



PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

Father Nilo Macapinlac

Calendar of Events

Sat Mar 27, 2021	Confession – Olds Holy Mass –	11:00 AM 5:00 PM – Live stream*
Sun Mar 28, 2021	Holy Mass Holy Mass	9:00 AM – Olds 11:15 - Trochu
Tues Mar 30, 2021	Holy Mass	6:00 PM – Live stream only**
Wed Mar 31, 2021	Confession – Trochu Holy Mass - Trochu	6:00 PM 7:00 PM – Live stream **

Live stream – St. Stephen's Catholic Parish – Olds Alberta Facebook page *

Live stream – Father Nilo's personal facebook page **

Easter Triduum Schedule

Holy Thursday – 7:30 p.m. (live streamed)*

Good Friday – 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday – 3:00 p.m. (live streamed)*

Good Friday – 5:30 pm

Easter Vigil – 9:00 p.m. (live streamed)*

Easter morning – 9:00 a.m

Easter morning – 11:15 a.m. (live streamed)*

All services will be on a first-come; first-serve basis.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

A Blessed Holy Week to all of you! The official name for today is, of course, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It is the final Sunday of Lent and marks the beginning of Holy Week. It commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, His Holy City. We call it Palm Sunday because in our Catholic tradition we receive palm fronds that we use to reenact Christ's arrival. Palm branches are a symbol of peace and victory. To show great respect to someone, the people of Jesus' time threw palms in front of the person as a sign of great respect. The First Reading comes from the prophet Isaiah. More than any other prophet he anticipated the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. In the last verse of this reading the Messiah says, "I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." The Lord knew the agony in front of Him, but He had an unwavering determination to obey His Father and to follow His Way. Jesus knew what awaited Him, but He suffered for us, in our behalf. As we approach life and living, we need to seek a similar determination to live as Disciples of Christ, and to do what we should do in spite of the possible consequences. The Second Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians declares in the opening verse that Christ Jesus was in "the form of God." A better word might have been "essence," which includes the inner nature of someone as well as the external one. Our Lord Jesus the Messiah is fully human and fully divine: **"The God-Man."** Mark's Passion alone provides so much to think about and on which to meditate. We need to carefully listen and hear this Gospel Reading. There is so much here for us. The Passion of Christ is reported in all four Gospels. Those who analyze these things point to the fact that Mark seemed to place Christ's suffering at the center of his version. The time of the Passion is significant in many ways. At Passover there was always a great expectation of the Messiah. At that time of year Jerusalem tended to be crowded. As the Romans were the rulers in that part of the world, they were alert to any hint of revolt, which was always a threat from their perspective. Thousands of pilgrims came to Jerusalem as every male Jew who lived within 15 miles was obligated to come, and many more came from great distances, including Galilee. You might say that the chief priests and the scribes feared the people more than they feared God. There is, as indicated, so much here for us as Catholics. The Last Supper includes the statement from Jesus, "Take it; this is my body. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many'." Christ gave us so many gifts on this day, the gift of faith, life, and the gift of His very self on the Cross and constantly on the Eucharist. We must never forget that, now or at any Mass and celebration. Let this week be the most holy because of the unconditional love of Jesus for us, who ushered us for our redemption. Let our pains and sufferings be united with Jesus' on the Cross at this time of pandemic. Let His triumphant entry to Jerusalem be our glimpse of our future eternal entry to heaven. Amen

Totally yours in Christ, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

ST. JOSEPH'S CORNER

The Year of St. Joseph – Dec 8, 2020 – Dec 8, 2021

Excerpt taken from the apostolic letter *Patris Corde* of Pope Francis

"Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow."

For the Year of St. Joseph, please don't forget the *100 Acts of Kindness* to do with your family. During the month of February, there were 20 posted on our bulletin board. Wonderful deeds were done! Remember, if you see an act of kindness done, you can add that as well. Let's see if we can hit 100 this month!

ART & ENVIRONMENT – Easter Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate Easter flowers to decorate the Church should drop them off prior to Tuesday March 30th, 2021. Thank you for your help in beautifying our Parish!!



THINK TANK – PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Our pastor and Parish Pastoral Council are looking forward to a “new normal” when Covid restrictions finally lift. As we plan for the bright future of our parish, we invite you to attend a “Think Tank” on Thursday April 15th in the church starting with Mass at 6 p.m. and session afterwards. Your insights and commitment to building our parish post-covid are welcomed and needed. Please sign up on Eventbrite so we can plan accordingly. Once the 48 person capacity is reached, you can sign onto the waiting list and we can schedule another session.

Link for Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-stephen-parish-think-tank-tickets-146829937295>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus News

- **Charities Appeal Raffle** by the Knights of Columbus Alberta/NWT State Council is now available. The Charities Appeal is an online 50/50 Fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased by residents of Alberta, 18 years of age or older, at the website: www.koc5050.com. Please consider making your “In Support Of” selection to our council **04748 Father Forsyth**. Ticket sales end April 28th 2021 with the draw on April 30th 2021. Thanks!
- **Mundare Sausage Sale** organized by the Knights is coming to St Stephen Parish Saturday April 17th from 10am to 2pm. Drive through for your purchases. No need to get out of your vehicle! Hope to see you there to help us support our charities.
- **Becoming a member:** For any Catholic man, 18 years of age or older, looking to join the local Knights of Columbus and help us put our Faith in Action please contact our Membership Director: Brother Richard Bodnar (403-559-9885 ~ skrbodnar@live.ca).

Vivat Jesus!

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE

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!

DIDSBURY CWL SCHOLARSHIP – Tri Parish Area

Are you Catholic and in your final year of High School? Are you planning to attend post-secondary school after graduation? If so, the **Didsbury CWL** is offering **one (1) \$500.00** scholarship.

To receive an application, please email Maxine Moreau, president of the Didsbury CWL at dumax22@hotmail.com. The application process will ask for an essay and two (2) letters of reference. Deadline to submit application is April 30, 2021.

COVID PROJECT – MATERIAL NEEDED

We need your old blue jeans (in any condition) for a Covid 19 project to supply denim quilts for people in need. Jeans can be dropped off in the container marked for them in the foyer of the church. Any questions call Jack or Jo-Anne 587 796-1634.

FAMILY LIFE

Volunteers needed - Please consider joining the volunteer teams for Masses. Volunteers are especially needed for Thursday 6 p.m. and Sunday mornings. It is because of our Volunteers that we can continue to have Mass -without volunteers, we would be unable to hold Mass during the pandemic!

Prayer Cards - In preparation for our parish rebuilding program, we ask that everyone pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. There are two prayer cards to choose from or you can pray your own. Please share this prayer with your family and friends. We need a prayer army. Prayer is the greatest gift you can give your parish! (Prayer cards attached to the email)

Attention all wood workers and craft-people! During the month of May, we will be holding our St. Joseph the Worker Silent Auction. If you have any items that you wish to donate, projects big and small, crafts of all kinds, gift certificates or crocheted wash cloths - please let the parish office or Maria know. All items will be displayed for the month of May so everyone has a chance to see what is available, covid-restrictions applying. Reserve bids allowed. Proceeds from the auction will go to the parish Food Bank and beautifying the Church property, e.g. Prayer Garden, Rosary Garden or walk, Pro-life grotto, painting, etc.
St. Joseph took good care of his family and home and is our inspiration to do the same!

OFFICE

- 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



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
Be sure to follow our Youth group
@st.stephens_youth_ on Instagram
Office Hours 9-2pm

Sacramental Prep

1st Communion

Mar 13
April 10
May 1

Meetings are via Zoom
Packages are available to pick up
at the Parish office.
Please e-transfer \$20 to
ststephen102@gmail.com. As this
does not fully cover the cost of
materials, donations are
appreciated.

St. Andrew's Parish in Edmonton
has extra copies of "Consecration of
St. Joseph" written by Fr. Don
Calloway. If you are interested,
please contact Jovine – 780-451-
6601 to make arrangements.

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.

CATECHISM

Catechism has started again. We are offering in person classes for grades 1-4. Due to Covid Restrictions, we have limited capacity – so please pre register to secure a spot. For more details, please call or text Theresa – 403-559-6843 or Theresa.templeton@gmail.com All Covid protocols will be followed, so please send your child with a Mask. ☺