

Dec 4, 2022  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
 Father Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Dec 3, 2022	Confession Youth Retreat Holy Mass Youth Retreat Advent Mission - <i>Following Mass</i>	3-4 PM Olds 9:00 – 5:00 PM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 4, 2022	Holy Mass Advent Mission - <i>Following Mass</i> <i>Catechism and Confirmation Preparation today at 10:00 AM.</i>	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Dec 6, 2022	Holy Mass + Advent Mission	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Dec 7, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Dec 9, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat Dec 9, 2022	Confession Holy Mass Holy Mass - Didsbury	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds 7:00 PM - Didsbury
Sun Dec 10, , 2022	Holy Mass <i>Catechism and Confirmation Preparation today at 10:00 AM.</i>	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds

**Advent Penitential Service – St. Stephen's – Dec 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

**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 9-2pm

**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**  
 Mass is celebrated on the first  
 Friday of every month.  
 Dec 2, 2022  
 Adoration 1-6 pm  
 Holy Mass –7:00 PM  
 Every Friday – Divine Mercy Chaplet  
 & Rosary – 10:00 AM  
**St. Anthony**  
 Mass is celebrated on the second  
 Saturday of every month.  
 Dec 10, 2022  
 7:00 PM

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners,

**Marantha!** Come Lord Jesus, without delay! As we begin the second week of Advent, let us recall our motto for this season: we are climbing God's holy mountain. Our readings give us inspiration and focus for this journey towards holiness. Our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah continues the theme of journey towards the holy mountain, the Kingdom of God. The prophet gives us a beautiful glimpse of this mountain, where Christ will reign forever. It will be a place of peace, justice, and harmony among all God's creatures. "There shall be no harm or ruin in all my holy mountain... [This] dwelling shall be glorious." Our second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, encourages us to focus our preparation in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." How has Christ welcomed us? By becoming one of us through His incarnation, one with us through the Eucharist, and freeing us from our sins through His death and resurrection so that we can finally live with him for all eternity in Heaven. The idea of welcoming others as Christ welcomes us is the essence of Christian hospitality. This kind of hospitality involves seeing people as God sees them and being ready to invite others into our lives whenever and however God asks; it is an attitude we take with us wherever we go, whether at home, at the parish, or out and about at work, school, or in the community. This kind of hospitality is a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us. The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist in our Gospel passage from Matthew. John has the honor of preparing the people for the arrival of the Savior and the coming of the Kingdom of God. His words apply just as much to us in our own Advent preparations today. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Though it may not seem obvious at first, there is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality. By recognizing and repenting of our own sins, we become aware of our need for a Savior and his great mercy towards us. With this awareness, and the gratitude that to God that comes with it, we are freed to see the good in others and welcome them into our lives just as Christ has welcomed us. How can we put all of this into action? How can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives? We can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers, thanking God for the times we said "yes" to Him, and asking forgiveness for the times we chose our own will. We can (and should) go to Confession this Advent and then make it a regular part of our "Ordinary Time" too. We can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace. As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. We climb farther up God's holy mountain and attract others to join us on the path toward holiness. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior. We are also stewards of relationships, spirituality and mysteries of God. Let us always be ready in looking after the needs of those around us. 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. Thank you!

Yours devotedly in Christ,  
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

If you do not receive the parish bulletin by email and are interested in picking up a print copy of Father's synopsis of the weekend's homily so you can follow along, please sign up on the list on the Spiritual Development table in the foyer and they will be available before the Masses on the weekend

*If you have a friend, neighbor or family member that is new to the Parish or know of someone who is having trouble finding their way back after the Pandemic, we encourage you to touch base with Father Nilo or the office. We would love to hear from you.*

**WE HAVE A FAMILY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY WHO IS STRUGGLING AND IN NEED OF HELP.** Their immediate needs, among other things, are for disposable diapers size 1-2, pull-ups sizes 2t & 3t and good start baby formula (level 1, the purple can). If you are able to help out, donations can be dropped off in Donna's office.

*Thank you*

## FAITH FORMATION

**ART FOR ADVENT** Artists of all ages are invited to share your artistic talent with Advent or Christmas themed art to help prepare for the coming of Jesus. During December, please bring your art to the table by the stained glass in the foyer.

**YOUTH RETREAT – THIS WEEKEND** - Calling **all** youth from grades 5 & up! On Friday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Saturday Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, come and Journey with Jesus! Please contact Donna in the office or Maria at 403-415-6833 if you would like to register. Cost is \$5. In order to reduce the cost for the youth that are participating, we ask for your generosity in donating any of the food items on the attachment. There will be a basket in the foyer for the items.

**ADVENT MISSION – THIS WEEKEND** - Advent Mission starts on Saturday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Dan Gurnick, one of the Franciscan Friars of Mount St. Francis in Cochrane Alberta.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**We need you** - Our Brother Knights have volunteered to fill all liturgical roles on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month when applicable. We are hoping to recruit members of our Knights of Columbus who are willing and able to fill the role of Greeter, Usher, Readers, Eucharist Minister, Music and Sacristan. If you are interested in joining your Brother Knights in this undertaking, please contact Jack Sell. 587-796-1634. Signup sheets will be in the foyer and available at meetings.

**Becoming a member:** For any Catholic man, 18 years of age or older, looking to join the local Knights of Columbus and help us put our Faith in Action please contact our Membership Director Brother Dan Killoran at 403-415-5627 or by email at: [dankilloran0521@gmail.com](mailto:dankilloran0521@gmail.com)

The Knights of Columbus Alberta/NWT State Council **Charities Appeal Raffle online 50/50** Fundraiser is available. Tickets may be purchased by residents of Alberta, 18 years of age or older at the website: [www.koc5050.com](http://www.koc5050.com) Please consider supporting the charitable work of the Knights and select In Support Of "04748 Father Forsythe, Olds". The draw will be on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Thanks!

## CAROLFEST

The Carolfest will be hosted by the Olds United Church on Sunday Dec 11, 2022 @ 7:00 PM. All are welcome – this is a wonderful event where members of all Faith Communities come together to celebrate the season.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, CONFIRMATION & CATECHISM CLASSES

### FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION CLASS DATES

Dec 9, 2022

If you have a child who has been baptized and is in grade 2 or higher, they are ready for First Reconciliation. This is the first step towards receiving their First Communion in the Spring. Registration Forms can be found on the children's table in the foyer or contact Donna in the parish office (403-556-3084 ext. #4).

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:** All eligible candidates who are in grades 5, 6 & 7 and up are invited to come to *Journey with Jesus* in the upper room on Sundays at 10 a.m. We will be using the *Decision Point* program by Dynamic Catholic. For more information or to sign your child up, please see Donna or contact Maria at 587-796-0903. If any adults would consider helping lead a discussion for a session or two that would be great!

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MUSTARD SEED BACKPACK PROJECT

St. Stephen's Social Justice Committee is seeking your help to fill backpacks with necessities that provide immediate comfort for the people living in the streets who are dealing with the freezing winter. This year with inflation increasing the cost of food and basic necessary items, the need for help and compassion is even greater. YOUR gift will give them hope and comfort in knowing that someone cares especially for them.

There will be a labelled box in the foyer to place items from the list. If you would prefer to donate cash, for the Mustard Seed to purchase needed items a cheque can be left with Mia at the office made out to the Mustard Seed. Thank- you so much for your generosity!

- |                 |                                    |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| • Small Towels  | Men's T Shirts (small)             | Hair Brush                               |
| • Backpacks     | Socks                              | Lotion, Body wash, Tissues (travel size) |
| • Winter Items: | Underwear (New)                    | Chapstick, nail clippers,                |
| Coats           | Jogging Pants                      | Small flashlight                         |
| Boots           | Jeans / Cords ( Men/Women)         | paperback books                          |
| Mitts / Gloves  | Belts                              | notebook and pens                        |
| Hand Warmers    | Down Vests                         | trail mix/ granola bar                   |
| Toques          | Blankets                           | reusable water bottle                    |
| • Shoe Insoles  | Sleep masks/ear plugs              | coffee thermos                           |
| • Foot Powder   | Shampoo/Conditioner ( travel size) | Deodorant / Feminine items               |

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MINISTRIES

Signup sheets are now on the table in the foyer for the Christmas and New Year's Ministries. If you are available to assist with these ministries during the holidays, please sign up. Thank you for helping to make our Holiday Services beautiful!

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Once again, our annual garage sale is fast approaching.

The garage sale will be on Friday January 27 and Saturday January 28, **2023**.

Please mark your calendars and save your items.

Please note we DO NOT accept the following items: shoes, undergarments, swimsuits, magazines, encyclopedias, outdated TV's, VHS cassettes, used mattresses, large sports equipment such as treadmills or spin bikes, no car seats, cribs strollers or stuffed animals. Electrical appliances must be in working condition.

We appreciate and rely on the donated items and good will of our parishioners and the volunteer hours that go into preparing and organizing for this huge sale. We ask that you DO NOT drop off anything that isn't suitable for selling as this causes extra work for the volunteers and additional cost involved in disposing of these items. Thank you for your cooperation!!

Watch the bulletin for more details in January 2023.

