



"He fasted for forty days
and forty nights..."

March 7, 2021

Father Nilo Macapinlac

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat Mar 6	11:00AM – Confession – Olds-Pro Populo 5:00PM Mass – Olds (Live stream)	Sat March 13	11:00AM – Confession – Olds – 5:00PM Mass – Olds (Live stream)
Sun Mar 7	9:00 AM Mass – Trochu 11:15AM Mass – Olds- ^T Minda & Manuel Pacilan SR	Sun Mar 14	9:00 AM Mass – Olds 11:15 AM Mass - Trochu
Tues Mar 9	6:00PM Live stream Mass	Tues Mar 15	6:00PM Live stream Mass
Wed Mar 10	6:30 PM Confession – Trochu 7:00PM Mass – Trochu	Wed Mar 16	6:30 PM Confession – Trochu 7:00PM Mass – Trochu
Thurs Mar 11	6:00 PM Mass – Olds ^T Maria Liza Toledo	Thurs Mar 17	6:00 PM Mass – Olds
Fri Mar 12	9:00 AM Mass 10-2 (Exposition)	Fri Mar 18	9:00 AM Mass 10-2 (Exposition)

Masses without Intentions are assigned as Pro Populo – Mass for the people

My dear People of God,
Prayerful Lenten greetings!

Lent should be a time of reflection for us, about how we can improve in living our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ but also about hope in God's enduring promises of love and forgiveness especially that all of us are struggling amidst pandemic. After all, God looks for a heart that is tender and is adaptable to God's word. Lent is a time to take our spiritual journey a little deeper. It should not be about "beating up" on ourselves, but about being honest and asking God to forgive us and help us. The First Reading from Exodus presents the Ten Commandments as God handed them down to us. In our secular-based society, the idea of a God-based moral code seems to have become less popular. There is a tendency that a moral code should be based upon each individual's inner sense of what is right or wrong, what is good or bad, but not on a standard set by God.

We need God to morally instruct and guide us. Though these principles resonate with the human conscience (both individually and collectively), they are certainly not the only influence upon our thinking and behavior. We need to know that there is a God in heaven who expects certain moral behavior and that there are consequences from obeying or disobeying these commands. It is important for us to note the order of the Commandments. In truth one could give an entire homily on each of the Commandments, but the main thing is to take note that the first four Commandments have to do with our attitudes toward God, and our conduct in relationship to God. The last six have to do with how we relate to and conduct ourselves toward one another. This Decalogue of God could be a substantial guide to examine our conscience as we approach the Penitential Service on March 18 @ 7pm through Live-streaming on our parish Facebook page and on Saturday March 20th, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and individual Confession will follow at the Library of St. Stephen Parish of Olds while in Trochu at St. Anne's Parish on Wednesdays at 6 pm followed by 7 pm Mass. The portion of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians which is our Second Reading is not very lengthy. As is often the case nonetheless, it is filled with a wisdom and understanding of its own. To the Jewish people the idea of a Messiah translated into power, splendor, and triumph. To them "crucified" meant weakness, defeat, and humiliation. This is what St. Paul preaches throughout his writings. A story is told of a church which inscribed the following over their entrance: "We preach Christ crucified." However, as time passed, they seemed to lose their passion for the Lord. Ivy began to grow over the entrance way covering part of the message. It then read "We preach Christ." After awhile it read only "We preach." Finally it said simply "We." Today many churches have become mere social gatherings which are not about God and certainly not about Christ crucified. Our faith is not about "we" but about God. Lent is a time for us to appreciate that and embrace the fact that as Catholics we are blessed with the foundations and the meanings of our faith. As Paul says in today's reading, "...the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." Let us ask the intercession of St Joseph whose feast day we just celebrated to intercede for our fruitful journey not only this Lent but throughout his Holy Year. St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen

Yours devotedly in Christ,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

ST. JOSEPH'S CORNER

My dear devotees & friends of St. Joseph,

St. Joseph is the patron of happy and peaceful death. When I was a child, I was asking where was St. Joseph when our Lord was crucified on the wood of the Cross. Were these Roman soldiers used the tools of carpentry of St. Joseph to crucify our Lord? It was my childhood innocence and curiosity that was lingering that time. I felt the need of catechesis on my childhood years. With the white lily on his staff, I was thinking of the sign not only of his chastity and purity but of the sign of Easter glory, the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the patron of holy and peaceful death which I saw an icon that portrays the presence of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the prayer "Salve Regina" we concluded "After this our earthly exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. To see God in Jesus is the beatific vision already and what a beautiful, peaceful and blessed death for St. Joseph! May our pass-over from this world to the next may be assisted by the powerful intercession of our advocates, St. Joseph and Blessed Virgin Mary. "Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death". Amen. Here, again, God has given us the great models and intercessors on this unprecedented time where hundreds of thousands of people across the globe have died due to the corona-virus and it's variant. St. Joseph, pray for us now and at the hour when God is calling us to depart from this world. Amen

"BarJosef"

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

We will celebrate The Feast of Joseph the Worker on May 1, 2021. We invite all wood workers and crafters in the parish to donate a small project – bird house, bird feeder, shelf, toque, mittens, painting, string art, etc which we could sell/raffle. The proceeds will be donated to a charity – following the theme of "Home". The items will be placed on display in the foyer and on Facebook. Whether you are a carpenter by trade, a woodworking enthusiast or a weekend crafter, we welcome your contributions.

FAMILY LIFE

Look for *St. Joseph's Passport to Spiritual Treasures* that can be picked up on the display table in the foyer at the church. An instruction sheet will give 7 different activities to do during the Year of St. Joseph. You only need one information sheet per family, but you can pick up enough of the "passports" for each member of your family or just one for all. Stickers are included to represent the "stamps" as each program is completed.

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!

The time for the prayers in the church for an end to the pandemic on Thursdays evenings **has been changed to 5:30 p.m.**, followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Virtual

We have now entered the season of Lent. During Lent, traditionally we as a parish would gather together every Friday evening to pray and meditate on the Stations of the Cross. Despite COVID we are still going to try to do this. However, things are going to be a little different. At 7:00 every Friday evening during Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be led by various small groups of parishioners and will be Live streamed to our parish Facebook page. We hope to see you online.

BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER

The Bottle Drive Fundraiser is ongoing. You can drop your bottles off at the depot and inform the staff that they are for St. Stephen's. If you are unable to drop them off and require assistance, please contact Ernie O @ 403-507-1960. Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the Bottle Depot Drive and for all who have helped make it happen.

CATECHISM NEWS

Youcat For Kids catechisms are available for purchase at the church for \$30.00/book. This is a great resource to read with your child(ren) that will encourage discussion about the truths of our faith! Supplemental activities can be found on their website: www.youcat.org/products/youcat-for-kid

Catechism is starting again! We have resumed in-person classes with limited capacity. Classes for K-Gr.2 will begin this weekend, on Saturday, March 6 from 10-10:45am with Gr. 3-4 on Saturday, March 13 from 10-10:45am. Due to COVID restrictions, you will need to pre-register. For more details please call or text Theresa @ 403-559-6843 or email: theresa.templeton@gmail.com. All COVID protocols will be followed, so please bring your mask.

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!

LENTEN JOURNEY

We will be sharing suggestions throughout Lent to guide you on your Lenten Journey. To get you started, we suggest going to Dynamic Catholic and participating in "The Best Lent Ever" video program based on "I heard God laugh" – even without the book, the video review walks you through the program. <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/best-lent-ever-all-reflections.html>

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.

CALL TO PROTECT

There will be a Call to Protect Virtual Training session offered on Monday March 15, 1PM. If you haven't had a chance to take **Call to Protect** training yet, now is the chance. Please contact the office before Friday March 12, 2021 if you are interested in attending.

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. 😊

OFFICE

- The envelopes for 2021 are still available for pick up in the foyer. Please ensure that you are including your name on the envelope in the first month or two as some numbers have changed. They are on the 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 or tax receipt. If you have started making Automatic contributions, you will not have a box of envelopes assigned to you.
- 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

Please note: The carpets in the Church are being cleaned on Wednesday March 10 & Wednesday March 17.

The Parish staff will be available for phone calls and Father will be available in the morning as needed.

However, if your query can be answered on the phone we recommend calling instead of visiting. If you do plan on stopping in, we ask that you come prepared with a pair of indoor shoes or slippers as the carpet will be damp throughout the main floor. Thank you for your understanding.

DIDSBURY CWL SCHOLARSHIP

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

A great big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Coldest Night of the Year walk in support of the homeless across Canada. We raised over \$1700 for the Mustard Seed in Red Deer. They have reported record contributions this year. They had a goal of \$25 000, but received over \$88 000! Across Canada over \$9,700,000 has been raised for Homeless Shelters.

The Mustard Seed in Red Deer helps provide for the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness and poverty. This is done with prayer and love. They have a Homeless Shelter for 46 people and provide meals for the hungry. They have a school lunch program that feeds 350 students per day for lower income children. They also have social programs to help people apply for jobs, social support and access community resources. They also provide Health and Wellness Services as well as many other programs. This is one of many great organizations in Canada that helps care for those in need. Thank you so much for your prayers, generous donations and walking feet!

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired

Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin

Office Admin – Mia MacDonald

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Facebook – St Stephen's Catholic

Be sure to follow our Youth group

@st.stephens_youth_ on Instagram

Sacramental Prep

1st Communion

Mar 13

April 10

May 1

Meetings are via Zoom

Packages are available to pick up

Mar 8-12 at the Parish office.

Please etransfer \$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.