



St. Anthony St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima

Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon Charles Johnston - RETIRED

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Weekday and Weekend Masses are cancelled during the COVID 19 Pandemic. *****

June 7, 2020

My dear people of God: friends & parishioners;

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! Today we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that the Holy Trinity is the “central mystery of the Christian faith” (261). The concept of the Tri-une God — Three Persons in one God — is truly a mystery, almost too lofty for us ordinary people to even begin to grasp. Can the truth of the Holy Trinity teach us anything as everyday Christian stewards? Actually, yes!

St. John Paul II described the Holy Trinity is a “Divine Family,” a community of Persons Who give themselves completely to each other and Who wishes to share Itself, Its life, with us. These concepts are at the very heart of the stewardship way of life. As stewards, we too are called to share ourselves and our lives with others. As a stewardship parish, we are called to invite others into our community though the gift of hospitality.

These characteristics of our Triune God — offering Himself to us through intimacy with Him in His Divine life — are made manifest from the earliest passages of Scripture as we see in today's first reading, from the Book of Exodus. Earlier in Exodus, God had already developed a close relationship with Moses. Today we read that, “Having come down in a cloud, the Lord stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, ‘Lord.’” He even goes on to describe Himself as “a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.” The God of the universe “comes down” to His people, He tells them His name and He tells them some (wonderful) things about Himself. The Father wants to be known and to give Himself to His people!

Our second reading, from 2 Corinthians, carries this theme even farther, as St. Paul prays that, “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” will be with all of us. In other words, we are invited in to an ever deepening intimacy with this Divine Family, this community of Persons. We are reminded that this Triune God already dwells within us through our Baptism. This divine intimacy we are offered should motivate us to do as St. Paul instructs at the beginning of this passage, to “mend [our] ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.”

Finally, our Gospel passage from John reminds us that the stewardship way of life is nothing more and nothing less than the imitation of our Most Holy Trinity. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes might not perish but might have eternal life.” He gave Himself, in the Person of His Son, for love of us. We must love this God back now by giving our-selves, our lives, to Him.

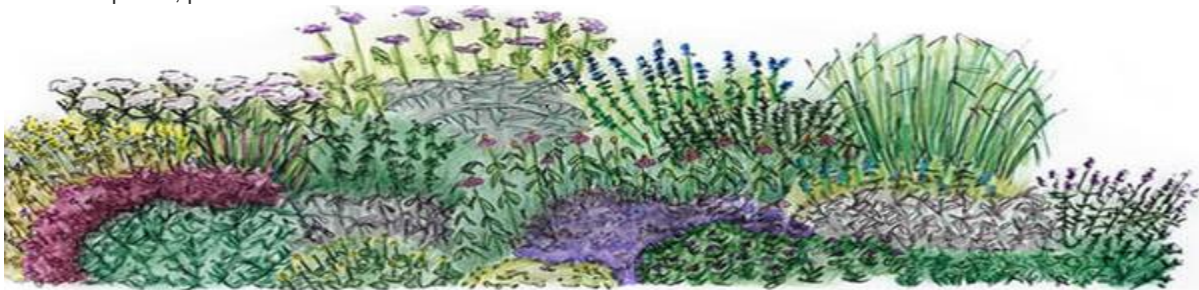
Amazingly, the more we give of ourselves to God in love, the more we will find the “grace of the Lord, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit within us.” The God of the universe — this mysterious, Triune God — invites us to an ever-deepening intimacy with Him when we make our lives a loving gift to Him and to others through the stewardship way of life. As we struggle to face the challenges brought by corona virus during these unprecedented times, we are reminded that there is greater and more powerful than death, the Tri-une God who created us to be happy, redeemed us to be free and sanctified us to be in communion with Him here and now and to be with Him in heaven. Let us celebrate with fervent hope of who we are, who were reborn through Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, that indeed we are loved, chosen, set apart as sons and daughters of God, the crown of His creation.

As we plan to open our Churches for the celebration of the Sacraments especially of the Holy Mass for no more than 50 people following the protocol and guidelines set by Health officer of the province and of the Archdiocese, let us pray that the Lord will grant us patience, wisdom, prudence and understanding that we are not only called to be stewards of time, talent and treasure but of common good, the life of others, of our bond as spiritual family under the Fatherhood of the Eternal Father and the brotherhood of our Saviour Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we have a lofty and higher calling, we are stewards of the household of God & of His sacred mysteries.

May this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity bring forth the assurance of His peace that the world can never give only through Him, sure and certain hope brought by the victory of the cross and resurrection of the Risen Christ, His Only Begotten Son and the perpetual guidance and protection of the Divine Advocate of His Holy Spirit who made us His temples. To the Triune God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit be the endless glory, adoration and praise! May God bless and protect you in His Most Holy & Most Powerful Name: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen

Yours devotedly in the Lord Most High,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor



Volunteers Needed for Mass— We need YOU!

It is with a joyful heart that we will soon be welcoming you all back to the Parish for Mass. In following the directives as set out by the Archdiocese, attendance will be limited to 50 people including volunteers and our Priest. We will also see changed Mass times as we work to accommodate the health & safety guidelines and the needs of the Parish.

We need volunteers to make this process happen. We cannot move forward without volunteers in place. Once we have volunteers in place, we can make the necessary preparations as directed by the Archdiocese, we will be able to advise you of Mass times.

It is imperative that we have the volunteer roles filled before we are able to open our doors. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the Health & Safety Protocols at Mass, please contact Mia or Donna in the office. Ststephen102@gmail.com 403-556-3084. Without these essential roles in place, the Mass cannot happen.

Please note that we will be using an online registration forum – EVENT BRITE to register online for Masses. This is mandatory and required in order to attend Mass. We recognize that not all of our Parishioners are online, so there will be a limited number of registrations that can be done through calling in once the Mass is scheduled. We will share this information once we have a date to move ahead.

Please see the CAEDM.CA website for more information on the reopening of Masses.

Parish Pastoral Council

We are still looking for people to fill the position of Spiritual Development Committee Chairperson as well as a PPC representative for Building and Maintenance. We do have a small team of dedicated individuals who see to the Maintenance needs of the Church, but we are hoping to find someone who would be the liaison between the team and the PPC who would be able to attend PPC meetings.

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.

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

We are also looking for a volunteer to assist the Parish Committees with Communications & Technology – someone who can oversee/advise on the digital needs for live streaming, and Zoom/WebEx and other platforms that are needed at this time

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Prayer for a New Today

Heavenly Father, I feel that I am stepping out onto the threshold of a completely new beginning with a total change in my lifestyle.

Lord, I know that this is a wonderful opportunity that You have graciously opened up for me and I pray that You would be with me to lead and guide, as I seek to become accustomed to so many changes in my life.

I pray that You would remain ever close to me, and that I do not stray far from Your side or become lukewarm in my attitude towards the things of God.

Help me to keep my eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and to trust all I say and do into Your capable hands.

Provide I pray, all that I need to carry out the tasks and duties that I am called upon to do with grace and courage, and I pray that my joy would be firmly fixed in Jesus and that I may be strengthened with all power from above.

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen.

