



ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH BULLETIN

September 24, 2023

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

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 11:15AM Trochu 7:00 PM - Olds
Tues Sept 26, 2023	Weekday Mass Funeral Mass - ^T Lucy Paulson	9:00 AM *** Olds 1:00 PM Olds
Wed Sept 27, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Sept 28, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat Sept 30, 2023	Confession Holy Mass w/ <i>Baptism</i>	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Oct 1, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM - Olds

***Mass on Tuesday will be at 9:00 AM instead of our regular evening Mass ***

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
Deacon – Charles Johnston –
Retired

Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald
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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 – Oct 6, 2023
Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
Friday - 10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury
Second Saturday Monthly Mass
Oct 14th – 7 PM ***

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Parishioners: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! We are now on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. Though we can never fully grasp the infinite perfection of God and His ways, a basic knowledge of Scripture reveals that God's logic and priorities often differ from worldly logic and priorities. What does this mean for us who call ourselves His disciples and stewards? It means that our way of life should look decidedly different from a "worldly" way of life. Our first reading, from Isaiah, starts with a bang. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near." As stewards, we know that all things, including time, are gifts from the Lord. The time to know, love, and serve God is now! We must not waste any of the precious moments that He has gifted to us. This means that the way we prioritize our time will often be at odds with the world's priorities. Worldly thinking says we must focus on things like "getting ahead," "looking out for number one" and the idea that "time is money." We are reminded clearly in this passage, however, that God thinks bigger than this. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." As His followers, we must strive as best we can to think as God does, using our time (and our talents and treasure, too) with eternity in mind. St. Paul describes this radical kind of thinking in our second reading, from the Letter to the Philippians. He says, "Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain." For Paul, life is not about Paul. It's about Christ. This should be our mindset as Christ's disciples, too. In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus offers us a glimpse of the "Godly logic" of the Father through a parable of a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. The landowner goes out early in the morning and finds a group of laborers who agree to work for the usual daily wage. Later in the morning the landowner goes out again and notices another group "standing idle" in the marketplace. He invites them to work in his vineyard, too. The landowner repeats this exercise at noon and finally late in the day, as he comes to a last group of folks still waiting for work. At the end of the day, the landowner pays all the workers a full day's pay, whether they had labored from the early hours of the morning or whether they had begun late in the day. This angered the laborers who had worked longest and they grumbled against the landowner. But those laborers were relying on human logic and human calculations. They were not thinking as God does. This can happen to us Christian stewards as well. We can grumble and complain (at least internally) when we compare ourselves to others and sense that not everyone is contributing as much as we are to the parish, the neighborhood, within our family and so on. At those moments, we need to think bigger! We must remember that it is a great privilege to have been called by the Father to work in His vineyard. The more time we are given to do this work, the greater the gift! Living the stewardship way of life — making Christ our life — brings us meaning, depth and purpose. Let's embrace this Godly thinking and thank Him for calling us to this 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!

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 - THIS SATURDAY

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Drive-thru **MUNDARE SAUSAGE SALE** this 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!

CALL TO PROTECT – ZOOM SESSION – Monday Sept 25, 2023. Call office for more information or follow the link found in the bulletin email.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - Confirmation

The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024. 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! 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.

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. 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!

CATECHISM

Catechism classes begins this weekend. If you haven't already registered, please contact Donna in the parish office

FORMED SUBSCRIPTION - TRY IT TODAY

Have you had an opportunity to check out the videos and programs available on www.formed.org. You can find many devotionals, novenas, videos for your children and families, programs for Baptismal and Sacramental Preparation and more. The topics and options are endless. The site is easy to navigate - no registration or passwords are required, but if you have any questions, contact Mia in the office.

FOOD BANK DRIVE

Food bank bags went out this week and now it's time to pick up this weekend!! This wonderful team effort between our Parishioners at St. Stephen's under the organization of Tara and our Social Justice committee along with the wonderful individuals at the Church of the Latter Day Saints has such a positive impact on our local Food Bank and helps our community members in need. We thank you all for your efforts and participation.

ANNUAL PARISH TURKEY SUPPER

The sign up board is located in the foyer. Please take a moment and SIGN UP early! Please make note of the date and time that the items you are donating are required at the church. The sign up board will be removed on Tuesday October 16th. A phoning committee will be calling on parishioners who did not get a chance to sign up to fill any open spots after the 16th.

This is a Parish Function and we need you!

TOGETHER WE SERVE – *One Church, One Gift*

Together We Serve is an annual appeal in the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. It was launched in 2014 to simplify giving by combining recurring special collections in parishes and inviting Catholics to work together to serve those in need at home, in Canada, and abroad. *Together We Serve* shows both Catholics and those around us that we are all one Church, acting together to advance the Mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

Your gift to *Together We Serve* enables us to do so much more as One Church, than we could ever do individually. That is the POWER OF ONE!

- **Your One Gift** to *Together We Serve* will help our newest recipient, **St. Vincent de Paul Edmonton Central Council**, provide leadership and support to 19 local conferences, serving over 7,000 people in need in our communities.
- **Your One Gift** helped **Our Lady of Victory Youth Camp** re-open this summer to at least 250 young campers – our Catholic leaders of tomorrow.
- **Your One Gift** will bring hope to over 20,000 vulnerable Albertans served by **Catholic Social Services**.
- **Your One Gift** will support 39 Seminarians and almost 200 students at **St. Joseph Seminary** and **Newman Theological College**.
- **Your One Gift** will help to provide a home-away-from-home for 300 students in **St. Joseph's College** residence and hundreds more who take its faith-based courses.
- **Your One Gift** will help to nurture the faith of 28,000 mostly Indigenous [Dene, Métis, and Inuvialuit] Catholics in the northern **Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith**.
- **Your One Gift** to *Together We Serve* shows that we are One Church, commissioned by One Lord, to bring the Gospel to a world in need.

"THOUGHT" – FUL CORNER

You are stuck with my thoughts again, as I have not received any wonderful insights from our Parish community. To clarify, I haven't received any bad insights, but no recent insights or deep ponderings whatsoever. ☺ If you have a favorite quote or passage, or something you come across that resonated with you, I would love to share it here. You can email me or drop a note in the collection if that's easier. Thank you to those who have already shared one of your favorites.

... *"Become the best version of yourself"* ~ Matthew Kelly

Matthew Kelly coined this phrase in his early twenties and it has become a staple in many of his teachings including a Unit in the Confirmation program which many of our young people are completing. Matthew Kelly explains how " "Becoming the Best-Version-of-Yourself" reminds us that everything makes sense in relation to our essential purpose, and that, without a clear understanding of the purpose in our lives we find ourselves constantly in a cloud of confusion"

I have used this line on my children countless times since we first encountered it a few years ago.

It comes up when discussing friendships, challenges, school work, sports, and relationships with their siblings and others. I use this phrase to encourage them to surround themselves with people who help them " Be the best version of themselves, to pursue activities that help them to "be the best version of themselves, to create relationships that help them to "be the best version of themselves". You get where I am going here, but I truly find that this phrase is fundamental to helping them recognize the person that God wants them to be, and also the person that they are capable of being. Matthew Kelly challenges us to reassess the various aspects in our life – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual to determine whether we are taking steps to "become the best version of ourselves." Are you?