



Dec 10, 2023

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

Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Dec 9, 2023	Confession Holy Mass Holy Mass - St. Anthony	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds 7:00 PM Didisbury
Sun Dec 10, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Dec 12, 2023	Weekday Mass- <i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe w/ special Rosary to follow.</i>	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Dec 13, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Dec 15, 2023	Weekday Mass <i>w/ Holy Trinity School</i>	9:15 AM Olds
Sat Dec 16, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Trochu 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 17, 2023	Holy Mass <i>w/ Nativity pageant, cookie walk and Creche display to follow</i>	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds

Holy Trinity School Christmas Concert - Thursday - Dec 14, 2023 - St. Stephen's Parish.

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
Sstephen102@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 - Jan 5, 2024 7PM
 Marian Cenacle - Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary -
 Friday - 10:00 AM

St. Anthony - Didsbury
 Dec 9, 2023 - 2nd Sat Mass - 7PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

Dear Parishioners, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ,

Prayerful greetings! We are now on the Second Sunday of Advent. Today's liturgical readings can be summed up as equal parts comfort and warning for the Christian steward. We serve a merciful and patient God — in His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us. The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. Our First Reading from Isaiah is filled with messages and images of the Father's tender love for us. "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end." In other words, Israel's time of exile and captivity is over and freedom is coming. Our freedom from the captivity of sin has come as well, through the saving power of Jesus. In this passage we also read this description of the Father. "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care." What tender love He has for us. And it is out of this love that we are told to "prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" St. Peter reiterates the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today. He says that God "is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: "The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out." How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion" and that we should be "eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent "reset" — to return to (or intensify) living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us. Our Gospel passage from Mark takes up the cry of Isaiah from the First Reading, this time through the prophet John the Baptist. John instructs us just as Isaiah did to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." In practical terms, this means that we Christian stewards must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Sacred Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service. In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us. I would like to thank all the priests in our Deanery who came to be Confessors during our Penitential Service & Individual Confessions last Thursday, December 7 and also in Trochu last Wednesday December 6 and also for the Confession of our First Reconciliation Kids of our parish. Likewise, my gratitude and prayer goes to the Third Order of the Franciscans who prepared the dinner for our priests. 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. Advent Blessings!

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

PENITENTIAL SERVICE – Red Deer Deanery

Dec 11 – St. Augustine – Ponoka

Dec 14 – Sacred Heart – Red Deer

Dec 12 – St. Stephen's – Lacombe

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. All are invited to contribute to the Cookie walk as well as shop the cookie walk. All proceeds will go to a family in need this Christmas Season.

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION – Congratulations to our candidate who will be completing their First Reconciliation on Friday Dec 8th with a retreat and their First Confession. Many blessings to you all!

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 etransferred 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

Please come and celebrate the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tues Dec.12th following the 6:30 p.m. Mass with a special Rosary in her honour. Fellowship and treats to follow.

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 etransfer 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.

FLOWERS FOR DECORATING - Anyone wanting to donate flowers for our Christmas Decorating can drop them off no later than the morning of Dec 20th. Thank you for your donations towards making our Parish beautiful this season!



Little Christmas Market – Our Lady of Assumption – Sylvan Lake

WHERE? Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 5033 47A Avenue, Sylvan Lake, T4S 1G8

WHEN? On Sat, Dec 9 from 2 to 4 pm and after 5pm Mass and on Sunday, Dec 10 after 11 am Mass.

WHY? To support our hearts & prayers for our new Church

WHAT'S FOR SALE? Local pottery donated by Sheena, Beautiful cards from the Winter Wednesday Art & Craft Group, Head Warmers for when you walk by the lake in the winter, Dish Cloths from Pauline, an old favourite - Franciscan Aprons, tote bags and caps, Mayber Snowmen or Angels that light up and centerpieces that light up or your holiday table.

COST? Everything for sale is reasonable and Liam asks for a donation for the scones and chili supper.

On Saturday, December 9 from 1.30 to 4.30 pm. or 6.30 to 8.30 pm., you can enjoy the beautiful display of Christmas Creches from around the world and listen to songs and music in the quiet of a winter day or evening.

God Bless You, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Family

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.

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.

OFFICE NEWS – CHARITABLE ENVELOPE INFO

We are preparing the envelopes for 2024 and they will be out and ready before Christmas Week. If you need envelopes or automatic contribution for the upcoming year, please see Mia in the office. If you have not used your envelopes or envelope # for more than a year, the number will be reassigned. If you are in this situation and would like to continue with envelopes, please see Mia.

