



St. Stephen's Parish Bulletin – August 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
4302 57th Ave Olds, AB
Sstephen102@gmail.com
403-556-3084

<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 – Sunde

1st Friday Mass – August 4, 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Prayerful greetings to you! We are now on the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The stewardship way of life could be described as a daily pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. Today's readings show us the critical importance of recognizing the kingdom of heaven in our midst and prioritizing our lives in order to obtain it. In our First Reading, from the First Book of Kings, God appears to Solomon in a dream and invites Solomon to ask Him for something he desires. Rather than asking for riches or power, Solomon asks for the gift of "an understanding heart... to distinguish right from wrong." In other words, he asks God to help him discern what is true and therefore what really matters in life. It is no surprise that God is pleased to give him this gift and that Solomon has been known since then as the wisest of kings. God will give the same gift to us if we ask Him sincerely. And in fact, we must have a wise and understanding heart if we are to live the stewardship way of life, to guide our priorities and decision making in matters big and small. When we pursue Godly — rather than worldly — priorities, we can do so with great peace because, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading, from Romans, "all things work for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose." All things — not just the major, life-altering decisions, but the countless tiny ones we make on a daily basis as we strive to serve the Lord and advance the kingdom of heaven. In our Gospel passage from Matthew today, we arrive at the conclusion of three weeks of Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of heaven. In the first of today's parables, our Lord reminds us that living for Him and for His kingdom will be costly. But the deep joy that comes in following Him makes the "price" entailed worth it. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Next, He says the kingdom of heaven is "like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it." In each of these stories, the kingdom of heaven is somewhat "hidden." We must intentionally search for it amidst the noise of the world that bombards us. We need wisdom to recognize it. Yet, our Lord reminds us that His kingdom is meant for everyone and He wants us to find it! He says, "It is like a net thrown into the sea which collects fish of every kind." But Jesus concludes His teaching with a rather ominous image, reminding us that every "fish" will also be judged as good or bad. "The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." This is a description that is difficult to forget. Clearly Jesus wants to get our attention. Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the kingdom of heaven in our midst and intensify our efforts to pursue it starting right now. There is no time to lose, and we will obtain the immeasurable joy that only comes when we live as disciples of Jesus. As part of our renewed life as disciples 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, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

OFFICE NEWS

The office will continue with Summer hours for the month of August. 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. There will be a bulletin for August and then our regular schedule will resume the first week of September.

SUMMER CAMP OUT

Thank you to all the 35 families who attended our campout this past weekend. It was a Spirit-filled weekend. Special thanks to our musicians of Saturday night, and our sponsors: Breakfast both mornings: Roman & Ursula Staub-First Choice Meats, Larry & Laurel Arvay, Paul & Jackee Groenewegen, Sundre CWL, and Olds K of C and to all the chefs! Prizes: C & J Filipino Store, and Bryn Killoran (Regnum Christi). Congratulations to the Page Family for winning the grand prize donated by Katie & Cody Stubbs from CTH HD Services. Stay tuned for camp pictures!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A huge thank you to all for volunteered their time, talents and treasure to our Vacation Bible school! Your gifts were greatly appreciated and made the week a success! We are so blessed to have you a part of our parish!

It was great to see so many little smiling faces throughout the week!

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.

THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The secular Franciscans will begin gathering again in September in the upper room at St Stephens. This year they will be using the book "Ten evenings with God" by the amazing theologian and author Illo Delio. If interested in learning more about Saint Francis of Assisi and the secular Franciscan's, please call Audrey Gross 403-586-4260 or Kathy Caron 403-507-7288 for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre (CAPCC) - Fundraising

The Knights of Columbus would like to extend a most sincere thank you to the parish of St Stephens and all parishioners who totally supported our efforts for the needs of the CAPCC. We couldn't be more happy with the parish's participation. The results of the fundraising totalled **\$6,352.87**, broken down as follows: Parish financial donations: \$4,155.00 ~ Value of Baby Products donated: \$1,297.87 ~ Council 4748 (Olds) donation: \$500.00 ~ Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus: \$400.00.

Rita Falhman, Director of the CAPCC in Olds, sends a huge "thank you" as well. Rita is most enthused that families may also have a conversation within their family about what a culture of life means. The Knights would also like to thank Christine Hogan for being so supportive and also supplying a poster for our donation crib. Thank you all so very much!

RCIA

If you know anyone interested in entering the Catholic Church and/or completing their Sacraments of Initiation, please contact Dan Killoran at 403-415-5627 (call or text) or leave your name at the office. We will be having classes starting this Fall. Before then, we will need to have an interview to get each person's background so proper plans can be made. Thank you

Father Maurice Okolie – 25th Silver Jubilee Priestly Anniversary

Father Maurice will be celebrating his 25th Anniversary in the Priesthood on August 12th, 2023 in Castlegar, B.C at St. Rita's Catholic Parish. The Arvay's are planning to drive down for the celebration and will take any cards, gifts or greetings that you wish for them to pass along. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Larry Arvay. (403) 556-2360.

"THOUGHT" – FUL CORNER

Thank you to those who have shared a book or article with the office. We hope to receive more in the future. One of the books that was shared with me was "The Generosity Habit – How Daily Giving Can Change Your Life and Transform The World". written by Matthew Kelly – How Daily Giving Can Change Your Life and Transform The World". The preface of the book *states* "Don't just love, astonish people with your love. Don't just dabble in generosity, live a life of staggering generosity." The book describes the Generosity Habit as a simple process – Give something away every day. The author tells us that it doesn't need to be big or fancy or attention worthy. He defines the philosophy behind the generosity habit by one singular truth – We don't need money or material possessions to live a life of staggering generosity. He shares 17 perspectives on the Generosity Habit beginning with "The World needs Changing". Matthew Kelley acknowledges that everyone can agree on the fact that the world is in need of profound change-but what is that change going to stem from – "politics, education, law, economics, technology or something else" All of these aspects of society should serve human flourishing, but unfortunately, the human quest for more, bigger, faster and better seem to have taken us off course. Kelley believes that generosity has the potential to bring out the best in people. He encourages us to discover what it means to be authentically human as he suggests that "it is the very best of our humanity that the world needs right now." I challenge you to consider this until next time "What are you trying to accomplish in your day to day life? Are you living a life of staggering generosity? What would you need to do to make this change in your life? 😊