



St. Anthony St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima

Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon Charles Johnston - RETIRED

4302 – 57TH Avenue, Olds AB T4H 1C5

Office: 403-556-3084 Fax: 403-791-3084 E-mail: ststephen102@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant – D Litwin – ststephenPA@outlook.com Office Admin – M MacDonald

June 28 BULLETIN

My dear People of God;

Welcome you all to our liturgical celebration, the Holy Mass!

We strive to become a haven of hospitality and a community of welcoming. Today's readings take us back to some basics of stewardship living. The First Reading shows us the necessity and power of hospitality. The Second Reading reminds us what it is that makes us disciples and Christian stewards in the first place (hint: it's our Baptism). Finally, in today's Gospel, Christ teaches us how to live daily life as His stewards.

Our First Reading, from 2 Kings, tells the story of a woman who showed loving hospitality to a visitor, inviting him to dinner with her family and arranging a room for him in their home so that he would have a comfortable place to stay during his travels through her town. She reached out to the man in a simple and practical manner to make him feel welcome. That is the essence of Christian hospitality. As it turns out, this man was none other than the prophet Elisha. He rewarded her kindness by interceding with God to obtain for her the miracle of a baby boy after long years of infertility.

In our Second Reading, from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us of the power of our Baptism and how it is that this sacrament makes us disciples and therefore stewards. He says that through Baptism "into Christ Jesus" we were both buried with Christ and now are alive in Christ. We are literally new creations, marked for all eternity as one of His own. What does that mean for us here and now? St. Paul tells us very clearly: "You too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus." We must live for Christ! Nothing less will do.

Our Lord Himself proclaims this same instruction in a rather shocking way in our Gospel passage from Matthew: "Whoever loves father or mother... son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." And, "Whoever finds his life [by living for oneself] will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." How can all all-loving Lord say such things? Precisely because He is the source of all love — He is love incarnate. We can only love others, and even ourselves truly, if we allow ourselves to be emptied of self-love and filled with God's love.

This is why our Lord tells us we must "lose our lives." Putting ourselves or others — even those dearest to us — above God simply cannot give us the ultimate fulfillment and peace of soul that we all want. Only God can do that. Only loving God first and living for Christ — "losing our life" — can do that. Today, I congratulate those married couples of our parish who are celebrating their miles stones, to all our jubilarians, thank you for your witness to the faithful love of God through the sacrament of your Matrimony. You have placed God at the center of your lives and relationship. God's love overflows through your love for each other that made a difference not only in your family and neighbors but in our fragile world today. Without God's love, human love is fragile and easily fades away. God's love is eternal and unconditional. Therefore, God's love never dies and He will never stop loving you. All warm hospitality is deeply rooted in the love of our God. This lead us to recognize that to love the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission to care, to nourish, to evangelize, to build, to welcome, to love and to serve others.

But how do we know if we love God more than "father or mother or son or daughter"? Jesus tells us in the next verses. And the fascinating genius of it all is that it is precisely through loving actions towards others, loving them as if they were Christ, that we demonstrate our love for Christ! "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple... he will surely not lose his reward."

So, we have come full circle to the importance of hospitality, and to putting God first in our lives because we have become disciples of Christ through our Baptism. We put God first by serving others as if we were serving Christ Himself, thus losing a self-centered life and finding our true fulfillment. God bless you richly and love you so dearly! Keep safe always, keep well, keep healthy and strong, keep holy in the Lord!

Yours devotedly in the Loving Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

Vacation Bible School – Cat Chat at Home

Great news! Our parish is providing your family with a free At Home VBS this summer. Your family can enjoy our “Cat Chat At Home VBS” in the comfort and safety of your living room or maybe in the backyard with a few friends!



Our fun 5-DAY AT HOME VBS begins on Monday June 29, 2020

Cat Chat At Home VBS includes:

- A daily Cat Chat Action Song Video for your children to watch, sing, and dance along to
- A Bible Verse Music Video to help kids memorize God's Word and plant seeds of faith
- 10 Cat Chat VBS songs (2 songs daily) to stream from your device anywhere/anytime
- Printable faith and craft activities
- Snack and game activities
- A daily saint story and coloring page
- Prayers
- Connection questions to spark meaningful conversations
- Plus, an opportunity for kids to enter a SUMMER VBS coloring contest and win exciting prizes.

Make sure to select our VBS start date: 06/29/2020 when you sign up.

Then, look forward to receiving your At Home VBS email for 5 consecutive days.

Note: You will have access to this At Home VBS starting on your start date up until August 28th, 2020. SIGN UP to receive your AT Home VBS:

[Sample Day 1 and SIGN UP HERE for your At Home VBS Experience](#)

Thank you for being intentional about giving your kids the opportunity to grow in their faith! This At Home VBS experience will bless your entire family. In Christ, Your St. Stephen's Parish Family

Sacramental Prep – First Communion

Just a reminder that we have Sacramental Prep Books and CD's here at the Church for our little people who are signed up and preparing for their First Communion. These are fantastic resources for you to review as a family with your child.

1 child - \$20

2 children - \$30.

Payment can be made at the office.

Community Life / Family Life

The Community and Family Life committees are looking forward to scheduling small group events as parish life gets up and running.

Holy Mass is back !

We are so blessed with the volunteers that have come forward to assist with the weekend Masses. There will be weekend Masses throughout July and August, however, we are still in need of volunteers to help fill the schedule.

Thank you to our Parishioners for your patience and understanding, for coming early, and being so willing to navigate these new waters with us.

Any changes that might occur in July will be announced through our Facebook page and website and announced in the August bulletin.

Anyone who has already signed in through the Online form is not required to sign again – you only need to do it once per family.

We will be offering more Volunteer sessions in the near future, please contact the office if you are interested.

If you haven't signed in already, we are using Google Forms to help our Parishioners sign in. This is not mandatory to attend, but it does help expedite the process when you arrive to Mass. We are still required to Social Distance, therefore we are limited by our ability to seat everyone safely. This sign in form is available on Facebook, has been sent via email, and on our website.

You can expect the following:

Arrive

Line up

Masks are required before you proceed further

Volunteer will guide you through the Health & Safety Questions

Proceed to foyer – Confirm sign in or fill our Information

Line up to be ushered in

Ushers will seat you.

Ushers will guide the procession to Communion

Ushers will guide the exit of Parishioners.

Hand Sanitizing is required

Masks are required to enter the Church, while you are signing in and being seated and to and from Communion, and upon exiting. You are able to remove your mask while seated in the pew.

Mass times:

Saturday – 5 pm

Sunday – Alternating weekends with Trochu – 9 & 11:15 am.

Live stream will continue on Saturdays at 5 pm for those still unable to attend.

Resources

Quid Novum: www.caedm.ca/quidnovum

EWTN: www.ewtn.com

Find Dynamic Catholic on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DynamicCatholic>

Follow Father Mike on Ascension Presents:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ascension+presents

Living with Christ – free download - <https://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/intentions>

<https://caedm.ca/covid-parishes> - for more info regarding reopening of Mass

FORMED.ORG

St. Stephen's, St. Anne's in Trochu and the tri parish community of Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony's now have access to FORMED.ORG.

This is an incredibly resource for EVERYONE and easy to use.

For the month of July we would like to bring your attention to the resource "Opening the Word" which accompanies the homily for each week.

LOG ON – to www.formed.org

SELECT – "SIGN UP"

SELECT – "I am part of a Parish "

ENTER - " St. Stephen's Parish"

REGISTER - with Name and email address,

SEARCH – Opening the Word - (<https://watch.formed.org/opening-the-word-1>)

SCROLL – Scroll through until you find the date you are looking for – a wonderful way to prepare for the Weekend Mass

As you navigate the Formed.org site, we would love to hear about some of your favorite's and items you have added to your List to watch for later. We will be sharing links on the website and Facebook in July/August.

Donations Welcome - We encourage each family to make a small donation toward this amazing resource. We hope it will be a tool that you can use every day in your personal Faith formation. You can contact the office or include it in your weekly contribution by indicating "FORMED.ORG".

Parish Giving

We are providing some additional links for sites where contributions towards the Church can be made. Your financial contributions at this time are needed more than ever. Thank you to all who have taken time to drop off or mail your donations, every little bit helps to keep us going during this time.

CAEDM- www.caedm.ca/donate - You can select St. Stephen's in the drop down box

CANADA GIVES - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/890356249RR0001-the-catholic-parish-of-st-stephen/>

E-TRANSFERS ARE AVAILABLE NOW: A Donation can be sent via interact transfer to St. Stephen's Catholic Parish – use the email address – ststephen102@gmail.com. Please include your name and or envelope number in the message section, so donations can be recorded correctly. For anyone who has been looking for an alternate method, here is something for you.

Automatic Contribution: Paperwork is also available for anyone wishing to sign up to have their monthly contribution automatically applied through debit or credit. Please contact Mia in the office for assistance.

Please note: There will not be a regular collection, however, a collection basket will be available before Mass. If you prefer to continue to give through e-transfer or alternative methods – your Contribution is greatly appreciated.