

I am the true vine



April 28, 2024

**St. Stephen's, St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac**

Sat Apr 27, 2024	Confession - Cancelled Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Apr 28, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Apr 30, 2024	Weekday Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed May 1, 2024	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri May 3 2024	24 Hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Weekday Mass First Friday Mass – Our Lady of Fatima	24 hrs 9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Sundre
Sat May 4 , 2024	Confession Holy Mass Annual General Meeting – Olds Parish Pastoral Council w/ potluck	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds Following Mass
Sun May 5, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds

Confession at 11:00 on Saturday April 27th is cancelled as Father is unavailable, however Father Nilo will be available at 4:30 prior to the 5:00 PM Mass on Sat Eve.

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
Deacon – Charles Johnston –
Retired
Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald
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403-556-3084
<http://www.ststephens-olds.ca>
Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic
Office Hours
Mon – Thurs 9-2:30
Friday 9-Noon
Stat Holidays - closed

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

1st Friday Mass – May 3, 2024 7PM
Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
**Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
Friday - 10:00 AM**
In case of inclement weather, the
Marian Cenacle and Chaplet may be
cancelled.

St. Anthony - Didsbury

May 11, 2024 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners, People of God,

Prayerful 5th Sunday of Easter and God's manifold blessings to you!

The readings we hear today penetrate us and draw us more closely into the new reality inaugurated by the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ. "*I am the true vine*" (Jn 15: 1-8). By describing Himself with the biblical image of the vine, Jesus recalls the true identity of Israel as the people chosen and elected by God from among the nations. He is also describing the relationship between Himself and the disciples. Like the branches of the vine, so the disciples belong to Christ in an almost 'organic' way, as Pope Benedict said in Berlin in 2011. This belonging expresses our dependence on the Lord and His emotional identification with us. The vine is one with each of its branches, and each branch extends the presence of the vine in the world. Why is Christ the '*true vine*' and why are we his '*branches*'? It is because God is waiting on humanity to bear fruit, even though our sin means we are unable to offer anything other than inedible stones. The Son of God, however, was made flesh to present to the Father the fruit long awaited - the good wine of love and obedience, and to include each of us in that true love. The words of Jesus in the readings suggest another reflection. In order to "*bear much fruit*" and to obtain whatever we ask him, the Lord makes a condition: He asks that we remain in Him and that "*my words remain in you*". What does it mean to remain in the Lord? In what sense can His words remain in us? St John answers the first question in the second reading. "*Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us,*" (1 Jn 3:24) We can dwell in God, abiding in Christ, because Christ has already included us in His relationship with the Father. This link does not depend on us, but is a gift freely given once and for all in Baptism and deepened in the Eucharist. "*We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.*" Encouraged by this relationship with Christ, we are able to keep the commandments, not as the price we must pay in order to be loved, but as the fruit, which because He loves us, we are now able to offer. As branches to the True Vine, we walk together as People of God. We are being cared, nourished and we will grow together. This is the synodality of the synod of the Church. As we embark for the three years (2024-2027) of pastoral priorities namely, formation for Eucharistic Worship, forming confident witnesses and formation to service to families and marriage, our parishes and missions will draw strength from the True Vine, Jesus Christ or else apart from Him, all of us will wither or shriveled. We can do nothing but with the Risen Christ all things are possible. I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and dynamic collaboration especially in our Annual General Meeting. We are the Church, the living organism, mystical Body of Christ, God's Vineyard. Let us ask the Blessed Mother, Mary who recalled all these things and who pondered them in her heart that we might be granted the gift of remembering, because every word of the Lord can change us into what He wants us to be, so that He can present us to the Father at the end of time as "*holy and blameless before Him in love*" (Eph. 1.4). Amen! On our sacred journey with the Risen Christ, let us be mindful of the needs of our sick brothers and sisters, **especially the dying and those who need the last rites of the Church whether it is day or night, please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-3521524 or 403-4156183. This is also a ministry and the Sacrament of Healing entrusted by Jesus to His Church.** *Due to changes regarding patient privacy within Alberta Health Services (AHS), if you or someone you know is admitted to the hospital, please inform those admitting staff that you are of the Catholic faith and consent to a visit from a Catholic Chaplain. It is essential that you state your Catholic religion and that you give consent for a visit from the Catholic Chaplain. You will not be able to receive a visit unless consent is given and noted on your file. If you have an upcoming surgery/procedure, you can ask your Parish Priest for the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted to the hospital.* **Octave of Easter Blessings to all!**

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

"Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us," (1 Jn 3:24)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST COMMUNION – Class this weekend 9:00 –Noon.

CONFIRMATION - Class this Sunday at 10:00. Donna will be taking pictures on this day, so come prepared with your best smile. Maria will be gathering the names of sponsors for the Confirmation candidates. Please have this info at class. It is traditionally the Godparents, but it can also be someone who has been part of the candidates faith journey. The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024

CALL TO PROTECT - TRAINING

Click on this link below to learn more about the Call to Protect Training. If you are volunteering within the Parish with our vulnerable – working with the youth of all ages, seniors and other, then this training is mandatory. <https://caedm.ca/calledtoprotect/>

Here is the registration link for May 1, 2024, Wednesday, 1:00 pm workshop
<https://forms.gle/Gmhh7GzEfTxsrd8p6>

Parish Council AGM and Potluck



The annual Parish AGM with potluck is May 4th, 2024 following the 5:00 PM Mass. Your presence at the Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting is highly encouraged as we need your representation so all the parish community can gather to better understand the activities within St Stephen's Parish. We look forward to seeing you on May 4th. Annual reports will be available in the foyer this weekend for you to review beforehand. .

DIDSBURY CWL – HIGHSCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Are you Catholic and in your final year of High School? Are you planning to attend post-secondary school after your 2024 graduation? If so, you may be interested to know the **Didsbury CWL** is offering **one (1) \$500.00** high school scholarship.

Applications are available by emailing Maxine Moreau at: max22moreau@gmail.com

Deadline to submit application is May 24, 2024.

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Wheelchair Fundraiser & Highway Clean up

You may have noticed the wheelchair on display in the foyer as you entered the church. The Knights of Columbus have, in the past, sponsored the delivery of thousands of wheelchairs to destinations here in Canada and around the globe. They are asking for your help again this year to help purchase more of these chairs. Each chair costs \$195.00 and for any contribution of \$20.00 or more you will be sent a tax-deductible receipt. Last year, you helped raise enough money to pay for 14 wheelchairs and the Knights thank you for your generosity! If you are interested in contributing to this worthy cause, information and pledge forms are available in the foyer. If you have any further questions regarding this project please see Paul Caves.

The Annual Highway Clean up is fast approaching. The Knights are looking for volunteers/families from the Parish to assist with the Highway clean up. We will meet at the Parish at 8:30 am on Saturday in the church parking lot and will form a convoy and head out to our section of highways.

MARCH FOR LIFE

March for Life: Please join us for the following events as we unite our prayers and support for Life at all ages and stages.

Wed. May 8 @ 7pm Candle Lit Rosary for Life

** Thurs. May 9 bus trip to Edmonton for the March for Life with Our Lady of

Fri. May 10 7pm Pro-life movie in the church hall.

Please contact Sandra (403-507-9021) or Naamah (403-507-2377) if you have any questions.

**Our Lady of Peace is planning a bus trip to Edmonton in support of the March for Life on May 9, 2024. You can pre-register by email olpeace.innisfail@caedm.ca by calling the Our Lady of Peace parish office which is open : Tuesdays – Fridays 9:30am – 2:30pm 403-227-3932 .

The poster attached to the bulletin has more info for anyone interested.

MARIAN DEVOTION

A Block Rosary is a Marian devotion connected with the visit of an Icon or Statue of Mary that travels from house to house or from one family to another over a set period of time. We are looking for individuals or families who would be willing to open their homes to Mother Mary and to a weekly gathering of your friends and neighbours during which you would pray for each other, your neighborhood, our town, our country, etc. before passing the statue of Mary on to the next household. For anyone interested there is a sign-up sheet available in the foyer. If you would like more information contact Sheila Dela Cruz or Donna in the parish office.

If anyone is interested in receiving the People of Mission Bulletin that comes from the Archdiocese, you



People of
Mission

BULLETIN

can follow the link below. On the first page of the bulletin, there is a subscribe button that will guide you. In the People of Mission bulletin, you can find links to Archbishop Smith's articles and interviews, events within the Archdiocese, what's happening at different Parishes, etc.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGxStpPHCqXFQbxGsqbBQmVXGrL>

PARISH LIBRARY – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

If you are someone who has a love of books, and would be interested in leading our group of volunteers in the library, we need you! We have a small team dedicated to specific tasks within the library, but we need someone to oversee the process of reviewing books that get donated, assessing current inventory to ensure they are timely and appropriate for the library and overseeing our little library. This is a very flexible role that can work with any schedule. If you are interested, please see Mia or Donna. Our lovely Miss Gerry Wiper is officially retiring from the role after many dedicated years organizing our library. We thank her for her time and dedication to this role. Please note – just because she isn't running the place, you better know she will still have eyes on it, so don't leave non library things laying around, because Gerry will know and we love her for it. 😊