



St. Stephen's Parish Bulletin

September 3, 2023

St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima

Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Sept 2, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Sept 3, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00 PM - Olds
Tues Sept 5, 2023`	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM Olds
Wed Sept 6. 2023	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Sept 8, 2023	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM Olds
Saturday	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sunday	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM - Olds

Please note: 24 hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament -Friday Sept 1, 2023.
 Father Nilo will be away from Sept 4 - 8 at the Annual Spiritual Retreat. There will be morning prayer throughout the week in his absence. He will return on the weekend.

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
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 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 – Sundre

1st Friday Mass – Sept 1, 2023
 Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
 Friday - 10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury

Mass is cancelled for September.
 Any changes will be noted during
 the announcements at St. Stephen's
 Mass and shared on Facebook.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Parishioners: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! We are now on the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. If we are striving to live the stewardship way of life, we must be honest with ourselves and admit it's not going to be easy. Dying to self and living for Christ and others is tough. It's the work of a lifetime. But in the end, it's the only work that really matters and the only life that truly satisfies. Our readings today reflect this challenging reality. Our first reading is from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. After a series of hard knocks as he tries to preach the message God has entrusted to him, Jeremiah sums up the steward's "dilemma" — the choice between living for self or living for God — this way: "I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart... I grow weary holding it in." Haven't we all felt that way, perhaps after frustrations in our ministry or being chided by friends for our "crazy Catholic beliefs"? But God is so good, so loving, so generous to us that, like Jeremiah, even when we're tempted to throw in the towel, we simply cannot turn our back on Him. We hold steady on the stewardship way of life. The second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans teaches how we get back to the path of discipleship in those moments of discouragement when we feel the temptation to just give up and give in to selfishness. Paul urges us, "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." He says, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may do the will of God." What does this mean for us modern-day stewards? It means we must discipline ourselves — body, mind, and spirit — through a consistent prayer life, continuous formation in our Catholic faith, and setting aside anything in our life (entertainment, material possessions, social activities) that is not pleasing to God. Seems impossible, doesn't it? And it would be impossible, except for the grace of God which is always available to us in abundance if we simply ask God for it. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, continues this theme of the tough demands of the steward's way of life, this time in the words of Jesus Himself. Jesus tells His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." This sounds harsh. Why would anyone want to do this? Our Lord has the answer, of course. "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." It's all about love. Jesus loved (and loves) us totally, giving us all of Himself on the Cross, in His Word, and in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. And so we must choose: love of self, or love of God and others — which is tough, but fulfilling and leads to the eternal reward of heaven. Jesus promises that He "will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct." Let us make the tough choice to lose our life for Christ's sake, in grateful response to His love. Honestly, what better life could there be? 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. Blessings!

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - Confirmation

Attention all who will be at least 12 yrs. old on or before June 9, 2024! The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on that day. Sign up for the *Journey with Jesus* to prepare! Registration forms will be available on the Spiritual Development table in the foyer, and can be submitted to Donna in the office. For more information, contact Maria at 587-796-0903. More details to come! Classes will continue for those who began their journey last spring.

Attention all those who have youth who will be at least 12 yrs. old on or before June 9, 2024! There will be a short information presentation following the 11:15 Mass on Sunday September 17th for **all** parents or guardians of the confirmandi. Registration forms will be available as well as the *Decision Point* books which will be used this year. Cost of books is \$12.50. For more information, contact Maria at 587-796-0903. Confirmation will be celebrated with Archbishop Richard Smith on June 9, 2024. Classes will continue for those who began their journey last year. Watch for further details.

THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The secular Franciscan's 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 Ilia 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.

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

PRO LIFE ROSARY PROJECT - CANDLELIGHT ROSARY RALLY

Thanks to the inspiration of one of our Confirmation students, a Pro-life Rosary Project is being launched this month. A Candlelight Rosary Rally to be held Fri. Oct. 13th at 7 p.m. in the church to pray for pro-life causes. There are so many issues today- Our Lady's rosary has won many battles in the past, and we need Her more than ever now!

Attention all those who have youth who will be at least 12 yrs. old on or before June 9, 2024! There will be a short information presentation following the 11:15 Mass on Sunday September 17th for **all** parents or guardians of the confirmandi. Registration forms will be available as well as the *Decision Point* books which will be used this year. Cost of books is \$12.50. For more information, contact Maria at 587-796-0903.

FORMED SUBSCRIPTION – TRY IT TODAY

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.

FOOD BANK DRIVE & PREP

Mark your calendars for the annual Mtn View Food Bank Drive with the Church of the Latter Day Saints and our Parish on September 23rd. It requires some walking, dropping off the donation bags Sept 18, 19th or 20th, and picking up the donations on the 23rd. Sounds like lots of work but really isn't and better yet there is no door knocking, no soliciting and no stress. For more information contact Tara Miller. Signup sheets will be in the foyer of the Church in September.

Bag Preparation - On September 12th we will be meeting in our church hall to count out the donation bags for each route, all are welcome, just bring a stapler with you.

“THOUGHT” – FUL CORNER

I am hoping to collect thoughts or quotes from you, the parishioners, to share in our Corner full of thoughts. If you have a favorite, or something you come across that resonated with you, I would love to hear about it. You can share it with me via email or drop a note in the collection if that's easier. Thank you to those who have already shared one of your favorites.

The following quote was one of the Daily Inspirations I receive from Dynamic Catholic.

*“God is nudging you. He is calling you through
that uncomfortable pain in your soul.
He is inviting you out of the pain and
into something deeper and truer. Trust Him”*
(Allen Hunt – author of “Dreams for Your Grandchild”)

I also had a parishioner share an article with me, during the summer months, written by Fr. Ron Rolheiser in the “Catholic Register” that discussed the true and deep love that a grandparent has for a grandchild. It was written within the context of a much deeper look at love and blessing others, but the message that jumped out was his reflection on the pure and selfless love that is shared between a grandparent and their grandchildren. A love without any self interest, but filled with admiration, selflessness and delight. Although, this article was not related to the book written by Hunt, there is a correlation that we can build on.

When you look at the quote above, taken from Allen Hunt’s book where he discusses the true dream of every Catholic grandparent who wants their grandchildren to “grow up to be healthy, happy, and, most of all, vibrant in their faith. He discusses the challenges that come with competing with all of the other influences that surround their loved ones. Hunt looks at how much impact a grandparent might have. I found that in pondering these two different thoughts that the end result was similar – the grandparent whose love is so deep and pure in its intent who wants nothing but the best for their grandchildren – and inevitably, it both these situations, a life of faith and devotion, supported through the love and influence of parents and grandparents. .