



Third Sunday of Advent
Father Nilo Macapinlac
December 11, 2022

Sat Dec 10, 2022	Confession Holy Mass Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sun Dec 11, 2022	Holy Mass <i>Catechism and Confirmation Preparation today at 10:00 AM.</i> Holy Mass – <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 6:30 PM – Rosary 7:00 PM Olds
Monday Dec 12, 2022	Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Supper	5:00 PM
Tues Dec 13, 2022	No Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Dec 14, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Dec 16, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat Dec 17, 2022	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 18, 2022	Holy Mass <i>Catechism and Confirmation Preparation today at 10:00 AM.</i>	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 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
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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 - Sunde
 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,
Blessings to all! Thank you for your kind and active participation during our parish Mission. Thanks to our Spiritual Master, Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM. Good news, Christian stewards — we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples. Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah seems to shout out good cheer as he paints a picture of what the long-awaited Savior will usher in: "the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag... the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the Lord has ransomed (that's us!) will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee." Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged." This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, connects the prophecy of Isaiah to the arrival of Jesus, almost word for word. In this passage we find the imprisoned John the Baptist sending his disciples to ask Jesus if he is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus' reply is almost identical the Isaiah's prophetic words. He says, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." The Savior really has arrived just as promised! Yet that arrival was 700 years after Isaiah's prediction. God always fulfills his promises, but patience and firmness of heart are required as we await his perfect timing. As John's disciples go off to report this wonderful news, Jesus has high praise for John. "Among those born of women, there has been none greater." Yet, Jesus adds, "The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Honorable as it was for John the Baptist to serve as the one who would announce the Savior's arrival, it is a much greater privilege to attain membership in His kingdom. Let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has called us to enter this kingdom. Let us keep our hearts firmly fixed on this eternal goal and strive with all our might to give God and others the very best of ourselves in gratitude for such a privilege. As part of our gratitude, 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, 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 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.

Flowers for Christmas – if you want to donate flowers for our Christmas decorations please have them dropped off before Dec 19th. Thank you for helping us prepare the church for our Christmas Masses.



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.

Thank you to Fr. Dan Gurnick for helping us to Prepare the Way of the Lord Franciscan style! The mission went well despite the weather and flu season. Thank you to all who contributed food and service during the weekend. Thanks to Fr. Dan for coming to the *Journey with Jesus* retreat for the Confirmation class. The team of helpers with their time, talents and treasures were most appreciated. 25 youth participated, and there were many opportunities to meet Jesus along with fun, food and games. Thanks to all!

In an attempt to keep Christ in the Advent season, and to honour Our Lady, there will be a twofold celebration at St. Stephen's this weekend. On Sunday Dec 11th at 6:30, there will be a rosary of the Intentions for the Patroness of the Unborn, Patroness of the Americas and the Star of Evangelization, followed by the 7 p.m. Mass, where there will be a procession of flowers and candles for Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the Mass, there will be a special blessing for all pregnant mothers. For all of you who have Spanish in your backgrounds, or celebrate this feast day in a special way in your culture, please bring your traditions to share!

On Monday Dec. 12, there will be a Mexican potluck at 5:30 in the parish hall with a short video for children, group dancing and a craft. Come and join the fun and bring a Mexican dish and something for the pinata! Come and show others the awesome dance we learned on the weekend! For more information, call me at 403-415-6833.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

We need you - Our Brother Knights have volunteered to fill all liturgical roles on the 5th 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

OUTDOOR NATIVITY PLAY & NATIVITY DISPLAY

On Saturday, December 17 at 4pm join us in the back parking lot of the Church for an outdoor Nativity Play! Walk with Mary and Joseph as they journey to Bethlehem. Feel free to bring a donation of food or gift for those in need. Dress for Alberta weather!

There will be a table by the window of the sanctuary for nativities to be displayed on December 18 after the 7pm mass. Please add your nativities during the last week of Advent to make Christmas a joyful time. Crèches can be an heirloom, homemade or anything in between. Please join the Franciscans is celebrating our Saviors birth. If you have any questions contact Naamah at 403 507 2377

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!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, CONFIRMATION & CATECHISM CLASSES

Congratulations to our candidates who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Friday December 9th!

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!

4TH 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	Coats	Socks
Lotion, Body wash	Tissues (travel size)	Foot powder	coffee thermos	reusable water bottle	
Winter Items: Boots, Coats, gloves, mitts, handwarmers, down vests, blankets, toques,					
Underwear (New)	Chapstick, nail clippers	Jogging Pants	Belts	Shoes Insole	
Small flashlight	Jeans / Cords (Men/Women)	paperback books	notebook and pens		
trail mix/ granola bar	Shoe Insoles	Sleep masks/earplug	Shampoo/Conditioner (travel size)		
Deodorant / Feminine items					

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

Help Needed- 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- We would like to send a heartfelt thank-you to all of the people who attended the ballroom dance this past Saturday here at the parish! Also, to especially thank everyone who helped with serving, bringing delicious food, and cleaning up! It was a really fun family event, and we are so grateful for everyone's hard work. Sincerely, Patricia and Luke.