



St. Stephen's Parish Bulletin – JULY 2023

St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima

Nilo Macapinlac

Saturday	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sunday	Holy Mass Alternating Mass times between Olds and Trochu. 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Sunday – 11:15 AM – Olds 2 nd , 4 th Sunday – 9:00 AM	9:00 AM 11:15 AM 7:00 PM – Olds
Tuesday	Weekday Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wednesday	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Trochu
Friday	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Saturday	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sunday	Holy Mass	9:00 AM 11:15 AM 7:00 PM – Olds

Please note: 24 hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and First Friday Mass will continue as per usual for the summer. The Monthly Didsbury Mass will resume in Fall.

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF
 Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
 Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired
 Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
 Office Admin – Mia MacDonald
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<http://www.ststephens-olds.ca>
 Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic
 Office Hours Mon- closed
 Tue – Thurs 9-2pm
 Fri – closed
 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 – July 7, 2023
 Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary – Friday - 10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury
 No Weekend Masses during the summer months of July and August.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners,

Happy Canada day to everyone! God keep our land glorious and free! Today's readings take us back to some basics of stewardship living. The First Reading shows us the necessity and power of hospitality. The Second Reading reminds us what it is that makes us disciples and Christian stewards in the first place (hint: it's our Baptism). Finally, in today's Gospel, Christ teaches us how to live daily life as His stewards. Our First Reading, from 2 Kings, tells the story of a woman who showed loving hospitality to a visitor, inviting him to dinner with her family and arranging a room for him in their home so that he would have a comfortable place to stay during his travels through her town. She reached out to the man in a simple and practical manner to make him feel welcome. That is the essence of Christian hospitality. As it turns out, this man was none other than the prophet Elisha. He rewarded her kindness by interceding with God to obtain for her the miracle of a baby boy after long years of infertility. In our Second Reading, from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us of the power of our Baptism and how it is that this sacrament makes us disciples and therefore stewards. He says that through Baptism "into Christ Jesus" we were both buried with Christ and now are alive in Christ. We are literally new creations, marked for all eternity as one of His own. What does that mean for us here and now? St. Paul tells us very clearly: "You too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus." We must live for Christ! Nothing less will do. Our Lord Himself proclaims this same instruction in a rather shocking way in our Gospel passage from Matthew: "Whoever loves father or mother... son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." And, "Whoever finds his life [by living for oneself] will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." How can all all-loving Lord say such things? Precisely because He is the source of all love – He is love incarnate. We can only love others, and even ourselves truly, if we allow ourselves to be emptied of self-love and filled with God's love. This is why our Lord tells us we must "lose our lives." Putting ourselves or others – even those dearest to us – above God simply cannot give us the ultimate fulfillment and peace of soul that we all want. Only God can do that. Only loving God first and living for Christ – "losing our life" – can do that. But how do we know if we love God more than "father or mother or son or daughter"? Jesus tells us in the next verses. And the fascinating genius of it all is that it is precisely through loving actions towards others, loving them as if they were Christ, that we demonstrate our love for Christ! "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple... he will surely not lose his reward." So, we have come full circle to the importance of hospitality, and to putting God first in our lives because we have become Disciples of Christ through our Baptism. We put God first by serving others as if we were serving Christ Himself, thus losing a self-centered life and finding our true fulfillment. As part of our renewed life and an act of gratitude, let us always be ready in looking after the needs of those around us. Charity begins at home. 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.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

OFFICE NEWS

The office will move to Summer hours beginning the week of July 3rd. The office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays and will have normal hours of 9 -2 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. As always, in caring for our sick and elderly, the dying and those who need the last rites of the Church, please do not hesitate to contact Father Nilo at 780-3521524 or 403-4156183. The Bulletin schedule for the summer will include one edition for July and a second for the month of August. If you have anything that you would like to see in the August bulletin, please get that to Mia prior to July 21st, 2023.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP OUT

The St. Stephen's Campout is filling up fast! Please register as soon as possible if you wish to meet other families and all age groups in the parish! Registration forms and fees that are marked "St. Stephen's Campout" can be placed in the collection plate, e-transferred to the parish office, or cash/cheque brought to Mia. The weekend promises to have lots of fun activities including a piñata, sports, games, crafts, scavenger hunt, and sessions for everyone!

If you are not up to a whole weekend or all day, you are welcome to join us for the campfires (weather and fire bans permitting) on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m... Bring your lawn chairs and musical instruments to Harmattan Community Hall, Range Rd 40 & Township Rd 324, south of Hwy. 27

Our Vacation Bible School this year is titled, "*A Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer!*" If your family has a national flag, we would appreciate it if we could borrow it just for the week. You could bring to the Sunday Mass on July 9th. There will be many countries represented throughout the week.

Vacation Bible School 2023 is coming! Vacation Bible School will run from July 10-14 this summer. Ages 3-11 are welcome! Our Vacation Bible School this year is titled, "*A Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer!*" If your family has a national flag, we would appreciate it if we could borrow it just for the week. You could bring to the Sunday Mass on July 9th. There will be many countries represented throughout the week.

This program will run mornings from Mon-Fri with a family wind-up party on our last day! If you are available to volunteer to help us run this camp, please contact Theresa 403-559-6843. We are looking for adult leaders in Faith, Games and Crafts as well as youth volunteers to help guide the children. Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the church foyer. Payment via etransfer can be sent to ststephen102@gmail.com.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CAMP

More than a thousand volunteer and contracted hours have gone into preparing Our Lady of Victory Camp for relaunch in July. We need your help with our final push at a work bee on Saturday, June 10, 2023. We are seeking ONE HUNDRED volunteers who can spend the day (or half the day) with us as we get ready for summer 2023. Jobs at camp include cleaning buildings, organizing supplies, yardwork, and finishing work on the projects we've been working on throughout the spring. Please contact Deacon Claude Baril at 403-896-3745 or email cbaril53@gmail.com to let us know you're coming.

VOLUNTEER TEA

Thank you to all who joined us for the Volunteer Tea on June 25th – it was great to see so many people out for this event. Thank you for all that you do!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – DONATIONS NEEDED

We are very excited to see the registrations coming in for the upcoming Vacation Bible School, but we are in desperate need of donations. There are donation signup sheets in the foyer as craft, snack, and activity related items are needed!

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT - Information for all

The Arts & Environment committee is missing (3) rectangular glass candle holders that are a main part of their liturgical displays. If you have seen or know where these might be, please let the office know.


The Arts and Environment supplies are available to use "within" the Parish Hall for events and functions. However, it is important that these items be cleaned and returned to the storage room after use. We ask that items do not leave the premises unless you have requested permission from the Arts & Environment committee. Our team comes prepared to decorate or update weekly décor and it can disrupt productivity if items are not where they should be. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

FORMED.ORG

The FORMED subscription has been renewed! We encourage you all to take a moment on a rainy day – check out the videos and programming you can watch as a couple, as a family with young children – there is something for everyone. www.formed.org

We have heard wonderful comments about those that are using it with their families, their prayer groups, in teachable moments with young kids, watching together with your partner and many other situations. We would encourage you to make a donation towards our Formed subscription, as it is a costly subscription. You can include it in your weekly donation with a reference to "FORMED" or you can e-transfer the Parish at ststephen102@gmail.com. If you haven't had a chance to use it and are interested, call Mia for assistance and she will walk you through it. It is very easy to navigate.

"THOUGHT" – FUL CORNER



Our Corner full of thoughts is rather empty. I am very hopeful that we will see some sharing of thoughts and quotes for August.

Until then, we will encourage you to think about *"Your Summer State of Mind"*.

Often summer brings with it busy days of camping, vacations, road trips, visiting with family and so much more. We often place Mass second to all of these fun and exciting events. We find ourselves getting home late from camping or not stopping to see what time Mass is where you are visiting. It takes very little effort to place Mass first, and to make it a priority in your Summer schedule. Our challenge for you is to think about how your "Summer State of Mind" is impacted when you invite God along with you.

