







## May 15, 2021

### Father Nilo Macapinlac

Sat May 15, 2021	Confession – Olds Holy Mass – <b>LIVESTREAM ONLY</b> -	 <b>SACRAMENTAL MASS</b>	11:00 AM 5:00 PM – <b>Livestream*</b>
Tues May 18, 2021	Holy Mass - <b>LIVESTREAM**</b>		6:00 PM – <b>Livestream**</b>
Thur May 20, 2021	Holy Mass – <b>LIVESTREAM**</b>	 <b>SACRAMENTAL MASS</b>	6:00 PM – Olds- <b>Livestream**</b>
Fri May 21, 2021	Holy Mass – <b>LIVESTREAM**</b>	 <b>SACRAMENTAL MASS</b>	9:00 AM – Olds- <b>Livestream**</b>
Sat May 22, 2021	Confession – Olds Holy Mass – <b>LIVESTREAM +</b>	 <b>SACRAMENTAL MASS</b>	11:00 AM 5:00 PM – <b>Live stream*</b>

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

\*\*Live stream – Father Nilo's personal face book page

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

In response to the new AHS restrictions of May 5, 2021 and directive from the Archdiocese of Edmonton, St. Stephen's will move to a Livestream ONLY Mass until further notice. During this time, we will continue with Sacramental Masses for our families with First Communion and Confirmation candidates. The Livestream Mass on Saturday evening will continue to be posted on our St. Stephen's Facebook page, while Father will continue to post the weekday Masses on his personal Facebook Page.

#### **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  
Office Hours 9-2pm

#### **Sacramental Prep**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion**

If you haven't already booked a Mass with Donna in the office, please so do immediately.  
403-556-3084 Ext 4

Please pay office for resource material if you haven't done so already via etransfer to the office – [ststephen102@gmail.com](mailto:ststephen102@gmail.com).

#### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation classes are scheduled for ~~April 10~~  
~~April 24~~  
~~May 8~~  
May 15

Classes are 8:45 – 11:45 AM.  
Class this weekend!

If you haven't already booked a Mass with Donna in the office, please do so immediately. 403-556-3084 Ext 4.

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER NILO

My dear people of God;

Blessings to all of you on this Feast of the Ascension of the Lord! May the heavens be opened for our prayers to be heard in this unprecedented time of pandemic. The Book of Luke opens by also stating that it is being written to Theophilus: "I, too, have decided...to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus." Those who study sacred scripture love to debate who Theophilus was, but that is not important. For our purposes we are Theophilus. The name Theophilus means "friend of God," or "God lover" which includes all of us. Perhaps the greatest message of the First Reading, the opening verses of Acts, is the basis of the Book itself. The Gospel of Luke records all that Jesus began to do and to teach. It is the beginning of Jesus' work. However, Acts describes how Jesus' work continued with His disciples and followers. In a sense the Book of Acts is still not complete because the work of Jesus continues today. Today's "Acts" may not be scriptural, but through us as disciples the Lord's presence and works continues in the world and in His Church. We are part of this great legacy, and that is the real message for us here: we are called, and we are expected to be the disciples who share the Good News with others. St. Paul never states the specific reason for his letter to the Ephesians, our Second Reading. But it is certainly possible to ascertain his motivation from what he includes in the letter. In today's reading he speaks of our approach to understanding and faith when he says, "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened." In scripture the word "heart" tends to indicate the very core and center of life. It is much more than a realization or a comprehension. It means something we embrace and appreciate to the very foundations of our lives and the way we live them. Paul wants the Ephesians (and us) to know that few things give us more secure and enduring hope in life than knowing that God has called us and has a specific calling for each of us to fulfill. This is complementary to what we hear in the First Reading. The hope of God's calling has its perspective in the future. If we believe in resurrection and eternal life, we can grasp the hope which comes with salvation.

Nevertheless, Paul wants us to know that we are worthy of the calling, the command if you will, given us by Jesus. If we wish to be saved, we need to live distinctive lives here on earth. The letter to the Ephesians, and today's passage, gives us very specific teaching on how we are to live our lives in our parishes, in our world, and in our homes. Jesus makes it clearer in the Gospel Reading from Mark, as He addresses His followers prior to His Ascension into heaven, that they have a responsibility, and it was one they could not escape. We share that responsibility. It is part of our calling and part of what our lives as Catholics and Christians should and must be. When we go out to do the work of God, Jesus is always with us and He works with us and through us. This is the pattern for all we do, our sense of ministry and mission. A wise philosopher once stated that signs are meant to follow believers, not believers following signs. The final verse of the Gospel — "But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs." — continues to this very day. That is the message of everything we have heard in Holy Scripture today, and it is the message we should hear every time we are exposed to Holy Scripture. May God lift you up at this time of pandemic and protect you always.

In Christ: our Victor-King,  
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

### ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SILENT AUCTION

**Items on display** – Beginning May 8<sup>th</sup> and all throughout May during the Weekend Masses.

**Silent Auction** – May 21 - May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Bidding closes** – May 30<sup>th</sup> – 3 PM. Highest bid at 3 PM takes the item.

The auction will begin next Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, on Facebook. The items are online already, if you haven't had a chance to take a look, please do so. The Auction will officially be online, however, for anyone that cannot access Facebook, you can view the items in the Church foyer and make arrangements with Maria from Family Life to place your bid – we don't want anyone to miss out on the beautiful pieces done by our talented parishioners. Maria - 403-415-6833

All proceeds will go towards our Parish Food Bank, and beautifying the Church property – potential projects include Prayer Garden, Rosary Garden, beautifying the Grotto, Painting etc.

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

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church.<sup>[23]</sup> In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect *the child and his mother*, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love *the child and his mother*.

## 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!

## COVID PROJECT – Denim quilts

Jack and Jo-Anne Sell are busy making wonderful quilts to be donated.

If you have any jeans or heavier fabrics such as corduroy, wool and khaki that you would like to donate, there is a donation box just outside of the Parish office.

If you are aware of an agency that could use quilts, please let them know

Thanks again for your generosity. Keep those jeans coming! Any questions – call Jack or Jo-Anne Sell 587-796-1634.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- **Wheelchair Foundation:** The Knights of Columbus organization have sponsored the delivery of thousands of wheelchairs to destinations around the globe, including Canada. St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus are asking for your help in the purchase of some chairs for those in need. Any donation amount is a blessing as each chair is \$195.00. Any contribution, \$20 and over, is tax deductible. If you are interested, information and pledge forms are in the foyer near the wheelchair. For questions concerning this project, please call Paul Caves at 587-796-1179.
- **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](mailto:skrbodnar@live.ca)
- **Highway Cleanup** – We would like to thank all those who helped us with the Highway Cleanup. We had a great group and a very successful day. Thank you all so very much – in getting a day out and working in our community. **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!



Congratulations to Irene Cowling of our parish. On April 26, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness of the CWL, Irene received her 65 year pin. This recognizes her service to God and Canada through the CWL. She joined the CWL at St. Francis de Sales parish 65 years ago and served that parish faithfully until she moving here and then worked along side her CWL sisters here. May God continue to bless you for your service and grant you many more years of health in which to serve Him.

### BRIDAL SHOWER – Covid style – ARVAY FAMILY

Curtis Arvay, son of Larry and Laurel, and his fiancée, Andrea, are to be married on May 22 in Canmore. Their wedding was cancelled last summer and rescheduled to this year. Unfortunately, we are not able to host a bridal shower and meet Andrea. As a COVID alternative to our traditional Parish showers, if you would like to offer your best wishes via a card, with or without a gift card or cash, you may place it in a basket in the foyer of the Church. Laurel will pick these up prior to the wedding.

### 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. The First Communion candidates will celebrate throughout Masses in May, June and July.

The first of our Confirmation candidates and First Communion Candidates will receive their Sacraments this weekend and more to follow in the upcoming weeks. We ask that you keep these young people in your prayers

### *Prayers Are The Stairs To God*

Prayers are the stairs we must climb every day,  
If we would reach God, there is no other way,  
For we learn to know God, when we meet him in prayer  
And ask Him to lighten our burden of care-  
So, start in the morning, and though the way's steep  
Climb ever upward  
'Til your eyes close in sleep  
For prayers are the stairs  
That lead to the Lord  
And to meet him in Prayer  
Is the climber's reward.

Helen Steiner Rice