



*March 27, 2022*  
*Father Nilo Macapinlac*

Sat Mar 26, 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	Divine Mercy Chaplet Holy Mass	5:30 PM Olds 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  
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Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic

Be sure to follow our Youth group

@st.stephens\_youth\_ on Instagram

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**

**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

Holy Mass – April 1, 2022

**St. Anthony's - Didsbury**

Stations of the Cross – 7 PM

Holy Mass – April 9, 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends in Christ, Prayerful & grace-filled Lent! For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not “measuring up” in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. In fact, the word “lent” comes from the Old English word, “lencten,” which means spring. Lent is intended to be a springtime for us in our spiritual lives where all can become new again. St. Paul tells us in the Second Reading today, “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ.” The Gospel Reading, too, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us; it is the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son. We are all familiar with this amazing story — the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn’t that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us. In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally “comes to his senses”—awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it was enough for the loving father. “While still a long way off, the father caught sight of him.” The son was still a long way off from a deep understanding of what he had lost and what he was about to gain. But that small and imperfect openness to the father’s love was enough. In fact, the father is “filled with compassion for him” and immediately sets about preparing feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father’s love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father! Be refreshed in this love. We are new creations thanks to this reconciling love. And what comfort this passage gives to those of us who watch with sorrowful hearts for a return to faith for own “prodigal” loved ones. Our Father is watching and waiting for their return to Him even more eagerly and patiently than we are. We owe God everything! But let’s start by giving him one little thing. Take even a faltering step closer to Him — go to confession, join in the Stations of the Cross, call a family member or friend you are at odds with and try to reconcile. With just the tiniest bit of spiritual “spring cleaning” we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father’s loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about. I cordially invite you for our parish Lenten Mission on April 3 with Penitential Service and Confession on April 5 after 6:30 pm Mass. This is for our spiritual wellness and spa for the soul, please see our bulletin in Olds. However, in Trochu, penitential service and confession will be on Wednesday, 6th of April after 6 pm Mass. Blessings!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

### LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

### 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: **FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY**

***Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning.***

1. How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?
2. What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

## 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

## 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](mailto:dankilloran0521@gmail.com)

-The Knights of Columbus – Alberta/NWT State Council **Charities Appeal Raffle** is now available. The Charities Appeal is an online 50/50 Fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased by residents of Alberta, 18 years of age or older, at the website: [www.koc5050.com](http://www.koc5050.com) Please consider making your "In Support Of" selection, at the time of purchase, to our council **04748 Father Forsythe**. Ticket sales end Sat April 23rd 2022 with the draw on Sat April 23rd 2022. Thanks!

## 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 May14, 2022. Please mark your calendars and gather your items. Watch for more announcements following Easter.

## ST STEPHEN'S YOUTH – Upcoming events

**April 1st: Youth All Night Bowling** -Grade 6-9- This event teams up with the Innisfail youth group for games, praise and worship and bowling. 10:00pm drop off at the Innisfail bowling alley and 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](mailto:monica.andrew@oldsnet.ca)

**May 19<sup>th</sup> - 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 17<sup>th</sup> - Holy Trinity School – Live Action Crusades** - from 7:00-9:00. Join Peter for live action Crusades. More details to follow.

## 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!

Our Lenten theme is *United in Prayer*, there are various groups praying for each other including our First Communicants. Pick up a bookmark at the table in the hall, and sign your first names on the form in the pew, or at the table if you wish for your family to be prayed for. No contact information is necessary.

We have the children of Holy Trinity School making Easter cards for the seniors in care facilities in Olds, Sundre and Didsbury. If you have a family member or friend in any of the facilities, please contact Maria at 405-6833 for information.

This week, we are asking for prayers to encourage our parishioners and others in neighboring parishes to attend our Lenten Mission next week. Please bring a friend!

Come on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the parish hall for an evening of *Praise, Prayer and Singing*. **All ages are welcome.** Bring your musical instruments!

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

### **Lenten Retreat - Spiritual Preparation – A Few Words from our Parishioners**

Perhaps many of you have seen numerous posters placed around the church to advertise our parish Lenten retreat. In order to attract a little more attention to this special event we would like to share a few words and encourage our fellow parishioners to attend.

We have been very fortunate to hear Fr. Mario speak recently at a conference. His sharing was very lifting, practical and inspirational. Fr. Mario is a very gifted speaker who has a knack for getting your attention and then offering practical suggestions for how we can apply the gospel message to our everyday lives. After you hear Fr. Mario you will feel very spirituality fed and have a renewed desire to grow in your faith journey.

As for our youth... Fr. Mario has an inspirational message for you too. He understands the challenges that our youth are facing today and offers practical suggestions how to grow in your faith and make a difference in this world. You will also be inspired by the story of Carlo Acutis one of the youngest persons to ever be considered for sainthood and is at the center of Fr. Mario's presentation in calling "Youth to Holiness."

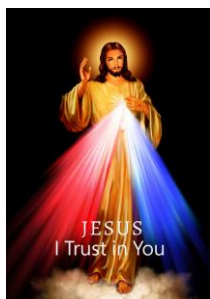
We also have had many opportunities to hear our second speaker Patricia. Her topic "Family Struggles" will have something meaningful for everyone in our walk as Christian families. Her testimony is a very touching story and is easy to relate to because of her real life experiences and inspirational stories.

If you want to know more about the speakers check out the poster which gives some interesting profiles on these gifted presenters.

In closing we feel very privileged and blessed to be offered this opportunity to prepare our hearts for the risen Lord this Easter. We thank the parish team who has put this retreat together.

So if you are looking for some meaningful time to spiritually prepare for Easter, place this retreat on your calendar, you won't be disappointed.

Blessings, Dave and Sandy Heilman



Join in on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet prior to Mass.