



April 26, 2020

St. Anthony St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima
Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon Charles Johnston - RETIRED

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Weekday and Weekend Masses are cancelled during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

“A Sure Way to a Happy Day

Happiness is something we create in our mind,
It's not something you search for and seldom find.

It's just waking up and beginning the day,
by counting our blessings and kneeling to pray.

It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent,
and accepting what comes as a gift “heaven-sent”.

It's giving up whining for things we have not.

It's knowing that life is determined for us,
and pursuing our tasks without fret, fume or fuss.

For it's by completing what God gives us to do
that we find real contentment,

Helen Steiner Rice



My dear brothers and sisters, friends and parishioners,

Grace and peace in the Risen Christ!

We walk together for no man is an island especially in this unprecedented times, unimaginable crisis. We walk by faith, St. Paul says and not by sight. Do not be afraid, Jesus said: "I will be with you always until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

Today's readings focus on a theme of "sojourning." As Christian stewards we know that our lives are a sojourn towards the ultimate destination of heaven.

Our second reading instructs us to "conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ." What a powerful reminder during the Easter season of our "why" for embracing the stewardship way of life — we have been ransomed by our Lord's saving death and resurrection. Our lives are a gift from Him — as we sojourn through life, we are to make of our lives a gift to Him in return.

Our Gospel passage today describes a sojourn as well, the familiar Easter season story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two are dejected and despondent after Jesus' death. These men knew Jesus personally. They were believers. They had heard the Gospel message directly from His lips. They talked with Him, traveled with Him, ate with Him. They heard the testimony of the women who discovered the empty tomb of our Lord and saw a vision of angels announcing He was alive. And if that were not enough, they had also been informed by other disciples who went to the tomb that all was exactly as the women reported.

How much more obvious could the Good News be?

And yet, at times, the reaction of the two disciples describes our own walk of faith, doesn't it? We have the fullness of the Catholic faith, the power of the sacraments, the support of our parish family. Yet, we lose our way. We fail to see all the gifts we have been given. We lack trust in the perfect goodness and almighty power of God. The life of a disciple — even for us modern-day disciples — is truly a sojourn, with valleys and mountaintops, wrong turns and course corrections required on a regular basis.

Our Lord offers a course correction to the two disciples who have lost their way, opening their eyes to the reality of His presence and the truth of His Resurrection. What happens when their eyes are opened once again and they recognize Jesus in the Eucharist — "the breaking of the bread?" They are transformed! Their hearts are set on fire with love for the Lord and their faith. They recall that their hearts began "burning within" as the Lord was explaining the Scriptures to them.

So, what can we do when we become discouraged, when we need our hearts set on fire once again? We can go to the same sources as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus — the Scriptures (the living Word of God) and the Eucharist (the very source and summit of our faith). Frequent recourse to these two gifts from our Lord is absolutely essential to sustain us in the stewardship way of life.

In this Easter season, resolve to feast deeply on these two sources of grace. They are the fuel that will propel us on the journey towards heaven, with a renewed sense of joy and gratitude as we go! Though our journey at this time with Eucharistic is through virtual viewing through our St. Stephen Catholic Parish Facebook. Please don't forget to support our parish financially and I knew that it is not opportune time to appeal but we need your monetary contribution essentially to pay our bills in many services we render.

May God in His Infinite and Unfathomable Mercy bless, keep and protect you always...I humbly remain,

In the Divine Mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

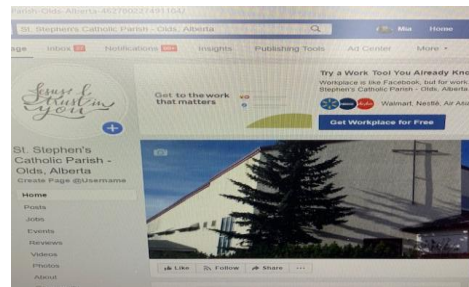
How To Create A Face book Account

*Go to www.facebook.com

*Create a new account – enter your name, email address and create a password. You will be asked to confirm gender, enter birth date and submit.

*Once you have created an account, you can search for St. Stephen's Catholic Parish – in the search bar.

*The St. Stephen's Catholic Parish page has a circle in the top left corner with "Jesus, I Trust in You"



The live stream weekend Masses are available after 5 pm on Saturday evening and Father has been doing a live stream daily Mass at 6 pm.

Mia will continue to share various posts from Father Nilo's private Masses and prayers that are live streamed throughout the week. You will not find political posts, recipes, or opinion pieces on this page – it was created to provide our Parishioners with little bursts of faith filled information and now with COVID 19, it is a format for us to share the Mass.



Burst of Faith
😊

Please note: If you are hesitant to download Face book, it important that you realized that you do not have to invite friends or accept friend requests once you are on Face book. You can follow the Parish page for various prayers, updates, posts, videos, etc during this time of COVID 19 where we are unable to attend weekly Masses.

We know there are various sources for you to access Mass on Cable TV and other online resources, but if you are eager to see a familiar face and to see our beautiful church in the background, please consider viewing our live stream Masses on Face book.

EWTN : www.ewtn.com

Archdiocese of Edmonton : www.caedm.com

Quid Novum: www.caedm.ca/quidnovum

Families: www.teachingcatholickids.com



"V" is for Victory, not Virus!

As the weather warms up, we are getting anxious to get our gardens started. Please remember us as you are getting organized – if you have any extra seeds to donate to the Victory Garden at the Parish, please drop them off in the boxes between the front doors of the church.



Do you have a Loved One in Hospital?

When you can't visit the hospital, here's a link by which you can send well wishes to patients. Your kind words of encouragement will be delivered by the volunteers of Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health facilities. albertahealthservices.ca/info/wellwishes.

Confession

Father is available on Saturdays at 11:00am for Confession in the library. We ask that everyone maintain Social Distancing while here.

Good News

We are asking all Parishioners to share their Good News in future bulletins. We love hearing about Covid and Purell the piglets and all their brothers and sisters, about families and friends praying and skyping, and any other stories you want to share.

Parish Giving

We are providing some additional links for sites where contributions towards the Church can be made. Your financial contributions at this time are needed more than ever. Thank you to all who have taken time to drop off or mail your donations, every little bit helps to keep us going during this time.

www.caedm.ca/donate - You can select St. Stephen's in the drop down box

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/890356249RR0001-the-catholic-parish-of-st-stephen/>

Copies of Automatic Contribution paperwork is attached to the bulletin, if you choose to move forward with monthly automatic contributions for the Church. They can be dropped off or mailed in to the Parish office.

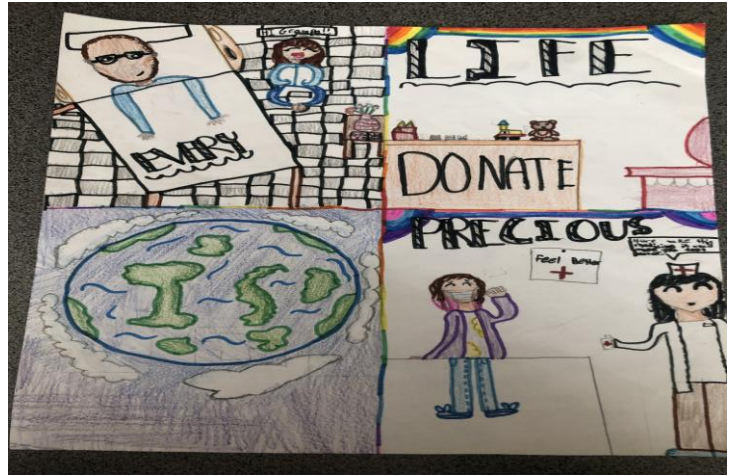
Financial Update – 2020

| Income by Month & Year | | | | Expenses by Month & Year | | | | Bank Balance by Month | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Date | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Date | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Jan | 28,191.00 | 28,252.15 | 28,881.56 | Jan | \$17,932 | \$22,988 | \$25,070 | Jan | \$137,650 | \$78,720 | 66656.86 |
| Feb | 21,615.00 | 18,123.98 | 19,441.41 | Feb | \$29,310 | \$21,500 | \$17,365 | Feb | \$128,098 | \$75,344 | 68732.83 |
| Mar | 25,061.00 | 20,022.20 | 15,296.98 | Mar | \$17,352 | \$19,484 | \$19,999 | Mar | \$135,792 | \$75,882 | 64830.81 |
| April | 23,004.00 | 24,740.27 | | April | \$56,630 | \$11,599 | | April | \$102,332 | \$89,024 | |

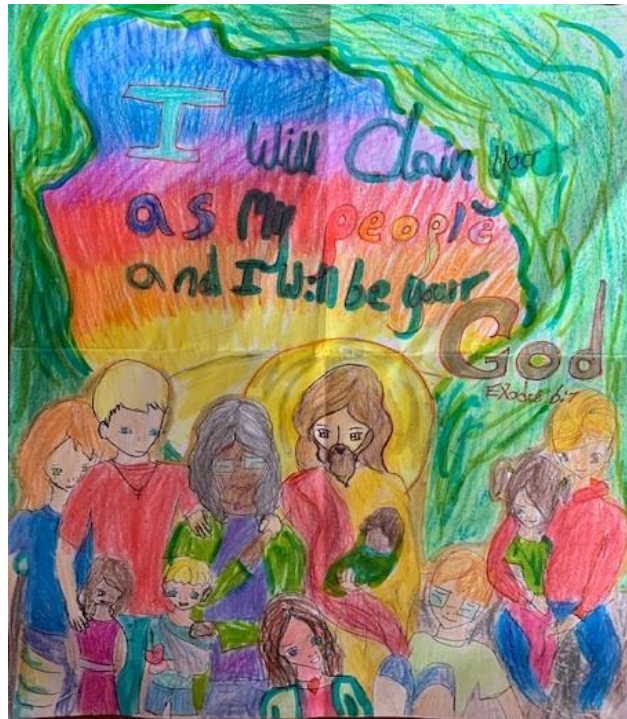
Family Life – Every Life Matters – Poster Contest



Julianna – Gr 3-5



Joaquin – Gr. 3-5



Anna Leischner – Gr 7

Divine Mercy Chaplet – Zoom Gathering

We are united in Prayer at the hour of Mercy – We invite you to join us via Zoom for our Parish Community to come together and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. Finance Report. If you are interested in participating with our Parish community, please contact your community leader for the Zoom invite.

Spiritual Adoption

Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I am between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. I move around a lot but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get the hiccups



Knights of Columbus – Prayer for the Pandemic

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Canain Galilee.
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.
Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health
and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and
seeking a cure.
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father and to do
as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and
carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of
the Resurrection. Amen.



Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our
needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Food Box

We just want to remind everyone that the Food Box is here. We are very grateful to all who help us to keep it replenished. We want to encourage anyone that finds themselves in need at this time to contact Donna in the Parish. If you know of anyone who is struggling to put food on the table, please make sure they know they have options available to them.

Be Safe

Be Well

Be Holy