



## St. Stephen's Parish Bulletin Month of July

*Father Nilo Macapinlac*

Saturday	Confession – Olds Holy Mass – <b>In Person</b>	11:00 AM 5:00 PM – In person + Live stream
Sunday	Holy Mass	9:00 AM - 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> 11:15 AM – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday	Holy Mass	6:00 Live stream only
Thursday	Holy Mass	6:30 PM
Friday	Holy Mass	9:00 AM

### **COVID UPDATE**

As we move forward with the lifting of COVID restrictions, the liturgy committee would like to make you aware of certain procedures;

- Social Distancing requirements have been lifted as of July 1, however, not everyone may be comfortable with these changes. If you wish to continue to wear a mask, please do so. If you intend to sit in a pew already occupied by someone else, be respectful of their social distancing comfort level.
- You are asked to bow or nod during the Sign of Peace instead of a handshake. This will be reassessed at the end of August.
- You may now receive Holy Communion on the tongue if you wish.
- The two front rows of the middle section will continue to be reserved for the lectors and their families.
- Setting up chairs in the foyer is not permitted. This is a fire and safety issue. The existing chairs and sofa in the foyer are to accommodate people attending at the parish to meet with Fr and staff members and have been returned to their original position facing the front of the church.
- We encourage people with young families to move toward the front of the church so the children can see what is happening. Do not be concerned if your child makes a little fuss.
- Seating in the loft is reserved for overflow only and is to be used when the nave of the church is full.
- Commencing in the Fall, the weekday Mass schedule will be changing. Masses will be celebrated Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9 am in addition to our Weekend Mass schedule. We look forward to seeing the faces of our fellow parishioners as we move into the old but somewhat new normal.

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear friends & People of God,

Blessings to you all! The last verse in today's Gospel says of Jesus, "He was amazed at their lack of faith," in reference to the reaction and response He received from his own neighbors when He returned and preached at the synagogue. Might the Lord say the same about us? Might he be equally surprised at the lack of faith we sometimes show? Faith is based upon trust, and that trust is at the core of the readings on this Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, our First Reading, God addresses Ezekiel in this way: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites." It is somewhat surprising, but God calls Ezekiel the "son of man" 93 separate times in this Book. Why? It would seem that Ezekiel is truly a man among men, and he seems to represent all of humankind. Of course, the phrase "Son of man" is what Jesus was most likely to call Himself at least 80 times in the Gospels. Jesus wanted us to know that He was one of us. God makes it clear to Ezekiel that He, the Lord, will provide Ezekiel the strength to accomplish what He is calling him to do, in spite of the challenges it presents. In the same way if God has called us to do something, He will give us the strength to do it. That is what trust really is. We understand that we cannot of our own strength and abilities accomplish what God may want us to. To trust God is to have faith in Him. After Jesus Himself and His Blessed Mother Mary, perhaps no one in Holy Scripture trusted God any more than St. Paul. Today's Second Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians contains Paul's perspective of that. He mentions that "a thorn in the flesh was given to me...to keep me from being too elated." He is referencing the burdens he feels he must bear. When we think of a thorn, we think of something small that might cause minor pain and a minor inconvenience. It is worth knowing that the word translated as "thorn"—*skolops*—can also be translated as a "tent stake," more of a spike than a small thorn. Nevertheless, regardless the translation it is something that frustrates and troubles Paul. Paul also knew, just as Ezekiel found in the First Reading, that when God calls you to do something He provides you the power to do it. Paul knew that he could not do what he felt he was called to do without assistance from the Holy Spirit. Paul also states in the reading, "I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses in order that the power of Christ may dwell in me. I am content with weaknesses...for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." Paul understood that the "grace" he received from God would be sufficient to meet Paul's every need. Perhaps each of us must accept his or her weaknesses in order to be stronger in faith. When Jesus says in today's Gospel from the Book of Mark, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house," He is expressing another one of those passages from Scripture that has become very well known. Jesus understood, as did both Ezekiel and Paul in the first two readings, that rejection is a price that those who believe must sometimes pay. It hurt Him for sure to be rejected by people He considered friends and people who were His neighbors. One limitation that we all face is a sense of doubt and even mistrust by some of those who are close to us. As indicated in the opening, Jesus also expresses amazement at the unbelief of those close to Him. That is a limitation and a frustration we all sometimes face. The question is, "Where is our belief?" and "Where is our trust in God?" Jesus never seemed to be amazed at what He saw in terms of the wonders of creation. What amazed Him was the lack of faith among people. In spite of the rejection He experienced, He did not hesitate to continue what He felt His ministry was. We need to have that same determination, knowing full well that God is with us always. May the Lord increase your faith at this unprecedented time to have the strength and fortitude in moments of adversities and trials.

Yours devotedly in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!! ( VBS)

#### Join us as we celebrate Cat Chat's Marvelous Mystery

This summer the kids of our parish will have the opportunity to be immersed in the greatest mystery on earth as they spend a week learning about the incredible treasure of the Mass. With this Cat Chat VBS program, kids ages 3-11 will develop a new appreciation for the Catholic Mass and will deepen their love for Jesus in the Eucharist through faith, teachings, music, dance, fun games, crafts and more. Dates for this year's camp - August 16-20. Registration forms are available in the foyer, on our website, or on our Facebook page or through the office at Holy Trinity School.

### PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac  
Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired  
Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin  
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald  
4302 57<sup>th</sup> Ave Olds, AB  
[Ststephen102@gmail.com](mailto:Ststephen102@gmail.com)  
403-556-3084  
<http://www.ststephens-olds.ca>  
Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic  
Be sure to follow our Youth group  
@st.stephens\_youth\_ on Instagram  
**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS 9-12**



**Prayer – Patron of the Church in Canada**

Zealous guardian of the Redeemer,  
Patron of the Church in Canada,  
you were invoked by the first missionaries of this country  
to assist the growth of the seed of Christian faith  
courageously sown in this land.  
Intercede for all its inhabitants, who along the history,  
often adopted your name from Baptism  
so that all families  
may give a central place to your Son in their lives  
and in abundance produce the fruits of the Gospel:  
love, understanding, forgiveness, care for one another,  
holiness and happiness.

- Many wonderful resources on St. Joseph can be found at  
[www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

**EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

Please visit the Archdiocese website and Facebook page in addition to St. Stephen's Facebook page to find links and listings of faith events that are scheduled to remember the Indigenous Children of the former Residential Schools that have been discovered. . We hold these children in our hearts and prayers. Members of our community have dropped off Teddy Bears and shoes to remember these little ones.

**BOOK CLUB – Starting in September**

Who is this Jesus? Is the title of a 133 page book to be used in a book club hosted by John Palardy. It is a very readable life of Jesus in 12 short chapters. Weekly meetings will start in early September. Date to be arranged with participants. For more info or to sign up contact John Palardy **403 556 7855** or email him at [palardyj@me.com](mailto:palardyj@me.com)

**LIVE STREAM MASS**

We will continue to live stream the Holy Mass on Saturday's at 5 pm until the end of July. This can be found on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-Catholic-Parish-Olds-Alberta-462780227491104>

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

**ATTENTION** all those who were involved in liturgical ministry prior to Covid. If you were a Greeter, Adult Server, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, or Usher we would like to know if you will be returning to active duty as of July 1<sup>st</sup>? Perhaps you were part of the Point of Entry Team during Covid and would like to continue in some capacity, or maybe you are new to the parish and would like to offer up your time and talents by serving during Holy Mass. Please contact Donna ASAP as you are needed to help fill in the next Liturgy Schedule.  
(403-556-3084 ext. #4)

**Summer Bulletin**

The bulletin will only be published once a month during the Summer months. If you have a notice for August, please submit it to the office before July 28th, 2021.

## FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES – PRAYER WARRIORS

If you have been praying for one of our First Communion Candidates and would like to present them with a card (with or without a token), you can drop it off to the office and we will make sure they receive it. WE have had 26 candidates who will have received their First Communion during the months of May, June and July. See their pictures in the foyer.

The list of young people below will celebrate their Sacraments in the month of **July**. Please include them in your prayers.

### *First Communion Candidates*

Marley Locke  
Akisha Urmeneta  
Lebron Urmeneta  
Josselyn Valencia  
Mason Dela Cruz



### *Confirmation Candidates*

Maggie Locke  
Alexander Rauw  
KC Williams  
Xy Sibal  
Joaquin Santos

Amy Grisack  
Chase Grisack  
Megan Grisack  
Zyne Gonzalez  
Taryn Labrie

Dalton Labire  
Sophie Planken

## *Congratulations and God Bless!*

## EMERGENCY NEED – MUSTARD SEED SHELTER

We are being called upon again to open our hearts and assist in the emergency needs of the street folk in Red Deer during this heat wave. Can you imagine surviving in this heat with no basement, air conditioning, place to get relief, or supplies to cope. The Mustard Seed has asked the Social Justice committee to pass their request on to you, the generous people of our parish.

The supplies desperately needed are:

Sunscreen/ Aloe Vera

Bug repellent

Hats

Sunglasses

Men's and women's underwear (New only)

Light new or gently used clean clothing- shorts, T-shirts

Personal hygiene items

They have had a large donation of bottled water so this is not needed at this time.

Non-perishable snacks

Umbrella

Rain poncho

Gift cards for coffee/confectionary

Gift cards for groceries

Flip Flops

We will put a labeled container at the back of the church for you to deposit these items.

If you feel it in your heart to donate in any way to the Mustard Seed and their clients it will be so appreciated. If any questions contact Cathy Wright 403-556-7784

God Bless you all.

### SUMMER HOURS

**Please note that Summer Hours for the Parish Office(s) will begin on July 2, 2021.**

**The office(s) will be open Monday thru Thursday – 9-12 and closed on Fridays.**

**If you require assistance or need to contact Father Nilo – he can be reached at 1-780-352-1524.**

