

FAITH & FORMATION

There will be a *Comments & Suggestions* box in the foyer on the shelf in front of Mia's window. If you have anything you wish to convey to Fr. Nilo, the office staff or the Pastoral council after hours, 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. If it is a complaint, please include your suggestion on how best to change it.

As part of our Lenten theme *United in Prayer*, we ask that you take a red 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 on the Catechism table to write only your family members' first names. They can be placed in the basket beside the red bookmarks. The names will be available next week on the bookmarks.

An evening of Truth and Reconciliation has been postponed.

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

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!

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.