

# Sermon On The Mount

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Nilo Macapinlac

Jan 29, 2023

Sat Jan 28, 2023	<del>Confession</del> (Cancelled) Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Jan 29, 2023	Holy Mass (Catechism and Confirmation classes at 10:00 am)	9:00 AM -Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Jan 31, 2023	Holy Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Feb 1, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Feb 3, 2023	24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (First Friday - Our Lady of Fatima)	24 Hrs 9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM - Sundre
Sat Feb 4, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	4:15 PM Olds *** 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Feb 5, 2023	Holy Mass (Catechism and Confirmation classes at 10:00 am)	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds

**CONFESSION WILL BE CANCELLED ON SAT JAN 28<sup>TH</sup> AS FATHER NILO WILL BE PRESIDING AT A WEDDING OUT OF TOWN.**

## CHANGES TO NOTE FOR FEBRUARY

**Confession Will Be Available Prior To Mass On Saturday Evening Beginning At 4:15.  
Sunday Evening Mass Will Be At 5:00 Pm For The Month As Fr Wilson Has Another Obligation On Sunday Evening.**

### 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

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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.

Feb 3, 2023

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.

Feb 11, 2023

7:00 PM

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ, Blessings to all of you! Thank you for your amazing support for Sinulog 2023, the Feast of the Divine Infant Jesus, "Sto. Nino" last Sunday. We are now on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time. Today's Gospel Reading from Matthew recounts what we know as Christ's Sermon on the Mount. This entire reflection could be devoted to that, of course, but as always, there are also messages that are important in the other readings. The Sermon on the Mount is the first of five teachings Jesus gives us in the Gospel of Matthew. The Lord gives this relatively early in His Ministry, not long after He has been baptized. In the entire New Testament this is the longest continuous section of Jesus speaking, and it is perhaps the most widely quoted of part of the four Canonical Gospels. It contains, after all, the central rules of discipleship. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (# 1716) this idea is supported as that states, "The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The Beatitudes fulfill the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of heaven." Probably every Catholic theologian and cleric has addressed the Beatitudes. On a Sunday with this same reading in his homily Pope Francis said in 2014, "These are our new commandments. However, if we do not have a heart open to the Holy Spirit, they will seem silly. The thought of being poor, being meek, being merciful does not seem to lead to what we consider to be modern success. But if we do not have an open heart and if we have not experienced the consolation of the Holy Spirit, which is salvation, we cannot understand this. This is the law of the free, with the freedom of the Holy Spirit." The First Reading is drawn from the Old Testament Book of Zephaniah. It was written at about the same time as Isaiah. We do not often hear readings from Zephaniah as it only contains about 1,400 words (compare that to our other two readings sources, 1 Corinthians with almost 7,000 words, and Matthew with more than 18,000 words.). The First Reading touches on traits on which we will be judged. It emphasizes the importance of humility, justice, and being lowly. Just as Pope Francis indicated in his homily on the Beatitudes, these are not traits many people in our world seek. Yet, these are exactly the kinds of attributes that follow lives of stewardship. That is why it is not easy. In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (our Second Reading) the Apostle Paul also describes what it means to be a Christian and a steward, paralleling the First Reading and the Gospel. He reminds the Corinthians that they, too, need to be humble. It is possible that they, like many who felt they were "chosen," had an inflated opinion of themselves, thinking that God favored them. In this reading Paul gently reminds them that God does not work that way. We need to keep that in mind ourselves; it is very easy when we feel that we have completely captured the secret of living, which may be true; however, we must take caution not to be self-righteous. Paul tells the Corinthians that they are not chosen because they are great, but because God is great. Paul knows this firsthand; he was an educated man, but he also understood that the Lord selected fishermen and farmers first, and people like him second; the shepherds came first, then the wise men. Paul uses three words to emphasize his meaning — righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Righteousness on our part is trying to live as Jesus told us; sanctification implies how we live, how we recognize that it is only through Christ that we are sanctified; and redemption reminds us of the sacrifice the Lord made in our behalf so we could be free and God would forgive our sins. As indicated in the opening of this reflection, today's Gospel provides us with instructions from Jesus as to what kind of people His disciples should be. There are more than enough key words on which to reflect and pray: poor, mourn, meek, hunger, mercy, peacemakers, clean, and persecuted to name a few. We could concentrate on each one, but it is worth pointing out that these are traits the Lord calls us to, and what He may mean by them. For example, when Jesus says that to be blessed we need to "hunger and thirst for righteousness," He is reminding us what our focus in life should be. In our world people hunger for many things that may not be that important — things like power and success and wealth and possessions and comfort. The idea of being righteous in His eyes is more important than any of those. When He calls us to be peacemakers, He probably does not mean that we do not just live in peace, but that we need to bring peace to others. Finally, He reminds us that the reward for living in these ways may well be persecution. Why? Quite simply because the world has a differing view of these character traits and values. The question we are called to answer through our lives is, "Are these Beatitudes reflective of our lives?" They need to be. 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 are interested in picking up a print copy of Father's synopsis of the weekend's homily from the bulletin, and they will be available before the Masses on the weekend

*If you know of someone who is new to the Parish or have crossed paths with an individual 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.*

## FAITH FORMATION

*Junior Altar Servers* Calling all young people! We have several junior altar servers in training, but we need more! If you have made your First Communion, we can sure use you! Are there any children or young people from Didsbury who would like to serve at St. Anthony's Masses? Please contact Fr. Nilo, Donna at the parish office or Maria at 403-415-6833.

*Biblical Walk Through the Passion* - During Lent, for five weeks we will be studying *No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk through the Passion* by Fr. Edward Sri beginning Thursday Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the upper room at 7 p.m. If you would like to order a book, the cost is \$21.50. You can sign up on the list on the Spiritual Development table in the foyer. Please order by Sunday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> so we will have enough time to order them from Ascension Press.

Due to icy conditions in the parking lot during winter months, we encourage everyone to drop off your family at the door of the church.

*Spiritual Reading* - To start off the New Year with good spiritual reading, you may wish to listen to the *Bible in a Year* podcasts or *Catechism in a Year* podcasts with Fr. Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins on the *Ascension Press Presents* website. Both will help to deepen and know our faith. Schedules are available on the Spiritual Development table in the foyer.

For families, consider the *Holy Heroes* website or Kendra Tierney's *Catholic All Year* for family faith activities all year round!

*Anniversary Celebrations* - On Sunday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 9 a.m. Mass, there will be a blessing for those who are celebrating a special anniversary- 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup>. Please let Maria know at 403-415-6833 if you are one of those couples!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**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)

## CALL TO PROTECT – Abuse Prevention Training for all Parish Volunteers

The next Called to Protect training session will be on Monday January 30, at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom. The two and a half hour session is mandatory for all volunteers and employees of the Archdiocese. To register, click on this link: <https://forms.gle/Qf6ocHNbeVkuwtRJA>

## YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

**Youth grades 6 and up - mark your calendars!**

Thursday February 2nd - Mazerunner

Friday March 3rd - All Night Glow Bowling in Innisfail

Thursday May 4th - Mantracker

Thursday June 1st - TBD

Times and locations are coming. For more information, please email [monica.andrew@rdcrs.ca](mailto:monica.andrew@rdcrs.ca)

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION & CATECHISM CLASSES

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** - Classes start on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> with second class on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> in the Upper Room of the Parish. Anyone who is planning to have a child baptised is required to attend this two evening program. Please note, the next course is not planned until the Fall, so if you are expecting in the upcoming months, you are encouraged to attend prior to the birth of your baby. Please contact Tara Miller for more information and to register (403-507-1793)

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:**

For students in grades 5 and up who haven't yet made your Confirmation, please come for classes resuming Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for an hour in the Upper Room. See Donna at the parish office to register. Cost of the book is \$12.50. We are using the *Decision Point* program by Dynamic Catholic.

Our dates for First Holy Communion gatherings will begin in March.

Saturday, Mar 25, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

Saturday, Apr 29, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 9 am-noon Children with parents

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

CWL GARGAE SALE IS THIS WEEKEND.

FRIDAY JAN 27 – 9:30 – 6:00 pm

SATURDAY JAN 28 – 9:00-2:00 pm

Raffle Table and Bake Sale

All are invited to stop in during Friday and Saturday to support our Garage Sale. You never know what treasures you might find!

## HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL MASSES

Once a month, we welcome the students and staff from Holy Trinity School to Morning Mass.

They will join us on the following dates:

Tuesday Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – 9:15 AM

Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:15 AM

Mass will begin at 9:15 AM on these dates to allow time for the students to be transported by bus. We encourage you to join us at Mass.

## OFFICE NEWS

Just a quick reminder to all Parish Committees, Parish groups and all who have occasion to use the Church for meetings and practices that it is necessary to book with Mia in the office. It is important for the office to know when user groups are in the building. We ask that all visitors who come into the church after office hours sign in to the book in the entrance.

For all after hour visitors, we also thank you in advance for ensuring that lights are off, toilets are flushed and a quick clean up is done to the area that was in use. We thank you for your cooperation!

Income Tax receipts will be available in the foyer by Jan 31, 2023. We encourage you to pick them up from the church to reduce the letters we have to send in the post. However, we will mail them out after two weeks. Again, thank you for your help with this!