



Father Nilo Macapinlac

St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima St. Anthony

My dear People of God,

Today's readings call us to be decisive in our faith. We celebrate today the Sunday of the Word of God and week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In our Gospel this Sunday, Simon, Andrew, James and John demonstrate this decision for us in their response to Christ's calling, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." In both instances, the men immediately abandoned what was before them and followed Christ.

Imagine if Simon and Andrew looked at their Savior and said, "Thanks for the offer, but we will finish up fishing and meet you later." That is no way a disciple should respond to Christ's call. Yet, that is how we often respond to Jesus' offer to us, "Come after me." We can easily fall into the misconception that we have plenty of time to live active discipleship. But as faithful stewards of our time, we must change our ways and immediately follow Christ more intentionally, because Christ is calling us to act now.

These men became members of Jesus' twelve apostles. They surrendered their entire lives to follow Christ. We, too, are called to surrender our lives to the Lord so that He may work through us. We might think, "God isn't calling me." But indeed, He is. Just as He called four ordinary fishermen, He is calling each one of us. Renewing and reevaluating what God might be asking of us throughout our lives is a key component of our stewardship journey.

As we settle into this New Year, let us ponder the ways we can renew our commitment to God. Let us ask ourselves: what are we casting our nets for? And are we willing to leave it behind for something much greater? And if not now, when? Time flies and it is precious spending in God's vineyard. May the Lord will give you more time to make priorities in your spiritual life and please don't forget your spiritual nourishments. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and everything shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). St. Theresa de Avila once said: "Solo Dios basta" "Only God suffices..." Let us also ask the intercession of St. Joseph who responded to the call of God in his noble vocation as a chaste spouse to the Blessed Mother and a father to the our Lord Jesus in Nazareth. St. Joseph patron of our Archdiocese & Universal Church, pray for us. Amen

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

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
Parish – Olds, Alberta

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*



THE FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO

Santo Niño is the celebration of Christianity brought to the Philippines. This feast takes place in January Each year, and this year, 2021, is extra special as it commemorates 500 years of Jubilee of Philippine Christianity.

The whole of St. Stephen's Parish is invited to join with our Filipino sisters and brothers in Celebration of this feast at the regularly scheduled Masses on:

January 28 (7:00 p.m.),

January 29 (9:00 a.m.),

January 30 (5:00 p.m.)

January 31 (11:15 a.m.).

Many Filipino families have statues of the Santo Niño de Cebu (child Jesus) in their homes. These statues depict the child Jesus in the dress of a Spanish monarch. The Filipino members of our faith community are invited to bring their Santo Niño statues with them to Mass and Fr. Nilo will bless them during the service.



FAMILY LIFE

"What Blessing has come to you because of Covid"

Family Life and the Parish office put out the challenge in last week's bulletin for you to ponder the above question. We would like you to think about it – we are challenging our Parishioners to take a moment to think about something good that has come out of this time of Covid, and share it with others. If we take a moment to consider whether we have perpetuated good news and hope in our conversations with others, or have we caught ourselves passing on only the negative and frustrations that we feel. If we can admit to the latter, then perhaps we need a reset. We need to turn things upside down or right side up, and share something that can make others feel good too – not unlike the black and white photo's that have circulated on Facebook, this is our #see the light campaign. ☺

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. We are open to stories, photos, etc.



Abbie Urbanak, a junior marine biology student, said, *"At the end of each day, I like to think of three things that made me smile. Sometimes, it isn't always easy, but it helps me appreciate the little things."*

FORMED.ORG

"Happiness features interviews with well-known psychiatrists, celebrities, New Testament Scholars, Physicists, and priests that uncover the deeper answers to life's most profound questions. Eric Johnson and Jennifer Milani present the central ideas from the interviews, explaining difficult concepts and proposing engaging questions."

Watch "Happiness" this week at: <https://watch.formed.org/happiness-1>

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 would like to thank Joseph for giving of his time to run the bottle campaign and to arrange pickups, we welcome Ernie O and Leo who will continue to assist with the Bottle Drive. Please call Ernie at 403-507-1960 who is able to pick up your bottles if you aren't able to get out.

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.

Thursday Evening Rosary and Mass - As we follow the Pope's invitation during this time to "heal the world through prayer" – the most powerful way to let the Lord transform our heart and open ourselves is 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"*.

On Thursday evenings, we will join the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network's initiative in praying the Holy Rosary. We will follow the new rosary that has been launched during this time of pandemic and illness. The Vatican's Covid 19 Commission has worked to link some of the painful and struggling stories of people from all over the world with the contemplation of the different mysteries of the Rosary". Every Thursday evening, we will pray the Rosary beginning at 6:30, prior to Mass. We will pray a different set of mysteries each week. If you would like a copy of this rosary, please let Maria know at 403-415-6833. You can find the entirety of this rosary on <http://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/rosario-crisi-e-salute.html>

Volunteers are needed for Thursday evening Mass.
Please contact Maria to volunteer. 403-415-6833

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



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.

We would like to remind everyone attending Mass that they are required to proceed directly to the exit following Mass. We ask that you refrain from stopping to socialize or congregate in the foyer as this goes against the AHS and Archdiocesan directives that are in place. Once again, we thank you for your cooperation.

Thank You

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

CWL is running a Coco Brooks fundraiser from Jan 21, 2021 to Feb 15.

Pick up is scheduled for Mar 1, 2021.

Go to 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 or text/call 780-872-6174.

