

Fifth Sunday Of Lent



*St. Stephen's Parish
St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima
Nilo Macapinlac
Mar 26, 2023*

Sat Mar 25, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00AM Olds 5:00PM Olds
Sun Mar 26, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00AM -Olds 11:15AM Trochu 7:00PM Olds
Tues Mar 28, 2023	Weekday Mass	6:30PM Olds
Wed Mar 29, 2023	Weekday Mass w/ Lenten Lunch	12:05PM Olds
Fri Mar 31, 2023	Weekday Mass Stations of the Cross	9:00AM Olds 7:00PM Olds, Didsbury, Sunde
Sat Apr 1, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Apr 2, 2023	Holy Mass - Palm Sunday	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds

There will be an extra collection on Sunday March 26th for the Development in Peace – Share in Lent Campaign – Create Hope: Stand for the Land . There will be envelopes in the pew

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

Sstephen102@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 – Sunde

First Friday Mass - April

See Easter Triduum Schedule

Friday's – Stations of the Cross

Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury

Fridays – Stations of the Cross

Second Saturday Mass -April

See Easter Triduum Schedule

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners,

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, St. Paul tells us in the second reading from his letter to the Romans that “You are in the spirit, if only the spirit of God dwells within you.” It is this Spirit, which was placed in each of us at our Baptisms, and reinforced through the Sacraments throughout our lives, which flows through all the readings for this Fifth Sunday of Lent. As we have prepared and continue to get ready for Easter, part of our objective should have been to seek the spirit within us, and to make and endeavor to have that spirit come alive within us in reflection of Christ. Each of the readings identifies and acknowledges this inner spirit we possess. Knowing a little about the Prophet Ezekiel is helpful in understanding both his prophecies and the historical context within which they were made. Around 600 BC, at a time when the Jerusalem was occupied by the Babylonians, the people of Jerusalem rebelled. Not only was the rebellion suppressed, but most of the Judean leaders were taken into captivity and marched to Babylon where they were basically made slaves. Ezekiel was one of those taken. What he saw and experienced during the forced march is reflected in today’s first reading. Ezekiel had a vision of a mass grave in one valley where hundreds of victims were thrown into a pit. This “valley of the dry bones” is the basis for his prophecy in the reading. He is careful to point out the difference between these skeletal bodies and the spirits which dwelled within them. Ezekiel wants us to know that God’s spirit is at work within us, and if we cling to that, we will have life. Lent, as we said, is a time to seek that spirit. Not surprisingly the theme of the second reading, from Paul’s letter to the Romans, is exactly the same. St. Paul declares, “You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit.” Again Lent is an occasion when we make the try to reduce the “flesh,” and to emphasize the spirit. Just as Ezekiel indicated, Paul, too, makes it clear to us that God dwells within us. He also reveals to us that we must strive to live in God, just as the Lord’s spirit is in us. It is a mutual occupation. “Although the body is dead, the spirit is alive.” Jesus, our Lord and Savior, always makes these connections most clear. The Gospel reading from John, the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead, may actually prevent us from making the connection pointed out in the first two readings because we tend to focus on the miracle. Recall that the Gospel of John is basically the last three weeks of Christ’s physical life on earth. Bethany, where this story occurs, is only a few miles from Jerusalem. Like the Lord, we are on that same journey to Calvary, to the Resurrection, to Easter. This story prompts us to remember that it is never too late for us. Lent may be more than half over, but we can still find the spirit within us. Lazarus’s spirit has not died, and to make a point, Jesus reunites it with the body. The Lord says, *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”* This is what makes us hopeful, and this is what will make us joyous at Easter. Now is the time though to incorporate our faith, our hope, into our daily lives. One of the most basic ways of doing that is to adopt stewardship and discipleship as a way of life. 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. 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 26, 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 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.

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.

THIS 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

WHEELCHAIR FUNDRAISER

Father Forsythe Council of St Stephen Parish, K of C, would like to thank all the parishioners, who contributed to the wheelchair fundraiser.

We would like to wind up the drive by April 2, 2023. If you would care to donate, the pledge forms can be found on the display table at the back of the church.

If you have any questions please contact
Paul Caves: 587 796 1179

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.

EASTER FLOWERS AND EASTER BREAD



For anyone wanting to donate flowers to help beautify our Church for the Easter Celebrations, they can be delivered on or before April 5th, 2023. There will also be a basket out on Holy Thursday to collect Easter Bread that will be shared with coffee & tea following the Easter Vigil. Your donations are always appreciated 😊

We will have a basket out in the foyer to collect non perishable food items for those in need on Holy Thursday.

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