

# DIVINE MERCY

JESUS,  
I TRUST IN  
YOU!

## St. Stephen's Parish

St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima

Nilo Macapinlac

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 16, 2023

Sat April 15, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00AM Olds 5:00PM Olds
Sun April 16, 2023	Holy Mass  Divine Mercy Sunday Confession & Prayers Divine Mercy Chaplet & Mass	9:00AM -Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00PM Olds 2:00 PM Sundre 3:00 PM Sundre
Tues April 18, 2023	Weekday Mass	6:30PM Olds
Wed April 19, 2023	Weekday Mass w/ Holy Trinity School	9:15 AM Olds
Fri April 21, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat April 22, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM
Sun Apr 23, 2023	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 57<sup>th</sup> Ave Olds, AB  
[Sstephen102@gmail.com](mailto: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 - Sundre

Divine Mercy Mass - April 16,  
2023 - See OLF Newsletter  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass - May 5, 2023  
Marian Cenacle - Wed - 7:00 PM  
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary -  
Friday - 10:00 AM

### St. Anthony - Didsbury

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Mass - May 13, 2023 -

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners,

Alleluia! Today is the Second Sunday of Easter; more recently in our Church's history it has become known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Gospel reading from St. John is often referred to as the story of "Doubting Thomas" but the passage involves so much more than the encounter with skeptical apostle. It is rich with lessons of Christ's mercy to all, including an encouraging word from our Lord especially for us, His modern-day disciples. While Thomas traditionally takes all the bad rap for his doubts, we see that none of the Apostles were at their best when Christ first appears to them after His resurrection. The passage says that they were in hiding, cowering behind a locked door because they were afraid of what the Jews might do to them for their association with Jesus. They were paralyzed by fear and doubt. But Jesus appeared right in their midst in spite of the lock on the door. Was it to rebuke them for their lack of faith? To chide them for abandoning Him when He needed them most? To call them out for being so wimpy? Quite the contrary. He comes on a mission of mercy. He comes to offer them peace and the restoration of their relationship with Him. And even more, He commissions them to become ministers of His mercy, by giving them the authority to forgive sins. "Peace be with you," He says. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." At that moment Christ gives to all of us the supreme gift of mercy — the sacrament of Reconciliation. What a precious and powerful gift is this divine mercy. This Sunday of mercy in this Easter season of mercy is a perfect time to reflect on how well we make use of the gift of Reconciliation. Do we really appreciate the healing power of this sacrament? The infusion of grace, the freeing power of knowing we are forgiven, the increase in self-knowledge, and intimacy with our Lord? Could we become better stewards of this gift by going to Confession more often and by encouraging our loved ones to do so as well? Today is also an opportune time to examine how generously we offer the gift of mercy to those around us. When Thomas obstinately declared he would not believe in the risen Christ unless he could see for himself the mark of the nails in His hands and put his fingers into the nail marks and put his hands into His side, our Lord does not become indignant. He offers mercy. Jesus graciously gives Thomas the very thing Thomas is asking for — a real and personal encounter with Him, the chance to literally touch His sacred wounds so as to heal Thomas from his doubts. When we are disbelieved or disrespected, do we respond as Jesus did, with humility and magnanimity and compassion, the very hallmarks of mercy? Interestingly, we will find that the more deeply we embrace the gift of mercy through regular Confession, the greater will be our capacity to offer mercy to others because we will see ourselves as really truly are — forgiven sinners deeply loved by God. Let's commit ourselves to becoming faithful disciples, stewards of Christ's mercy 2,000 years after His Resurrection. We will be those very ones to whom Jesus gave a "shout out" during His encounter with Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" — in His merciful love, Jesus, King of Mercy, we trust in You! St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, pray for us! Have a blessed Divine Mercy Sunday to all!

Yours totally in the Divine Mercy,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor



**PLEASE NOTE:** Please do not park beyond the 4 available Handicap parking spots in front of the church during weekend Mass times. Any vehicles that go beyond the 4 designated spots impede the Fire Lane. We thank you for your attention to this.

## FAITH FORMATION

Please note that there are no more *Chosen* discussions on Thursdays. There was a mistake in last week's bulletin.

Please join us for the 11:15 Sunday Mass with the confirmation students. There will be a coffee party following Mass in the foyer.

Save the date! St. Stephen's Parish will be holding a family campout on the weekend of July 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. Mark your calendars for a fun time! More details to follow.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION

Our dates for First Holy Communion gatherings will be:

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

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

## 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](mailto:monica.andrew@rdcrs.ca)

## 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 April 19 – 9:15 AM

Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

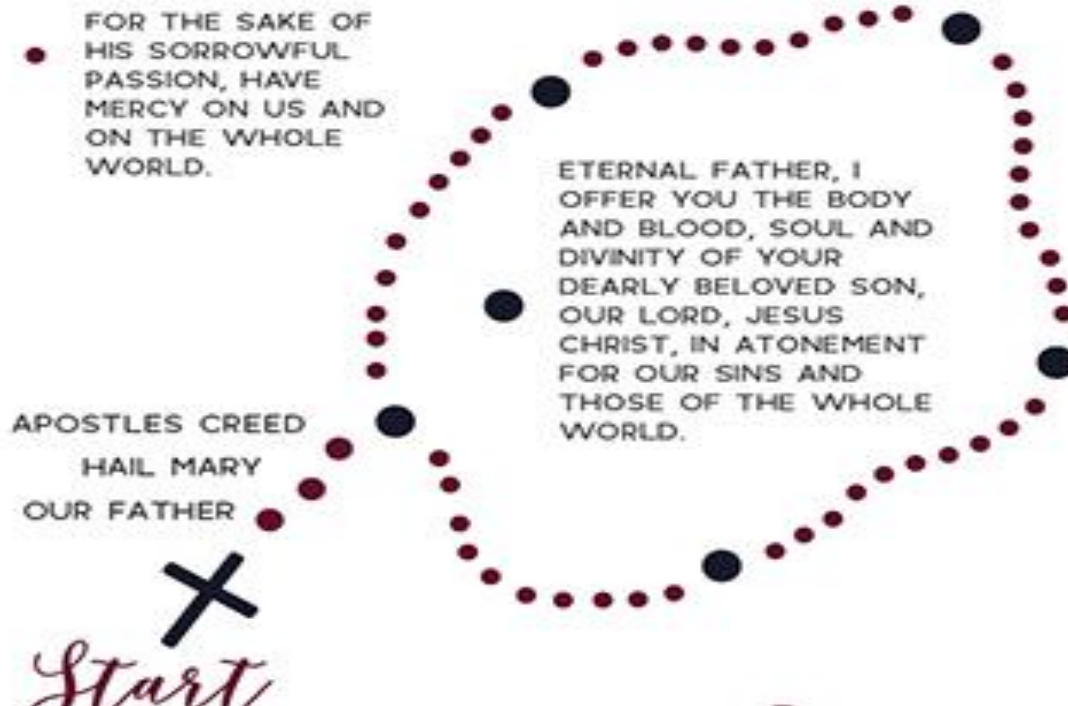
**Aid and Support After Pregnancy:** The Knights of Columbus will be holding a support raising effort for the Olds office of the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre. It will run from Mothers' Day (May 14<sup>th</sup>) to Fathers' Day (June 18<sup>th</sup>). We are looking for financial donations, baby products (list to be provided), and especially prayers for those in need. More information to follow soon. Please plan to support a Culture of Life and also to come to our **Mothers' Day Brunch on May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish will host the Divine Mercy Mass on Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> in Sundre. Confession and Prayers will begin at 2:00 pm and the Mass and praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will begin at 3:00. All are welcome.

# thank you

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Easter Triduum Weekend – our arts and environment team, junior and senior altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters,

## Chaplet of Divine Mercy



Our Lady of Fatima Parish will host the Divine Mercy Mass on Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> in Sundre. Confession and Prayers will begin at 2:00 pm and the Mass and praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will begin at 3:00. All are welcome.

