



Dec 3, 2023

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

Sat Dec 2, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 3, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Dec 5, 2023	Weekday Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Dec 6, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Thurs Dec 7, 2023	Penitential Service w/ visiting priest	7:00 Olds
Fri Dec 8, 2023	Weekday Mass - <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>Sacramental Prep Reconciliation Retreat</i>	9:00 AM Olds 3:00 PM Olds
Sat Dec 9, 2023	Confession Holy Mass Holy Mass- <i>2nd Saturday - St. Anthony's</i>	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sun Dec 10, 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 57th Ave Olds, AB
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
 1st Friday Mass – Dec 1, 2023
 Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary –
 Friday - 10:00 AM
 St. Anthony - Didsbury
 Dec 2, 2023 Festival of Faith, Hope
 and Thanksgiving
 Praise and Worship 6-7
 Mass 7:00 PM
 Dec 9, 2023 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7 PM

Come watch our St. Stephen's Choir as they join the various groups singing at Carolfest, hosted at the United Church in Olds on Dec 3, 2023 @ 7 PM. The event is free, but they will be collecting free will offerings to go towards the Olds Food Bank.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Friends, Parishioners: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! We are now on the new liturgical calendar of the Church known as Advent and on Year of St. Mark. Advent from the Latin word "Adventus" meaning arrival. We are waiting patiently for the second coming of Christ, the Parousia. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder that Advent doesn't always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards. Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed. We can take as our theme for this season the words of the Prophet Isaiah in our First Reading. "You Lord, are our Father, our redeemer you are named forever... Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" The passage ends with this verse, which is especially meaningful to the Christian steward: "We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." In other words, our lives are not about us — rather, they are a gift to be used to glorify God and serve others. In our Second Reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded of how extravagantly God has gifted each one of us. "You were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." Let us embrace these Advent days to recommit to stewarding our spiritual gifts well. This will look different for each individual, of course. Perhaps a family can commit to setting up an Advent wreath and taking 10 minutes to reflect on the daily Gospel. Someone else may choose to be intentional in checking on a lonely neighbor each day to bring God's love to them consistently. Maybe some will be inspired to scale back their usual gift-giving and donate that saved money to those in dire need right now. Whatever we feel God calling us to do; there is no time to waste. Jesus makes this strikingly clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew through the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he "places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch." We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain attentive to the work He has given us to do because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it. "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us awaken if we have grown weary or complacent, and recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful! 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

FESTIVAL OF FAITH, HOPE AND THANKSGIVING

THIS WEEKEND - Join the Tri Parish Communities of St. Stephen's, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony's for a Festival of Faith, Hope and Thanksgiving.

Friday Dec 1, 2023 – Our Lady of Fatima – Singing and Praise 6-7 Mass 7:00 PM

Saturday Dec 2, 2023 – St. Anthony's - Singing and Praise 6-7 Mass 7:00 PM

Sunday Dec 3, 2023 – St. Stephen's - Singing and Praise 11:00- 11:15 Mass 11:15 AM

Join us following Mass on Sunday at St. Stephen's for a Potluck Meal to wrap up the weekend. St. Stephen's has received a donation of Alberta Beef and Turkey with potatoes and salad to start off the potluck. Bring a potluck dish to share – suggestions include butter, salads and desserts. Please see insert in bulletin for more information.



St. Stephen's Music Ministry

St. Stephen's music ministry invites and welcomes ALL children ages 6 and up to join our Children's leader of song, Jenny, in singing songs of praise during scheduled weekend masses. If you have a child who would like to join Jenny, please contact Mary Trenholm. 403-507-9249 or maryjohntrenholm@hotmail.com. It is approx 1 Mass per month and practices flex as per Jenny's work schedule. They will be leading one of the Christmas Masses, so please let Mary and Jenny know as soon as possible.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

CONFIRMATION - Our The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024. If you have a child who will be at least 12 yrs old on or before this date, they are eligible to sign up. Registration forms are available in the foyer and can be submitted to Donna in the office. For more information, contact Maria at 587-796-0903.

PRO LIFE ROSARY PROJECT

Rosaries are available to purchase on the table in the foyer where proceeds will go towards a nonprofit pro life organization and to rosary supplies. If you would like to donate towards the Rosary project, you can place money in the envelopes provided or write Rosary Project on an envelope with your donation can be placed in the collection plate or e transferred to the parish office @ Ststephen102@gmail.com. Donations of beads of all sizes, broken rosaries or ones no longer used would also be gratefully accepted. Thank you to Zoe Ginter who is running this project and is responsible for making the beautiful Rosaries.

Let's celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tues Dec.12th following the 6:30 p.m. Mass. with a Living Rosary. Join us for treats afterward!

PENITENTIAL SERVICE – Red Deer Deanery

Dec 5 - St. Margaret – Rimbey

Dec 6 – St Anne's – Trochu

Dec 6 – Our Lady of Assumption – Sylvan Lake

Dec 7 – St. Stephen's – Olds

Dec 11 – St. Augustine – Ponoka

Dec 12 – St. Stephen's – Lacombe

Dec 13 – St. Mary's - Red Deer

Dec 14 – Sacred Heart – Red Deer

Dec 15 – St. Matthew – Rocky Mountain House

All Penitential Services are scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

NATIVITY PAGEANT, SOCIETY OF FRANCISCANS COOKIE WALK, CHRESCH DISPLAY, SANTA'S VISIT AND MORE

Join us on Sunday Dec 17, 2023 for the Nativity Pageant followed by lunch and fellowship downstairs where you can view the wonderful different Nativity Crèche's on display, do the cookie walk donated by our Society of Franciscan members and be entertained as the children await a visit from one of Santa's helpers.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS – COLLECTION BIN

The Olds Christmas Angels are collecting toys and donations for our local community. Every year, they work so hard to provide for those families in the area that would otherwise go without. We have a bin in our foyer for drop offs of toys, gift cards, etc. There are locations around town where you can pick a little card with suggestions. If you prefer to make a donation – you can e transfer oldsangels@gmail.com or we have a cashbox in our foyer for the Olds Christmas Angels – located right beside the bin.

DIDSBURY CWL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

The Didsbury CWL will be holding a **Christmas Bake Sale** immediately after the Saturday December 9th & Sunday December 10th Masses in St. Stephen's Church lobby. **No sales will be made before Mass.**

This is an important fundraiser for the Didsbury CWL as the proceeds go to support their annual High School Scholarship, School Breakfast Programs, Local Food Banks and Hampers, OLVC and Outreach to Seniors. Any support given will be greatly appreciated.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE - 2024

Once again our annual garage sale is fast approaching. The garage sale will be on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2024. Please mark your calendars and save your items for donation.

Please note –we do not accept the following items: shoes, undergarments, swimsuits, magazines, encyclopedias, old TVs, VHS cassettes, used mattresses, large sports equipment such as treadmills or spin bikes, no car seats, cribs, strollers or stuffed animals. No big electrical appliances such as stoves, fridges, washing machines, or dryers. Electrical appliances must be in working condition.

We appreciate and rely on the donated items and goodwill of our parishioners and the volunteer hours that go into preparing and organizing 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 costs involved in disposing of these items. Thank you for your cooperation!! Watch the bulletin for more details in January 2023.

MUSTARD SEED PROJECT

We will be doing one final drop off for the Mustard Seed donations. If you haven't had the opportunity to drop off your donations, please do so before the end of the weekend.

RDCRS presents an Evening w/ Chris Stefanik – Dec 7, 2023

Red Deer Catholic School Division is proud to host an evening with Chris Stefanick for parents and parishioners. Chris Stefanick is an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and television host who has devoted his life to inspiring people to live a bold, contagious faith. Chris will be speaking on the ways we can live the Joy of our Faith. Make living joy a part of your Advent journey this year, and join Chris on Dec 7, 2023 at 7 pm at St. Mary's Parish, Red Deer, AB. as he shares the ways we can build new habits, change our thinking, and live a more joyful life.

FAMILY BALLROOM DANCE AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Come to St. Stephen's Ballroom Dance event on Saturday, December 9 following the 5 pm Mass! There will be refreshments provided, but please bring a dish to share a pot-luck supper.

The first part of the dance will include instruction, and then dance until 11 pm. If you are not coming to the parish Mass, please try to arrive around 6-6:15, to the ramp door on the north corner of the building off the parking lot, as we hope to begin supper at 6:30.

This is a family-friendly event, so everyone is invited, but please RSVP to Patricia in advance with the number in your family/group at: ststephendance@gmail.com

You may e-transfer in advance to that email address, or pay at the door. \$20 per family, and \$10 per single. The admission price covers the cost of running the event, including some prizes!

Semi-formal to formal attire is appropriate. See you there!

PS: Anyone wishing to help may also let us know at the above email address.

