



Dec 17, 2023

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

Sat Dec 16, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 17, 2023	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds1
Tues Dec 19, 2023	Weekday Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Dec 20, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Fri Dec 22, 2023	Weekday Mass	9:00 AM Olds
Sat Dec 23, 2023	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Dec 24, 2023	Holy Mass See Christmas & New Years Eve Mass Schedule for Mass times	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF
 Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
 Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired
 Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
 Office Admin – Mia MacDonald
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<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
Jan 13, 2024 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear parishioners, people of God, Grace, joy and peace to you! Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian disciple should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing. Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God who is the source of our joy and contentment not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God. This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord. We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Gospel according to John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care. When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day. Confession is one of the best ways to prepare the way of the Lord. We experience immense joy, healing, mercy and forgiveness from God. What a great gift for self-sanctification, relief, peace of mind and conscience. Christ is the joy of our salvation whom we can encounter in the Church's Sacraments. Don't forget to nourish yourself spiritually. St. Theresa de Avila the greatest Carmelite mystic and doctor of the Church once said that JOY is an acronym that stands for "Jesus" first and above all in our life, second is "Others" in our loving service and respect but don't forget "Yourself." "The joy of the Lord is your strength!"(Nehemiah 8:10)Charity and joyful service 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. Please take note of our Sunday Masses next week & Christmas Liturgy. Thanks to Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM in advance as he will preside the Christmas Masses in Olds-St. Stephen's & Mission Churches. God bless you richly on this Gaudete Sunday!

In the joy of Serving Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Sunday, Dec 24th, 2023 – 5 PM – Our Lady of Fatima – Sundre

Sunday, Dec 24th, 2023 – 7 PM – St. Stephen's - Olds

Sunday, Dec 24th, 2023 – 9 PM – St. Stephen's - Olds

Christmas Day – Monday, Dec 25th, 2023 – 10:00 AM – St. Stephen's – Olds

New Year's Eve – Sunday, Dec 31, 2023 – 5 PM – St. Stephen's - Olds

New Year's Day – Monday Jan 1, 2024 – 9 AM – St. Stephen's – Olds

**** There will be NO incense used at the 7 & 9 pm Masses on Christmas Eve ****



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

Join us on this 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

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.



ARTS & ENVIRONMENT – FLOWERS FOR DECORATING

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!

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS:

St. Stephen's Annual Garage Sale will be held on Friday January 26 and Saturday January 27, 2024.

Mark your calendars and start gathering items for the garage sale.

Items can be dropped off closer to those dates. Watch the bulletin for further details.

OFFICE NEW – ENVELOPES

The envelopes are out on the back table ready for the New Year. They are in alphabetical order by first letter of last name. If you cannot find your envelope, check with the office next 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.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

The **2023 Photo Directories** have finally arrived. If you had photos taken or submitted a photo for the directory you can pick up your copy from the table outside Donna's office. Please cross your name off the list so that we know who has not yet picked up a directory.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A *Special Thank You* to everyone who came out to the Family Ballroom Dance and also to everyone who offered to help at the event and to those who brought the wonderful food to share. See you at the next one! *Luke & Patricia Laurence*

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SIGN UPS

We still have positions to fill for our Christmas Liturgies. The sign up sheets are on the table in the middle of the foyer – please take a minute to see where you can help.

