

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

*Father Nilo Macapinlac*

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

My dear people of God & parishioners,  
Prayerful Lent! Today's Scripture readings speak about sacrifice. Abraham's faith has been tested and he was ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac but God spared him. However, Jesus on the other hand was not spared, He was born as the Lamb of Sacrifice who takes away the sins of the world. He was offered as the perfect, unblemished and ultimate sacrificial offering on the Cross who reconciled us to the Eternal Father. Every Mass, we are called to participate in this sacrificial offering. Let our sacrificial love be fragrant and be pleasing before God this season of Lent. Last week we had celebrated Ash Wednesday (Feb 17), one of the two great days of fasting and abstinence in the life of the Church (second will be on Good Friday on April 2), and the solemn entrance into our annual journey of penance, conversion, and growth we call Lent. Ash Wednesday Services or Masses this year 2021 were: St. Stephen Parish: 9am & 5:30pm and St. Anne of the Prairies Parish: 7:30 pm. Ashes from previous years' palms were blessed and put on our heads to remind us of our mortality and our obligation to do penance for sins, and to seek spiritual renewal through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Pope Francis urges us to do this. He said:

Fast from hurting words that divide and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and have trust in God.  
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words; be silent and listen."

Furthermore, our fasting becomes more pleasing to God when it is accompanied by works of charity and mercy.

As we enter into this beautiful season of penance and conversion, may the Lord increase in us the virtue of humility, a contrite heart, sorrow for our sins, strengthen our love for God and for others, and draw us more deeply into communion with Him. May our encounter with Him be deepened through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God who is rich in Mercy patiently awaits for our return and He is never tired of forgiving and healing us. Confession schedule since covid-19 started in March 2020 has been regular at St. Stephen Parish at 11:00 am onwards of every Saturday and Wednesday @ 6pm in the Confessional of St. Anne of the Prairies Parish in Trochu. May this be the best Lent of our lives despite of pandemic! Psalm 90:10 reminds us of the shortness of life: "Our span of life on earth is 70 and 80 for those who are strong but most of these are emptiness and pain." Let us grab all the spiritual opportunity for growth and renewal while still able and with mind made pure by God's grace brought by the Sacraments. May God multiply the blessings in you throughout Lent and enter into the glory of Christ's resurrection!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

## ST. JOSEPH'S CORNER

The Year of St. Joseph – Dec 8, 2020 – Dec 8, 2021

My dear devotees & friends of St. Joseph,

St. Joseph is the patron of our country Canada. One of the most devoted of our own saints here in North America was St. Brother Andre Bessette of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. He became a great healer through the intercession of St. Joseph. St. Joseph could intercede with those infected by the virus and any sickness which was proven in the life and ministry of St. Bro. Andre. This is very relevant since millions are now infected by this deadly novel corona virus and its variants. Here, God has given us the great model and intercessor on this unprecedented time for healing. St. Joseph the Miracle Worker, pray for us. Let us pray:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

"BarJosef"

Father Nilo

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.

For the year of St. Joseph, during this Lenten season, a family activity may be to make an altar for St. Joseph, a rosary holder or a grotto.

## FAMILY LIFE

Look for *St. Joseph's Passport to Spiritual Treasures* that can be picked up on the display table in the foyer at the church. An instruction sheet will give 7 different activities to do during the Year of St. Joseph. You only need one information sheet per family, but you can pick up enough of the "passports" for each member of your family or just one for all. Stickers are included to represent the "stamps" as each program is completed.

For the Year of St. Joseph, please don't forget the *100 Acts of Kindness* to do with your family. If anyone does a kind deed or witnesses someone doing one, 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!

The time for the prayers in the church for an end to the pandemic on Thursdays evenings **has been changed to 5:30 p.m.**, followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Virtual

We have now entered the season of Lent. During Lent, traditionally we as a parish would gather together every Friday evening to pray and meditate on the Stations of the Cross. Despite COVID we are still going to try to do this. However, things are going to be a little different. At 7:00 every Friday evening during Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be led by various small groups of parishioners and will be Live streamed to our parish Facebook page. We hope to see you online.

## 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)

## 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!

REMINDER: The Coco Brooks orders will be available for pick up on March 1, 2021.

## LENTEN JOURNEY

We will be sharing suggestions throughout Lent to guide you on your Lenten Journey. To get you started, we suggest going to Dynamic Catholic and participating in "The Best Lent Ever" video program based on "I heard God laugh" – even without the book, the video review walks you through the program. <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/best-lent-ever-all-reflections.html>

TODAY  
IS  
A GOOD DAY

## COVID PROJECT – MATERIAL NEEDED

We need your old blue jeans( in any condition) for a Covid 19 project to supply denim quilts for people in need. Jeans can be dropped off in the container marked for them in the foyer of the church. Any questions call Jack or Jo-Anne 587 796-1634.

## OFFICE

- Income tax receipts for 2020 have been mailed out. If you have any questions, please call Mia in the office.
- The envelopes for 2021 are still available for pick up in the foyer. 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 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

## DIDSBURY CWL SCHOLARSHIP

Are you Catholic and in your final year of High School? Are you planning to attend post-secondary school after graduation? If so, the **Didsbury CWL** is offering **one (1) \$500.00** scholarship.

To receive an application, please email Maxine Moreau, president of the Didsbury CWL at [dumax22@hotmail.com](mailto:dumax22@hotmail.com).

The application process will ask for an essay and two (2) letters of reference. Deadline to submit application is April 30, 2021.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March.

The day has its origins in the 19th century, when Christian women in North America started to be involved in missions at home and in other parts of the world.

Today in Canada, the World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the [Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada](#).

Each year the focus is on a certain country, with women of that country providing art, music, prayer, and other resources to help mark the day. This year's focus will be on Zimbabwe.

### PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac  
Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired  
Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin  
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald  
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Parish – Olds, Alberta

### 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 ☺.

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening – 5 PM  
1st, 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.