

BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD

Father Nilo Macapinlac

St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima St. Anthony



My dear friends & parishioners,
Blessings of hope, love and peace!

Our readings today focus on the vital attributes of being a disciple of Christ. The Gospel of John portrays these attributes as he bears witness to Jesus' first disciples. Upon seeing Jesus, John proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The lamb is a reference to the Jewish sacrificial offering at Passover and reveals Jesus as a Savior. Once the two that were with John heard this, they immediately followed Jesus. Jesus turned to them and asked, "What are you looking for?" They responded with, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Imagine Jesus asking you, "What are you looking for?" We might respond with answers like a better job, more kids, retirement, or any number of things that we think will make our lives better. The things we seek may be righteous, but as Disciples of Christ, we should first and foremost seek the Kingdom of God. If we strive to respond to Jesus' question in the same way the first disciples responded, essentially by asking, "Where are you, Lord?" then we will not be disappointed with the outcome.

Our story of Jesus' first disciples concludes with Andrew intentionally sharing the Good News of Christ to his brother Simon Peter. Andrew had the gift of meeting the Lord and did not hoard it to himself. Instead, he sought his brother and proclaimed what he had experienced, which serves as a reminder for us. Our calling is to be missionary disciples — to seek the Lord and share what we have found. Our faith is a gift! We should strive to share this gift with others. Let us bring others to the Lord Jesus who can transform our lives and bring healing to our world. Our heaven begins here and now when we have our personal relationship with God. Let us have an evangelical spirit bringing others to Jesus and Jesus will bring us to heaven. I would like to thank all those who phone our lonely and those alone in their homes, our seniors and elderly. I am grateful to all religious lay associations, to the PPC officers who are dynamic in their roles and leadership, to all our volunteers in our parishes, various ministries, our staff and humble people who seek God in their lives and not forgetting to share their time, talents and treasures to reach out to others in need, our food bank and many forms of our parish acts of kindness and charity. May God bless you with a new year full of hope, new vigor and fullness of God's grace! St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family & patron of the Universal Church, pray for us. Amen

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

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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

Prior to Christmas, the Knights of Columbus ran an essay contest with the challenge to ***"Discuss how trusting in God during a difficult time has helped you or someone you know find the strength and hope to endure it."***

The Winner and participants were presented with a certificate from the K of C.

Although there are no prizes on the line, Family Life and the Parish office would like you to think about the following ***"What blessing has come to you because of Covid"***.

It is so easy to think of all the things that we are missing, and the negative impact Covid has had on us, but perhaps we need a moment to think about the good that has come from it, and share it with others.

We would love for you to share your responses with us to be published in a future bulletin. Email the office with your response; ststephen102@gmail.com

According to the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, "the Pope's invitation during this time is to **heal the world through prayer**. It is the most powerful way to let the Lord to transform our heart and open ourselves to take care of others. As Pope Francis says: *"Reflect and work together, as followers of the healing Jesus, to build a better world full of hope for future generations"*.

The **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network** has been working on an initiative to respond to this call of the Church, too. As a result, a new rosary for this time of pandemic and illnesses has been launched: **The Crisis & Health Rosary**. The **Vatican's COVID-19 Commission**, have elaborated the content. The writers, members of the Commission, intended to guide the prayer by linking some of the painful and struggling stories of people from all over the world with the contemplation of the different mysteries of the Rosary."

On Thursday evenings starting this week, there will be Mass at 7 p.m. in the church, preceded by the rosary starting at 6:30. We will pray a different set of mysteries each week. You can find the entirety of this rosary on <http://www.humandevelopment.va/en/news/rosario-crisi-e-salute.html> if you would like a copy of this rosary, please let Maria know at 403-415-6833.

Thank you to all who donated their nativity sets and the international tree ornaments for display during the Christmas Masses. Please pick up your ornaments and nativity sets in the foyer.

Attached to the bulletin is a document for the "Year of St. Joseph". This includes a prayer that we will recite at the end of Mass.

FORMED.ORG

What have you discovered on FORMED.ORG

In the Christmas Registration package, you received a little card with the FORMED.ORG log in info. If you haven't used it yet, we suggest you log in today and discover what it has to offer.

Made a resolution to reconnect with your Faith? Try **"Making Scripture part of your 2021"**

<https://watch.formed.org/formed-now/videos/making-scripture-part-of-your-2021>

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 at the depot 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 Sugar	Rice Juice Boxes Pudding/Jell-O Pancake Mix/Syrup Cereal Crackers Salt	Canned Vegetables Hamburger Helper 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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OFFICE

- Living Faith for Jan, Feb and March is now available
- Envelopes for 2021 are available. They will be out on a 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.
- 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.

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.

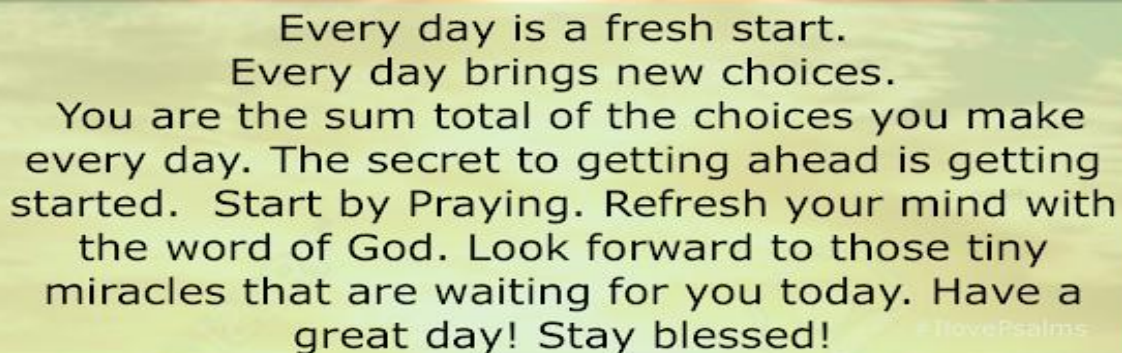
We are in need of a designated contact for the program and it would be more convenient for them to live in town. This person would liaise with the local police when contacted by participants in the Church watch program. The program consists of participants agreeing to pass by the church on a regular 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

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Catholic Education promotes the spiritual, academic, cultural, physical and social development of students. Teaching the foundations of Catholic beliefs, we develop a strong spirit for social justice and citizenship by calling our students to transform the world through Christ. Online registration for Pre K and Kindergarten is now open for the 2021-2022 school year at www.holytrinitycatholic.ca

The winner of the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay contest was Bennett Hawman. Thank you to the Knights for providing us the opportunity to participate in many Christ-centered contests



Every day is a fresh start.
Every day brings new choices.
You are the sum total of the choices you make every day. The secret to getting ahead is getting started. Start by Praying. Refresh your mind with the word of God. Look forward to those tiny miracles that are waiting for you today. Have a great day! Stay blessed!

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