



**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

*Father Nilo Macapinlac*

**St. Stephen    Our Lady of Fatima    St. Anthony**

My dear friends and parishioners,  
Grace, joy and peace! In three days more we will enter into the new season, Lenten season. Few weeks ago I greeted you happy New Year. Indeed time flies. We need to value time because it is reckoning and yesterday it will never come back. Thus we are called to be stewards. Today's readings prepare us for the penitential season of Lent.

In our Gospel, a leper knelt before Jesus and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out and touched this diseased man and healed him. He then encouraged the man to show himself to the priest and offer himself a cleansing, referencing what was commanded in the Law of Moses. By completing these rituals, this man might be reinstituted into the community. Let us approach this holy season of Lent like the leper. By our faults, we have distanced ourselves from God and His community. The leper reminds us Who to go to so that we might be healed. Let us approach the Lord this season on our knees asking for forgiveness and healing from our offenses, saying, "If you wish, you can make me clean." There is no doubt that, if we have a contrite heart, Jesus will stretch out His hand in forgiveness and His mercy will touch our lives. We have no penitential services but we are constant with our schedule of Confessions. Every Saturday morning at our St. Stephen Parish' library from 11 am onwards I tried my best to wait patiently for all penitents. It is a morning dedicated to His Healing mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation. Likewise at St. Anne of the Prairies Parish in Trochu at the Confessional room which is celebrated every Wednesday at 6pm with Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Our God is rich in mercy, whose love is unconditional. Do not be tired of asking for forgiveness for our Father of mercies is not tired of forgiving us. And like the leper, we too should go forth from being healed with a commitment to cleanse ourselves from the lasting effects of sin. Lent is a time to offer acts of reparation through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving so that we might be purified in all areas of our life and walk with the Gracious Healer, Who sacrificed His life for our sake. The highest fasting and days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Fridays. This holy season of Lent is an opportunity to be healed and cleansed on our journey as disciples of Christ. Let us consider what we can do to offer acts of reparation in living a renewed life, experiencing transformative love of the Lord. Therefore, we might be purified and one day partake in the resurrection of Christ. God bless you richly on this Lenten season!

Yours in Christ,

**PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF**

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon – Charles Johnston –  
Retired

Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin

Office Admin – Mia MacDonald

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**MASS TIMES**

Saturday Evening – 5 PM

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11:15 AM

2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 9:00 AM

Daily Live stream – 6 PM

Thursday Eve Mass – 7 PM w/

Rosary at 6:30 PM.

Friday Morning Mass – 9 am

Confession – Every Saturday  
11am

Appt's for Confession are also  
available.

**CONFIRMATION**

If you have a child that is Grade  
6 / Age 11 and up who will  
celebrate Confirmation this  
year, please contact Donna in  
the office to register. Classes will  
run through Zoom and will begin  
soon. We are looking for  
volunteers to help lead the class



*Stay Safe  
Stay Healthy  
God Bless*

## ST. JOSEPH'S CORNER

St. Joseph the Worker is the patron of our Archdiocese of Edmonton. I believe our Archbishop Smith has been installed on May 1, 2007. Our Seminary was also named after St. Joseph and other institutions, Churches, hospitals, etc. At the end of my write up on St. Joseph you may find "BarYosef" Hebrew name which stands for "son of Joseph." Very interesting that I was born in the family with a grand father's name Jose Sr. which is in English Joseph Senior, my Dad's name is Jose Jr, my brother is Jose III and my nephew was named after my brother and me, Jose Nilo. This is how my family is totally devoted and consecrated to St. Joseph. Joseph etymologically speaking from the Hebrew verb "Yasap" meaning to add, to increase or to repeat. No wonder that name has been repeated 4 times in my generation only in one family. There are more in my clan and across the globe. The name Joseph appears in the New Testament around 35 times and in Hebrew Bible approximately 200 times. May our devotion to St. Joseph increase our faith, may increase our confidence in God in this time of trials. May the Lord increase His grace and blessings upon you and upon your entire house-hold. God bless you richly!

"BarYosef"

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

**Attribute of Saint Joseph-** Lover of Poverty & Simplicity from [yearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofstjoseph.org)

*"Joseph could count on nothing in this world to be his stay. Neither his trade nor property were employed in his first years as father of the Divine child. He had to abandon all that was his and provide for them in whatever way was possible as they were on pilgrimage to Bethlehem, to Egypt, and finally to Nazareth."* from [yearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofstjoseph.org)

**Activity:** It may be a good time to add to the Food Bank for all those who are in need, especially for migrants, the homeless, and those who are unemployed.

We will celebrate The Feast of Joseph the Worker on May 1, 2021. We invite all wood workers and crafters in the parish to donate a small project – bird house, bird feeder, shelf, toque, mittens, painting, string art, etc which we could sell/raffle. The proceeds will be donated to a charity – following the theme of "Home". The items will be placed on display in the foyer and on Facebook. Whether you are a carpenter by trade, a woodworking enthusiast or a weekend crafter, we welcome your contributions.

## FAMILY LIFE

**Are you getting tired of covid?** Come and join the prayers in the church for an end to the pandemic on Thursdays evenings at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. The Rosary offers prayers and reflections for the pandemic as issued by the Vatican. There are so many graces when we pray together! Also, if you are able to attend and can help out with point of entry and registration, please let Maria know at 403-415-6833. As we do on Friday mornings, all those who attend clean their own pew.

For the Year of St. Joseph, please consider the *100 Acts of Kindness* to do with your family. If anyone does a kind deed, write it on a sticky note and bring it to the church foyer to attach to the bulletin board there. We aim for 100 a month! Saint Joseph did many little things that didn't make it into the Gospels but showed up in the love of his foster-son Jesus.

## ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

St. Stephen's Youth has a new Instagram page! We will be posting challenges, contests, fun faith-based facts, and news on upcoming events. Our aim is to be more involved with the youth in our parish the best we can, given the circumstances. Be sure to follow @st.stephens\_youth\_ on Instagram!

### BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER

The Bottle Drive Fundraiser is ongoing. You can drop your bottles off at the depot and inform the staff that they are for St. Stephen's. If you are unable to drop them off and require assistance, please contact Ernie O @ 403-507-1960. Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the Bottle Depot Drive and for all who have helped make it happen.

### CATECHISM NEWS

Youcat For Kids catechisms are available for purchase at the church for \$30.00/book. This is a great resource to read with your child(ren) that will encourage discussion about the truths of our faith! Supplemental activities can be found on their website: [www.youcat.org/products/youcat-for-kid](http://www.youcat.org/products/youcat-for-kid)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

On February 20, 2021 there will be the Coldest Night of the Year walk to raise money and awareness for homelessness in Canada. A few of our parishioners participated last year in the walk and many more generously sponsored them. The money went to support the Mustard Seed in Red Deer. I am looking to recruit some people to join in the walk and help to raise funds for this great organization. If you are unable to walk with us, I would happily accept any donations. Please phone/text Tara at (403) 507-1793 or email me at [tarabruder@msn.com](mailto:tarabruder@msn.com).

### CWL

St. Stephen's is recruiting CWL members to join our present 70 members to take part in the exciting changes & strategic plans in motion over the next 2 years. There is so much to learn from this group of over 8000 women nationwide. Are you interested in becoming a part of a spiritual, faithful, & active group of local women? If you would like to join or find out more, please contact one of us. Laurel Arvay @403 556-2360 or Joanne Fewster @403 791 1186.. Thank you!

COCO BROOKS FUNDRAISER ORDERS ARE DUE ON MONDAY FEB 15, 2021

Pick up is scheduled for Mar 1, 2021.

Go to [fundraising.cocobrooks.com](http://fundraising.cocobrooks.com) Buying code frag-coup.

If you require assistance or are interested in seeing a paper catalog, please email [dawn.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.woodbury@gmail.com) or text/call 780-872-6174.



### CALL TO PROTECT TRAINING

Due to Covid 19, the Archdiocese is looking at offering training sessions via Zoom. This will require the volunteers to have access to a computer and have a valid email address. The first session is scheduled for February 18, 2021 @ 7 PM. Electronic handouts will be sent to volunteers who register for training. Each session will have a maximum of 20 volunteers attending. Please contact the office or Deacon Charles if you are interested in attending.

## FOOD BOX UPDATE

Thank-you to all those who continue to support our parish foodbank. We have now found a new home for the items and are better able to see what we have. If you drop by with groceries, please leave them in the bin in the foyer as you have done in the past. These will be sorted and stored in the new location. In sorting the donations last week we found we have an abundance of certain items.

Please note that we **DO NOT require donations** of the following items at this time.

canned corn	canned peas	peanut butter	black beans	stove top stuffing
Kraft Dinner	pasta	tomato sauce	tomato soup	

Items that we **ARE in need of** are:

cereal	juice	fruit blend cups	coffee	canned fruit
condiments	jam	granola bar	Cup of Noodles (school)	canned meats/fish
canned vegetables - mixed vegetables, carrots - <b>Reminder:</b> we have enough corn and peas				
Soup - hearty, chunky soups - <b>Reminder:</b> we have enough Tomato soup				

## OFFICE

- Income tax receipts for 2020 and envelopes for 2021 are available. Please ensure that you are including your name on the envelope in the first month or two as some numbers have changed. They are on the table right outside the office – we ask that you stop quickly, sanitize before handling, and move forward. If you can, we encourage you to pop in during the week to pick up your box of envelopes or tax receipt. If you have started making Automatic contributions, you will not have a box of envelopes assigned to you.
- If you have a change of address, please notify the office immediately.
- If you have donated through Canada Helps, you can find your Income Tax receipt online through their site [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)
- If you would like more information on setting up Automatic Contribution via Debit or Credit or E-transfers at this time, please contact Mia in the office

### *A Valentine Prayer*

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His love that knows no end.

[www.Catholic.org](http://www.Catholic.org)

