

St. Stephen's Parish Bulletin

Month of August

Father Nilo Macapinlac

Saturday	Confession – Olds Holy Mass – In Person	Cancelled - AUG 10 – SEPT 9 10 5:00 PM – In person
Sunday	Holy Mass	9:00 AM - 2 nd , 4 th 11:15 AM – 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th
Tuesday	Holy Mass – CANCELLED AUG 10 – SEPT 10	Father is away
Thursday	Holy Mass – CANCELLED AUG 10 – SEPT 10	Father is away
Friday	Holy Mass – CANCELLED AUG 10 – SEPT 10	Father is away

Please note: Father Nilo will be away on holiday from August 10 – Sept 10. Father Thomas Vadassery will be here in the interim.

COVID UPDATE

As we move forward with the lifting of COVID restrictions, the liturgy committee would like to make you aware of certain procedures;

- Social Distancing requirements have been lifted as of July 1, however, not everyone may be comfortable with these changes. If you wish to continue to wear a mask, please do so. If you intend to sit in a pew already occupied by someone else, be respectful of their social distancing comfort level.
- You are asked to bow or nod during the Sign of Peace instead of a handshake. This will be reassessed at the end of August.
- You may now receive Holy Communion on the tongue if you wish.
- The two front rows of the middle section will continue to be reserved for the lectors and their families.
- Setting up chairs in the foyer is not permitted. This is a fire and safety issue. The existing chairs and sofa in the foyer are to accommodate people attending at the parish to meet with Fr and staff members and have been returned to their original position facing the front of the church.
- We encourage people with young families to move toward the front of the church so the children can see what is happening. Do not be concerned if your child makes a little fuss.
- Seating in the loft is reserved for overflow only and is to be used when the nave of the church is full.
- Commencing in the Fall, the weekday Mass schedule will be changing. Masses will be celebrated Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9 am in addition to our Weekend Mass schedule. We look forward to seeing the faces of our fellow parishioners as we move into the old but somewhat new normal.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends and parishioners,

Grace and peace to you! We are now on the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Bread is important in today's readings. The final verse of the First Reading from the Book of Exodus is, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat." This reading speaks of the Bread from Heaven (manna) that fell to save the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. God provided for them, but they did not recognize what was being provided. We are provided the "Bread of Life" through the Eucharist and through our holy liturgies. Sometimes, though, we do not recognize it as we should. In truth, we need to be changed every time we receive of the "Bread of Life." This idea of change, conversion, is emphasized by St. Paul in the Second Reading from his letter to the Ephesians. Paul's letter to the Ephesians lays out in many ways the spiritual journey on which we should travel. Paul is telling us we as Catholics and Christians need to walk — to live — in a different way than the world around us. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem was foretold more than once in the Old Testament. In fact, the town of Bethlehem is mentioned more than 40 times in the Old Testament. The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah, and perhaps you are familiar with how often Isaiah referred to the Messiah to come. Micah states in Chapter 5 of the Book of Micah, "But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathaha, least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old." He refers to it as Bethlehem-Ephrathaha to distinguish it because there was more than one Bethlehem. However, King David was born in Bethlehem-Ephrathaha, as was Joseph. Bethlehem in Hebrew (Bet Lehem) means "House of Bread." This reference to bread is one that occurs throughout Holy Scripture. We are all aware of that part of the Our Father, "Give us this day our daily bread," but there is and was more to it than that, and is much more than providing us with enough to eat. St. Paul wrote in First Corinthians "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" — namely, Jesus Christ. We tend to display to the world that we really are not that different at all. To have as our goal the respect and approval of the world around us is misguided. Recall from the First Reading that God met the needs of the Israelites but He did not do it in a way they expected. As Christians we must be prepared to break with the past. We do not just add the Lord to our old life. He needs to become our "new life." That is what the Bread of Life discourse is all about. It renews us; it invigorates us; it strengthens us every time we receive it. It is not easy to see it that way or to feel that when we approach the Holy Eucharist, but that is very much what it is intended for. As Paul tells us in this reading from Ephesians, we need to "put away the old self of your (our) former life, and be renewed in the spirit of your (our) minds, and put on the new self." It is this "new self" that recognizes the important role each of us plays as part of the Body of Christ. When Jesus calls Himself the "Bread of Life," He is indicating that He wants us to lift our minds, thoughts and hearts from earthly existence and to spiritual realities. Each of us needs to put our confidence in the Lord — not in material things. If we accept the Lord and believe and trust in Him, we, too, can satisfy our spiritual hunger. May the Lord enrich you with His presence and nourish you in the table of Word and Eucharist. Amen

Yours devotedly in Christ,
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!! (VBS)

Join us as we celebrate Cat Chat's Marvelous Mystery

This summer the kids of our parish will have the opportunity to be immersed in the greatest mystery on earth as they spend a week learning about the incredible treasure of the Mass. With this Cat Chat VBS program, kids ages 3-11 will develop a new appreciation for the Catholic Mass and will deepen their love for Jesus in the Eucharist through faith, teachings, music, dance, fun games, crafts and more. Dates for this year's camp - August 16-20. Registration forms are available in the foyer, on our website, or on our Facebook page or through the office at Holy Trinity School.

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_](https://www.instagram.com/st.stephens_youth_) on Instagram
SUMMER OFFICE HOURS 9-12

ST. JOSEPH'S CORNER – The Year of St. Joseph – Dec 8 2020 – Dec 8 – 2021



Prayer to Saint Joseph

O good and Holy Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, foster-father of Jesus, and patron of the Universal Church, we beseech you to hear our humble petitions.

As the guardian of Mary and Jesus who trusted in God's plan, we seek your intercession to protect the Church from all evils.

As a loving spouse to Mary, we ask you to teach us purity of heart.

As a nurturing foster-father to the child Jesus, we implore you for a greater respect towards all human life. And when our earthly life nears its end, we pray, that, like you, we may have a happy death and are welcomed by Jesus and Mary into the eternal joy of heaven. O Saint Joseph, our guide and patron, pray for us.

(Borrowed from the Diocese of Scranton)

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Please visit the Archdiocese website and Facebook page in addition to St. Stephen's Facebook page to find links and listings of faith events that are scheduled to remember the Indigenous Children of the former Residential Schools that have been discovered. . We hold these children in our hearts and prayers. Members of our community have dropped off Teddy Bears and shoes to remember these little ones.

BOOK CLUB – Starting in September

Who is this Jesus? Is the title of a 133 page book to be used in a book club hosted by John Palardy. It is a very readable life of Jesus in 12 short chapters. Weekly meetings will start in early September. Date to be arranged with participants. For more info or to sign up contact John Palardy 403 556 7855 or email him at palardyj@me.com

UPCOMING GARAGE SALE – August 21st, 2021

The CWL will be holding a garage sale in the church parking lot on Aug. 21 from 10 - 2, weather permitting. WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING ANY DONATED ITEMS. The purpose of the sale is to empty the Seacan which is almost full to be able to access our deep freeze which is barricaded in there. Please come to see if we have the treasures that you need for your home.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

ATTENTION all those who were involved in liturgical ministry prior to Covid. If you were a Greeter, Adult Server, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, or Usher we would like to know if you will be returning to active duty as of July 1st? Perhaps you were part of the Point of Entry Team during Covid and would like to continue in some capacity, or maybe you are new to the parish and would like to offer up your time and talents by serving during Holy Mass. Please contact Donna ASAP as you are needed to help fill in the next Liturgy Schedule. (403-556-3084 ext. #4)

MOUNTAIN VIEW FOOD BANK – FOOD DRIVE

A reminder to our parishioners that the Mt View Food Bank is having its annual food drive coming up September 25th. We need volunteers to drop off the collection bags September 20th, 21st and 22nd and to pick up the food donations on the 25th. Please contact Tara Miller (403-507-1793) if you would like to help out. Watch the bulletin for further updates.

EMERGENCY NEED – MUSTARD SEED SHELTER

We are being called upon again to open our hearts and assist in the emergency needs of the street folk in Red Deer. The Mustard Seed has asked the Social Justice committee to pass their request on to you, the generous people of our parish.

The supplies desperately needed are:

Sunscreen/ Aloe Vera	Non-perishable snacks	Gift cards for coffee/confectionary
Bug repellent	Umbrella	Gift cards for groceries
Hats	Rain poncho	Flip Flops
Sunglasses	Personal hygiene items	
Men's and women's underwear (New only)		
Light new or gently used clean clothing- shorts, T-shirts		
They have had a large donation of bottled water so this is not needed at this time.		

We will put a labeled container at the back of the church for you to deposit these items. If you feel it in your heart to donate in any way to the Mustard Seed and their clients it will be so appreciated. If any questions contact Cathy Wright 403-556-7784 God Bless you all.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/ DONATIONS



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DONATIONS

Please see the table in the foyer for a list of items that are needed for Camp – snack items, craft and activity supplies, etc.

We are also in need of volunteers to help “prepare” items for the week of camp, please contact Theresa Templeton if you are able to help. 403-559-6843.

We are also accepting donations towards this year's VBS. We also ask that you keep our VBS team in your prayers as they plan and prepare for a successful camp.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

- **Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney**, founder of the Knights of Columbus has his feast day on August 13th. In Father Nilo's absence, Deacon Charles will preside over a Liturgy of the Word on **Friday Aug 13th at 9:00am**. All are welcomed to attend!
- Father Forsythe K of C Council is proud to announce their new Grand Knight. **Deacon Charles Johnston** has accepted the role as Grand Knight starting August 1st. *Congratulations Brother Charles!*
- Father Forsythe Council is also proud to announce their **Knight of the Year for 2020-2021**. *Congratulations to Brother Richard Bodnar!*

SUMMER HOURS

Please note that Summer Hours for the Parish Office(s) will continue through August. The office(s) will be open Monday thru Thursday – 9-12 and closed on Fridays.

