



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Father Nilo Macapinlac

St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima St. Anthony

My dear brothers & Sisters in the Lord,
The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all throughout this New Year 2021!

In politics, blood is thicker than water but in our Christian discipleship, water is thicker than blood, the water of Baptism that made us brothers and sisters in faith. Under the fatherhood of the Eternal Father and the brotherhood of our Lord Jesus Christ in communion with the Holy Spirit. That defines of who we are as beloved adopted children of God, members of Christ's Body, the Church and called to be inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Our Christmas season concludes with this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was not baptized because he needed to repent — rather; He was revealing who He is and what He came to do. He showed us how important this Sacrament, it is a necessity for salvation. "Unless you are born of water and the Holy Spirit, you can never enter the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5). When was your baptismal birth? I hope you knew it, renew it with fervent faith and deepened your personal relationship with the Triune God. Jesus, the anointed Messiah has come to pave our way to eternal salvation. He is the WAY. It is from His mission that we can receive the Sacrament of Baptism — when we become adopted sons and daughters of God. From that moment, we belong to Christ — we become His stewards. Our lives should be a reflection of this relationship. The way we live should reveal "Whose" we are.

In our First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah shares a message of hope, "Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy?" We should ask ourselves, "Who is the king of our hearts?" As Christian stewards, it should be God. We often fill our lives with things that satisfy us only for a moment. If we truly do belong to Christ, then we will make Him our top priority. What we fill our lives with should reveal that He is King.

In our Gospel, Mark reveals the intimate relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and God the Father proclaimed, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." We, too, have access to an intimate relationship with God. But like all good relationships, it flourishes with effort. How we spend our time and share our gifts says a great deal about who we are. I would like to thank all of you for your gifts that you had shared in building up God's Kingdom here in our parishes and missions. God bless you abundantly!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon – Charles Johnston –

Retired

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MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening – 5 PM

1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday – 11:15 AM

2nd, 4th 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*

FAMILY LIFE

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Nativity Scene to share with our Parish Community. They were a wonderful addition to our Christmas Decor.
Another big Thank you to everyone who brought in a Christmas ornament to display on our Christmas tree - a true representation of our Parish Community.



Thank you to Maria and Dan Killoran for their time and effort in organizing our wonderful volunteers and aspiring thespians in the "Journey to the Inn" videos that were shared leading up to Christmas. Your dedication to the Parish and ongoing efforts to build our community should serve as an Inspiration to us all.

FORMED.ORG

Movie Night with Formed.org

Follow this link: <https://watch.formed.org/coming-home>

Movie Night Options – Coming Home – John is a hardworking man that has focused more on his career than his family. A devastating event leads him back to his hometown where he will come face to face with his choices and their impact on his family. This heartfelt story demonstrates the incredible power of prayer and how god's love can overcome all.

Directed by: Layne McDonald
Studio: United Life Foundation



SOCIAL JUSTICE

A special THANK-YOU to everyone who donated to the Mustard Seed street backpack program. We had an overwhelming response this year thanks to your spirit of giving and compassion. The clients of the Mustard Seed were so happy to see the variety of items that were donated and they wanted me to express to you how grateful they are!

BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the Bottle Depot Drive. The Bottle Depot Collection continues to be a great help at this time. You can drop your bottles off and inform the staff that they are for St. Stephen's Parish. We also have a wonderful volunteer who is able to pick up your bottles if you are not able to get out. Please contact Joseph at 403-586-4590.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

As the New Year begins, we continue to follow the protocols as directed by AHS and the Archdiocese of Edmonton. We are limited to a capacity of 48 people at Mass, therefore we want to remind you that we have introduced a Thursday evening Mass at 7 PM with Rosary beginning at 6:30 PM and Friday Morning Mass at 9 AM. Father will continue to live stream his daily evening Masses along with our live stream Mass on Saturday Evening at 5 pm. Our Weekend Mass times will continue as per usual.

FOOD BANK BOX

Thank you to all who have given so generously to our in-house Food Bank over the last several months. Your help with the donations of food and gift cards has made a difference to the lives of several of our parish families who are struggling with layoffs or job loss. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity that comes from our Parishioners in their support of our Food Bank Box and in their ongoing support for our Families in need. As the New Year is here, we will continue to see need for food box items, therefore the continued support is very much appreciated. Thank you and God Bless. Please drop your donation off at the church Monday thru Thursday 8:30-3:30 or Friday 8:30-12:30

Thank You!

Canned fish or meat Boxed Mac n' Cheese Spaghetti Sauce Peanut Butter Canned Jam Canned Fruit Canned Vegetables Hamburger Helper Crackers Sugar Salt	Rice Juice Boxes Pudding/Jell-O Pancake Mix/Syrup Cereal Canned Soup Toilet Paper Laundry Detergent Toothpaste	***We would also accept grocery gift cards to help families purchase milk, perishables, etc. ***
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CHURCHWATCH PROGRAM

The Parish Pastoral Council is looking to developing a CHURCHWATCH program. Buildings that are unattended for periods of time are much more likely to suffer from vandalism including arson. A Church watch program is a simple, effective and participatory way for a congregation to protect its church. The program is a commitment by participants to bring supervision of the church into their regular routine.

We are in need of a designated contact for the program and it would be more convenient for them to live in town. This person would liaise with the local police when contacted by participants in the Church watch program. The program consists of participants agreeing to pass by the church on a regular basis to ensure that no potentially harmful activity is going on there. This entails walking or driving by the church and taking note of anything going on. When you are out running errands try to take a route that goes by the church. If you are walking your dog, use the church as a destination or part of the route. If you saw someone on the church grounds that were behaving suspiciously, you would **not** confront them. You would try to make yourself visible to them from a safe distance and then contact the Church Watch leader and advise them of the situation. They will be responsible for contacting the police if it is deemed necessary by demonstrating that the church is being watched over, people will be discouraged from damaging it.

If you are interested in becoming the Church Watch coordinator or a member of the Church Watch group, please contact the office at 403-556-30

OFFICE

- Living Faith for Jan, Feb and March is now available
- Envelopes are available. We encourage you to pop in during the week to pick up your box of envelopes rather than having to stop during the procession out after Mass.
- Please ensure that you are including your name on the envelope in the month of January as some numbers have changed. This helps Mia in the office make sure that your envelope number is correct. If you have started making Automatic contributions, you will not have a box of envelopes assigned to you.
- Do you have a change of address? If you have moved in the last year or two and have not contacted the Parish office to update your address, please take a moment to call us.
- 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.

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.