

LENT

The First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

Father Nilo Macapinlac

Sat March 5, 2022	Confession Holy Mass	11:00 AM 5:00 PM Olds
Sun March 6, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Trochu 11:15 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds
Tues Mar 8, 2022	Holy Mass	6:30 PM Olds
Wed Mar 9, 2022	Holy Mass w/ Lenten lunch to follow	12:05 PM Olds 7:00 PM Trochu
Fri Mar 11, 2022	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	9:00 AM Olds 7:00 PM Olds 7:00 Sundre 7:00 PM Didsbury
Sat Mar 12, 2022	Holy Mass	5:00 PM Olds
Sun Mar 13, 2022	Holy Mass	9:00 AM Olds 11:15 AM Trochu 7:00 PM Olds

Stations of the Cross will begin on Friday March 4th in Sundre and Didsbury. St. Stephen's will begin the second week of the month due to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament .

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

Be sure to follow our Youth group

@st.stephens_youth_ on Instagram

Office Hours 9-2pm

NEW 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

The new schedule is in effect until March as authorized by the Archdiocese.

Our Lady of Fatima - Sundre

OLF celebrates a monthly Mass on the first Friday of every month.

OLF Weekly Schedule

Friday – Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary – 10:00 AM

Stations of the Cross – 7 PM

St Anthony's - Didsbury

March 12, 2022 – 7 PM.

Stations of the Cross – 7 PM

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends in Christ, Blessings to all of you!

We are now on the First Sunday of Lenten season. And so it begins — the holy and, for some, daunting, season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord's Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection. Our outlook as Christian stewards can help us embrace this season with enthusiasm and even joy. The First Reading, from Deuteronomy, presents a beautiful and positive way to approach Lent. The passage begins with Moses speaking to the people. He reminds them that the Lord saw their affliction and responded mercifully to their cry by delivering them from oppression in Egypt, and by bringing them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses teaches the people how they should respond to such a wonderful God. He instructs them to approach the Lord with these words: "Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given me." In other words, Moses teaches the people to respond as grateful stewards for all that God has done for them. As grateful stewards ourselves, we can look at these 40 days as "soil" that God is giving us as a gift to grow closer to Him and become more like Him. We can choose to use each of these days intentionally to make a generous response to our God, who sent His own Son to deliver us from the affliction and oppression caused by sin. Jesus, by His own example in today's Gospel, demonstrates the necessity of setting aside a period of time devoted especially to prayer and fasting as a means of strengthening our spiritual muscles. Just before the launch of His public ministry, He is "led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." In imitation of Jesus, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the desert, too — the desert of our interior lives where our thoughts and desires reside. While our Lord was strong enough to withstand the temptations of the devil on His own, we most certainly are not! We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us where we need to grow interiorly and then rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance throughout these forty days of growth. We may discover we are weak in our knowledge of the faith and can devote these Lenten days to spiritual reading or Bible study. We may discover our prayer life has gone by the wayside and we must discipline ourselves anew and commit to a regular, daily time for prayer. Perhaps we have given in to selfishness and comfort seeking and we can determine to give up our favorite coffee drink or social media "fix" and find a project that serves the poor in our community. If these spiritual exercises hurt a little, that means we are doing them right! It means we will have some wonderful "first fruits" to present to our Lord at the close of this season; we will be prepared to enter into the grace-filled days of the Triduum and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

Devotedly yours in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

LAUDATO SI – Our Parish Community

Following Pope Francis' leadership and the 1.3 billion Catholics who care for creation, Laudato Si has come up with ways for you, your family and community to pray and take action for God's creation this year. For example, please feel free to add to the *Laudato Si display* on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please write any acts of love on the sticky notes, and attach them to which of the *Laudato Si* goals they fulfill. Examples: writing a letter on a prolife issue to the government, praying the rosary for the unborn, taking bottles and cans to the recycling depot, shoveling the sidewalk for an elderly neighbour, etc. Check the board to see what the school is doing.

"Spend time outdoors, whether walking, running or just sitting, in the spirit of St. Francis, praising God for each of His creatures, for the goodness and beauty of all he has made."

SYNOD DISCUSSION – *Companions on the Journey*

The Synod on *Synodality in the Church* will be focusing on how the Church journeys together. The next topic and question we will explore is: **ECUMENISM** *The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.*

1. What relationships does our church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
2. What do we share and how do we journey together?
3. What fruits (benefits) have we drawn from walking together?
4. What are the difficulties?
5. How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a **Novena for Life** and are asking for your participation. We have two prayer cards, available March 12th and 13th, for your use at home from March 16th to March 24th, inclusive. Please try to pray these prayers for the nine days of the novena. We will try to use the prayer card at Mass, during this novena time. We will also include March 25th – the Feast of the Annunciation, which is also the Knights of Columbus “Day of the Unborn Child”. Please join us in this work for Life – from conception to natural death. When we have a disregard for “Life”, there is no telling what other situations may arise.

"A reminder to all members that dues for the 2022 Fraternal Year can be paid by sending an e-transfer to matthewcadrin@hotmail."

CWL

The next CWL meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2022 at 7 PM. We invite you to join us. If you have any questions or concerns or are interested in joining our local league, please contact Jo Fewster.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST RECONCILIATION &

Final Weekend – First Reconciliation - Friday, Mar 25, 2022, after school, retreat and sacrament

YOUTH GROUP – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish is in need of a youth committee to help with planning and supervision of events. The activities themselves are taken care of but there are organizational pieces to go along with these. If this is something you feel like you can help with or have any questions, please contact Monica Andrew at 403-994-0323 or monica.andrew@oldsnet.ca

SOCIAL JUSTICE- *Coldest Week of the Year Walk*

Thank you to those who participated in the walk and took the time to make a donation towards the Mustard Seed. Every donation helps in keeping our homeless warm through our Alberta winters.

Photos of the couples who had them taken at the *Celebrate Marriage* weekend are available in the foyer. If you don't see your photo there, it was because the image did not turn out well.

FAITH & FORMATION

Photos from the *Celebrate Marriage* weekend are available in the foyer. If you don't see your photo there, it was because the image did not turn out well.

- The *Truth and Reconciliation* evening has officially been rescheduled for Monday Mar. 21st in the church hall. Please join us for an evening of stories and sharing with Doreen Bergum. Coffee and Lenten snacks will be provided. Let us move toward peace and reconciliation with all as only then can we move forward.

-Everyone is invited to an hour of *Praise and Worship to the Lord* on Mondays Mar. 14 and 28th, and April 11th in the church at 7 p.m. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, let us sing out and seek His will in post-covid times!

FRANCISCAN SOCIETY

Did you know..... that there is a local Franciscan fraternity that meets on a monthly basis at St Stephens? With St Francis of Assisi as our Seraphic Father, we are lay people who try to more closely follow the gospel way of life through both contemplation and action in our day to day lives. If you would like to deepen your spirituality, are 18 years or older, a practicing Catholic and wish more information please call either Audrey Gross (403 586-4260) or Kathy Caron (403 507-7288) for more information. Pax et Bonum!

LIBRARY NOTICE

As in pre-pandemic times, we will again a selection of books in the lobby for the next two weeks for Lenten reading. Anyone from our Tri-Parish community is welcome to borrow books. Just sign the card at the back of the book and put in the container provided. If you prefer to take a book directly from the library, please do, but sign it out and return when finished.

We hope your reading will bring you closer to the Trinity and your friends at St. Stephen's as we transition back into a visible parish community after the restrictions of this terrible pandemic. God Bless.

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

The Catholic Bishops of Canada have announced an Indigenous Reconciliation Fund to advance healing and reconciliation initiatives. The Archdiocese is committed to working with the bishops of Canada to meet the goal of securing \$30 million over a five year period.

We have entered an era of reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples and this is an important step in our journey. Funds raised locally will remain in the area and will support culture and language revitalization, education and community building and healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

For the faithful who wish to contribute to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, there will be two special collections across the Archdiocese on March 5/6 and March 12/13 weekends. There will be envelopes for this purpose at the parish or through the on-line donation link found at <https://caedm.ca/IndigenousRelations>.

We are committed to continue the journey with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of this land. For more information, please contact the Archdiocese website caedm.ca or visit www.cccb.ca.

A Special Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for all the prayers for recovery & for the Mass that was said. I am so blessed to belong to such a wonderful, loving & caring parish family. I thank you for your continued prayers.
Diane Mahoney Dyck