



Sat Feb 17, 2024	NO Confession Holy Mass	5:00 PM Olds
Sun Feb 18, 2024	Holy Mass	11:15 AM Olds 9:00 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Mon Feb 19, 2024	Parish Office Closed for Family Day	
Tues Feb 20, 2024	Morning Prayer	9 AM Olds
Wed Feb 21, 2024	Lay Led Liturgy with Deacon Charles With Lenten Lunch to Follow	12:05 PM Olds
Fri Feb 23, 2024	Morning Prayer Divine Mercy Chaplet – Our Lady of Fatima Stations of the Cross- Tri Parish Churches	9:00 AM Olds 10:00 AM – Sundre 7:00 PM Olds, Didsbury, Sundre
Sat Feb 24, 2024	Holy Mass	5:00 PM Olds
Sun Feb 25, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds

Father Nilo is away Feb 17 thru Feb 29. We will have a visiting priest with us for Weekend Masses and Donna will lead Morning prayer Tues, Wed and Friday. Confession will be available upon request with the Visiting Priest(s)

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 – Thurs 9-3:00
 Friday 9-Noon
 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 – Feb 2, 2024 7PM
 Marian Cenacle – Wed - 7:00 PM
 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary
 – Friday - 10:00 AM
 In case of inclement weather, the
 Marian Cenacle and Chaplet may be
 cancelled.

St. Anthony - Didsbury

 Feb 10, 2024 - 2nd Sat Mass – 7PM
 Adoration – 3rd Monday – 9:00-2:00

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners, People of God,

Prayerful Lent and God's manifold blessings!

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. As we begin the beautiful and challenging season of Lent, our readings this week remind us why it is that we need these 40 days so much. They also suggest a particular strategy we Christian stewards might take as we make the journey towards Easter, so that we arrive there as better disciples — more focused on Christ and His mission for us. Our first reading takes us all the way back to Genesis, reminding us of our Creator and the loving care and lavish gifts He gave to our ancestors, Adam and Eve. Out of pure love, He “formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life.” Then He “planted a garden in Eden... [and] made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food.” Life was good in the Garden! Until the first couple allowed just a sliver of doubt in the goodness of God to enter their minds. Swayed by the words of the serpent that they could become like gods if they ate of the one fruit God had forbidden, they became ungrateful and distrustful despite God's great love for them and all the gifts of creation He had provided. Sound familiar? These are the same temptations that threaten to pull us away from God today. Our second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, sums up this ancient story and reminds us that the same all-perfect God who created Adam and Eve and that good Garden has provided a remedy for our sins — the saving love and perfect obedience of Jesus on our behalf. “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.” This is truly Good News! Our first reading reminds us of our need for this 40-day “reset” to examine our lives and make changes where needed so that we can become stronger in overcoming temptations to sin. Our second reading gives us hope that this reset is truly possible through the mercy and grace of Jesus. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, shows us by the example of Jesus Himself one way that we can attain spiritual strength and grow to become more effective disciples and stewards. In this passage we find our Lord in the desert, fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. Like Adam and Eve, He is confronted by the evil one. But unlike our fallen parents, our Lord triumphs definitively over the devil's lies and sends him slithering away. How did He do it? By knowing the Scriptures and by proclaiming them confidently, and by His perfect trust in the Father. This Lent, let's embrace this 40-day spiritual reset. Let's commit to prayerfully studying the Scriptures. This could take the form of a daily family Gospel reflection, a few moments with the Psalms at the beginning of a lunch break or any other countless ways. If this requires a bit of “fasting” from social media or a favorite TV show in order to find the time, all the better since Jesus Himself fasted for 40 days, too. As faithful stewards, we are called to prioritize our use of time to seek relationship with our loving God. Let's get to know Him better by studying His Word this Lent! .” It is also God's call to pray and to care and look after our sick and elderly brethren, especially the dying and those who need the last rites of the Church whether it is day or night, please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-3521524 or 403-4156183. This is also a ministry and the Sacrament of Healing entrusted by Jesus to His Church. Blessings!

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

FROM THE PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN

The parish of St. Stephen is seeking individuals interested in joining the parish Finance Committee and more specifically we are looking for one person to take on the chairmanship of this same committee. The Parish Finance Committee is a consultative body that assists the parish priest in managing the parish's financial matters. While it does not have decision-making authority, its role is crucial in ensuring prudent and just administration of the parish's temporal goods. This committee meets only quarterly and is not required to attend Parish Council meetings. If you might be interested in joining this committee, please speak with Father Nilo or our Parish Council Chair Paul Groenenwegen (403) 638-2868.

MARRIAGE PREP

St. Stephen's will be offering a Marriage Preparation course on the weekend of March 1 & 2nd. The Marriage preparation course is mandatory for anyone planning to get married in the Catholic Church. This includes newly engaged couples and couples who have been married in a civil ceremony that plan to have their Marriage convalidated or blessed in the Catholic Church. Preregistration is required. Please contact Kathy Kemmere (403-994-3364 or Judy Wahlstrom (403) 556-3661 as soon as possible. St. Stephen's offers the course once a year, but there are other courses throughout the Archdiocese that are available.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST COMMUNION – First Communion classes will resume in March. Watch for details in the bulletin.

CONFIRMATION - No Class this weekend. The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE

A friendly reminder that memberships are now due. Please see Laurel Arvay, Jo-Anne Sell or Joanne Fewster to pay. If you are interested in joining CWL please speak to any member. First year memberships are free. Come out and see what we are about, you have nothing to lose. Our next meeting is Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

CWL is collecting travel size personal care items to be included in welcome bags for refugees. We also collect toiletries and clothing for Morningstar an organization in Red Deer that provides aide to women who live on the street. Donation baskets are in the upper room to avoid congestion in the foyer

IN HOUSE FOOD BOX

We are in need of non-perishable items for the In-house food box. We have been able to assist a number of families through Christmas and into the New Year's and are finding our shelves bare. All staples including pasta, rice, soup, cereals, kids snack items, tea, coffee, peanut butter, jams, canned beans and vegetables, canned tuna, ham and chicken etc are needed. If you have any questions or need help deciding what to donate – please call Donna in the Parish office. 403-556-3084 x4



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Jim & Betty Stumpf and family would like to send a special Thank You to Father Nilo and to all who said prayers for Emmitt. They have modified his diet drastically and he is at home from the hospital. He is eating, sleeping, playing and happy! Thanks be to God – Many blessings to everyone

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

We have books that have been donated to our Parish Library that are being made available to our Parishioners to take home with you. They will be out on a table in the foyer leading up to Lent. A donation towards the parish is welcomed and appreciated.

"Let us set out with trust on our Lenten journey, sustained by fervent prayer, penance and concern for those in need. In particular, may this Lent be a time of ever greater concern for the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole; for they are the future of humanity." - St. John Paul II, 2004 Lenten Message



OFFICE NEWS- Income Tax Receipts

The last of the envelopes are on the back table ready to be picked up. **Income Tax Receipts are out this weekend. If you have any issues or notice a need for an address change etc, please let Mia in the office know.** 403-556-3084, email – ststephen102@gmail.com or pop in to see me. Any receipts not picked up will be mailed out at the end of the month – to give everyone a chance to pick up.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon – Saint Joseph. This Sunday February 18th, prior to the 11:15 Mass, the Knights of Columbus will be offering a prayer service in honour of Saint Joseph and displaying the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon of Saint Joseph. We will begin about 10:15 and hope you all might plan to attend as we join together to give honour to Saint Joseph – Principal Patron of Canada, patron of the universal Church, and patron of the archdiocese of Edmonton. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Killoran at 403-415-5627. All are most welcomed!

A reminder that K of C dues can be paid via etransfer to matthewcadrin@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH

There are two Men's conferences coming up in March, that are very worth of your consideration as an opportunity to grow in your walk with the Lord. It is good once or twice a year, as men, to refocus ourselves on our relationships with god, our spouses, our families, fellow men, our workplace colleagues and our communities. Many men from our parish have attended both of these events in the past and it would be good to get a group together to attend one of both of these events. These are both Catholic based ministries and the benefits would be substantial in many ways. Please consider signing up and attending. It would be great if we could get some groups of men from our parish to attend and travel together to reduce the cost. Please pray about what god is asking you to do. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Larry - 403-556-2360.

In HIS most Holy name, AMEN

God Squad – Way to the Father – March 22 and March 23 – Ascension Parish, Calgary, AB

Men of Integrity – Lead by Example – March 1 and March 2 – Holy Family Parish, St. Albert, AB

*There is a poster attached to the Bulletin with a QR code that can be scanned for Registration for God Squad. Use your phone to take a pic of the code and it will take you directly to the site.

*<https://catholicfamilyministries.regfox.com/set-the-captives-free-men-of-integrity>

From the Archdiocese

For the next three years the Archdiocese of Edmonton will journey with Mary in worship, witness, and service, as we revisit the key moments of her life. As such, our Pastoral Priorities for 2024 to 2027 are highlighted as follows:

1. Receiving the Word (Worship) - Eucharistic Formation
 - a. Goal: to be a faith community that joyfully celebrates and better understands the Eucharist
2. Proclaiming the Word (Witness) - Forming Confident Witnesses
 - b. Goal: to be a faith community that is confident in proclaiming the Great Story within our respective vocations, professions, and communities
3. Pointing to the Word (Service) - Formation for Service to Families and Marriage
 - c. Goal: to be a faith community that accompanies families, fully recognizing the centrality of marriage and family in God's plan