

Feb 25, 2024

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

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac

Sat Feb 24, 2024	Confession — Cancelled Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Feb 25, 2024	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Feb 27, 2024	Morning Prayer	9 AM Olds
Wed Feb 28, 2024	Lay Led Mass w/ Lenten Lunch	12:05 PM Olds
Fri Mar 1, 2024	24 hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Weekday Mass Adoration Stations of the Cross followed by First Friday Mass OLF Stations of the Cross- St. Anthony's Parish	24 hr 9:00 AM Olds 1-6 PM - Sundre 6:30 PM Sundre 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sat Mar 2, 2024	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM Olds 5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 3, 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 and Friday w/ lay led Mass on Wednesday at 12:05 w/ Lenten Lunch.. 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

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & parishioners, People of God,

Prayerful Lent and God's manifold blessings!

Our readings for this second Sunday of Lent offer us Christian stewards motivation to continue on our 40-day journey towards deeper holiness. The first reading from the book of Genesis describes God's call to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). God instructs Abram to leave his home and set out to a land that God had chosen for him. Abram's response is an ancient example of a good stewardship. Instead of clinging to his comfortable way of life, to the only home he has ever known, he recognizes that all he has is gift from God, puts his trust in God and obeys. And God rewards him saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. It is also an excellent way to live out the season of Lent. The sacrifices we take on, the spiritual disciplines we practice, the extra acts of service we perform during this season — all give glory to God and transform our lives into a blessing for others. St. Paul encourages us on this path in our second reading taken from his letter to Timothy. "Bear your share of hardship for the gospel..." adding this critical phrase, "with the strength that comes from God." On our own we are weak, inclined towards selfishness and comfort seeking. Relying on God's strength, however, we can persevere in the fight to attain holiness. Paul reminds us that, in fact, we were made for this! "[God] saved us and called us to a holy life." To be "holy" means to be set apart for God. This means that our lives as Christian stewards will look different from those around us who do not know the Lord — but different in a way that is attractive, that draws them to the Lord as well. It is a way of life that is counter-cultural in our individualistic, "me first" day and age. The generous offering to God of our time, talents and treasure at times can feel like the "hardship" Paul mentions in our second reading. But this way of life is a path to holiness. Lest we grow weary on this path, our Gospel passage today, from Matthew, offers us a powerful image of the great God we serve. It is the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus, when our Lord takes His key apostles up to a high mountain and reveals Himself in His true glory. "He was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." And not only that, but the voice of the Father was revealed to them with the words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." This revelation of the glory of God was so overwhelming to the apostles that they fell to the ground in fear when they saw Him this way. But our loving Savior is quick to reassure them to "Rise, and do not be afraid." As we continue on our Lenten journey, let us take these two verses, "Listen to Him," "Rise, and do not be afraid" to heart. Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing to God and others — and as better stewards of all God's gifts to us. It is also God's call and tremendous blessing 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

Please welcome Father Dan who is joining us this weekend, while Father Nilo is away. Father Dan joins us from Mount Francis where he serves with the Franciscan Friars.

You can go to the Mount St. Francis site to read more about upcoming Weekend Silent Retreats AT Mount St. Francis. www.mountstfrancis.ca

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 on Saturday March 23, 2024. Participants will have received an email from the Sacramental Prep team.

CONFIRMATION - Feb 25th – Class this weekend. The Archbishop will be coming to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with us on June 9, 2024

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAQUE

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

KITCHEN

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – SILVER ROSE SERVICE

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting the Silver Rose Prayer Service on the evening of Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at St. Stephen's Church, Olds, in conjunction with the Mass regularly scheduled for that evening. The prayer service will commence prior to Mass, and will continue after the Mass. Details of the commencement of the prayer service will be provided in the next week's Bulletin.

The Silver Rose is a reminder of the challenge before us to teach the world that the life of each human being, unique and unrepeatable, begins at the moment of conception and ends with natural death. The service includes the praying of the rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Sanctity of life.

This is an opportunity for you to support the Sanctity of Life movement.

Alvin Ganser, member Knight

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

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.

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 . 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.

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>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – MARCH 1, 2024

Please join in the World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites you to enrich your faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. The service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine. Everyone is Welcome. Refreshments to follow. Event to be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on March 1, 2024 at 1 pm

ST PATRICK DAY KITCHEN PARTY – MARCH 16, 2024

You are all invited to the **St. Patrick's Day Kitchen Party** to be held Saturday, March 16th after the 5:00 Mass. Please bring a plate of your favorite finger food or appetizers to share, and stay for the music and the fun! This is a jam-session, so you are asked to bring your musical instruments, if you've got'em. You don't have to be Irish to take part in this gathering, but you are encouraged to wear the green.

