

# TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

*in Ordinary Time*

## ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH BULLETIN

September 17, 2023

St. Anthony's, Our Lady of Fatima

Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Sept 16, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Sept 17, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00 PM - Olds
Tues Sept 19, 2023	Weekday Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Sept 20, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Sept 22, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat Sept 23, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Sept 24, 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  
[Ststephen102@gmail.com](mailto:Ststephen102@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 – Sundre

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Bulletin image found on  
[www.ourladyoffatima.org](http://www.ourladyoffatima.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Parishioners: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

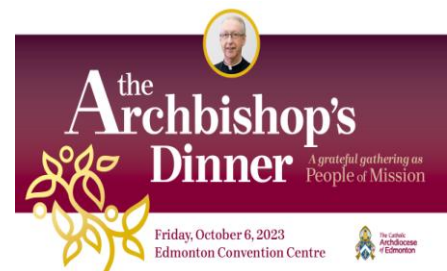
Grace and peace to you! We are now on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. As Christian stewards, we recognize that all we have and all that we are is gift from God, and we live our lives in a grateful response to such extravagant love. This calls for continuous conversion of heart. The practices of giving a portion of our time, our talents and our treasure are essential steps on the path to conversion. But they serve an even deeper purpose than helping us remember our good intentions. They open our minds and hearts to ever-deepening surrender to the Lord, Who has given us every good thing. Today's readings call us to look inward to the state of our hearts, those aspects of ourselves that cannot quite be quantified or measured, but which are the deepest part of us — our thoughts and emotions. Our first reading, from Sirach, addresses the complicated emotion of anger. "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight... Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?" We have all been wounded by others at some point, some perhaps quite deeply. Our emotions are gifts from God. But we must steward them well, rather than allowing them to overcome us. How do we do this? Sirach tells us. "Remember your last days, set enmity aside... Think of the commandments... remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." We embrace the stewardship mindset — not brooding over hurts, but recalling all the gifts our good God has given us, all the love He continually pours out upon us, and we put our focus and trust in Him. In other words, we live for God and not ourselves. What freedom this approach to life brings! All we have is a gift from the Lord. He loves us completely and we can rest in this truth. Knowing this, we need not cling to anger over injustices. God is Lord over all. St. Paul puts it this way in our second reading from Romans: "For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus gives us a provocative reminder of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us. He compares the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free. Doesn't that sound like each of us in relation to the King of Kings? The Father has given us life, and then sent His only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. Like the servant in the parable, it is impossible to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves — our outward actions and our inner selves — and by treating our fellow debtors with the same compassion and forgiveness He has shown to us. In fact, Jesus rightfully and justly commands us to "forgive your brother from your heart." What joy and freedom of heart we find in the stewardship way of life! 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! Thank you for all your prayers for the success of our Annual Priests' Retreat in Kananaskis!

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

We have a few tickets available to purchase for the Archbishops Annual Dinner in Edmonton on Friday October 6, 2023. If you are interested, please contact Mia in the office for more information. It is a lovely night out with other individuals within the Archdiocese to share in a wonderful meal and fellowship.

### K OF C MUNDARE SAUSAGE SALE

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting another Drive-thru **MUNDARE SAUSAGE SALE** next Saturday, September 23 from 10 – 2 PM. They tend to sell out quickly, so get here early! The Knights of Columbus appreciate your support for these events – their fundraising efforts go towards helping our Parish, as well as, our local community!



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - Confirmation

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. This is for all 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 17<sup>t</sup> 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.

Classes will continue for those who began their journey last spring.

## 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 Ilio 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

## 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

1. In combination with the Spiritual Adoption program beginning this month, Zoe has made some pro-life rosaries that will be for sale following the Masses this weekend. Proceeds from the sale will go to funding future rosaries, and the rest will go to a non-profit pro-life organization. If you would like to donate towards this worthy project, please write Rosary Project on an envelope with your donation which can be placed in the collection plate, or cash/cheque brought to Mia or e-transferred to the parish office. Donations of beads of all sizes, broken rosaries or ones no longer used would also be gratefully accepted. There will be a basket on the Rosary table.
2. A Candlelight Rosary Rally to be held Fri. Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 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!

## CATECHISM

CATECHISM TEACHERS NEEDED!! Please contact Theresa Templeton 403-559-6843

Catechism classes for Grades 1-4 will be starting up on Sunday, September 24 at 10am. To register please contact Donna in the parish office

## 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](http://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](mailto: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

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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ANNUAL PARISH TURKEY SUPPER

Look for a sign up board in the foyer. Please sign up NOW and make note of the date and time that you or your items are required at the church. The sign up board will be removed on Tuesday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. A phoning committee will be calling parishioners who have not signed up to fill in any spots after that date.

## “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.

### “LIFE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION”

This quote, by Ralph Aldo Emerson, is a quote I have heard many, many times over the years. Sometimes, it was in response to my siblings and I asking how much further we had to travel when on a road trip, later it was used to help us find patience when we wanted results faster. It is not a religious quote by nature, but when I typed this in, I found a wonderful site that reflects on our journey as faithful people. It highlighted how life is an ongoing journey and adventure where we are constantly travelling through life, growing in our faith, and in our experiences. It spoke to the need for us to step back from the hectic rush of life to truly enjoy the journey we are on. However, in contrast to the response I was given when I was younger, that it wasn’t about the destination, it was about the journey we were on, we can also look at the destination of every faithful person as Heaven, and in every step we take on our own personal journey taking us one step closer to our final destination by walking the path that God has laid out for us.