



St. Anthony St. Stephen Our Lady of Fatima

Father Nilo Macapinlac

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

May 31, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters, friends and parishioners,

Shalom! Let us welcome the sweetest guest of our soul, the Holy Spirit who comes to give birth to the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. Everything Christ has said and done has come to realization, completion and at the summit of its fulfillment.

Our Easter celebration reaches its grand finale today as we celebrate the glorious feast of Pentecost. Today, we focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in our individual lives. Throughout our readings today, we see the amazing truth that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts and guidance in a very personal way — and that we are meant to use these gifts to build up the Body of Christ in a way that is unique to each one of us. What a stunning privilege and awesome responsibility. We must rely constantly on the Holy Spirit to guide us in the best use of the gifts, talents and blessings we have been given so that we can fulfill the specific mission to which we have been called.

Our first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, recalls the dramatic moment when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles just as Christ had promised. “Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.” Amazing, but there is more. “Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” And still more. They “began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” Notice how personal and individual is this outpouring of the Spirit. The Spirit filled the entire house where they were gathered, yet also came to each one of them separately, as individuals (the tongues of fire parted and rested on each one of them). And not only that, the Spirit empowered each of them in a unique way (they began to speak in different tongues). This personalized way of “gifting” the apostles allowed them each to reach different people, sharing with them the “mighty acts of God.”

This is the same way the Holy Spirit operates today. He gives each of us a unique combination of gifts, and empowers each of us to speak in different “tongues” so that, together, every person can be offered the saving message of the Gospel in a way that is meaningful to them. (Have you ever been amazed at how some can be so creative and energetic with the little ones in the nursery or the teens in the youth group? And others so compassionate with our elderly or infirm parishioners? It is because the Holy Spirit has made us fluent in different “tongues.”)

Our second reading, from the letter to the Corinthians, illustrates the beautiful way the Spirit weaves together His personal gifts to each us for the good of all. “To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” Embracing the stewardship way of life means that we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the best use of the unique gifts He has given to each of us, to accomplish the particular mission entrusted to us.

Jesus gives us this mission in our Gospel passage from John. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” We are called to be Christ’s hands and feet to all those He places in our path. But we must not let this responsibility overwhelm us. Jesus Himself tells us so. Actually, He tells us twice in this passage: “Peace be with you.” Let us be the bearers of this gift of peace and other various gifts not only to be shared where charity begins at home but wherever we go, into the ends and corners of the world. Let us be the true builders of the civilization of love, building up the Kingdom of God despite of the many challenges of the pandemic. Our diversity should not be a hindrance nor perceived as a weakness but the strength of the entire organism, the Mystical Body of Christ: the Church.

May the gifts in each in everyone of us to be shared will lead us to the triumph over the attack of the corona virus and of the spiritual enemy. May the Holy Spirit grant us the courage and inner strength to face the difficulties and challenges of life and of the unknown future. Let us acknowledge Him that without His presence, we will fail but with the same Holy Spirit, nothing is impossible. May your hearts be inflamed by the fire of Divine Love, strengthen you and give you the boldness to face any challenges in whatever you are facing right now...have courage, do not be afraid! The Advocate, the Paraclete, the Sanctifier who is the Holy Spirit dwells deep within our innermost being by virtue of our Baptism and moreover, we are sealed by the gifts of His eternal salvation.

As this Easter season comes to a close, let us be at peace. And let us resolve to lean on the Holy Spirit more and more as our guide through the stewardship way of life. I would like to thank most sincerely our Finance Committee who has been my arm in overseeing the stewardship life of our parish in this time of crisis. Our PPC: Parish Pastoral Council, our Parish Staff, all lay movements and religious associations, parish organizations, our youth, the elderly and those humble individuals who looked after the needs of the poor and the least fortunate ones especially in this time of pandemic. I humbly extend my priestly blessings to all of you and to your loved ones. Pray unceasingly that we will be rewarded with our tireless efforts to defeat Covid-19, as Christ defeated death and unlocked the door to new life through His Resurrection, and moreover, unlocked the door of heaven through His glorious Ascension into heaven. He may soon open the doors of our Churches and all Houses of Worship across the globe through His Holy Spirit. Keep safe, keep well, keep healthy and keep holy always. God bless you richly on this beautiful birthday of the Church, the solemnity of the Pentecost!

Yours devotedly in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

Archbishop Smith: The Path of Return

"The Reason for our Hope" is Archbishop Richard Smith's blog

- By Archbishop Richard W. Smith
- May 27, 2020

On Tuesday, May 26th, the Bishops of Alberta announced the guidelines they have established to direct the return of our Dioceses to the public celebration of mass. This “path of return” will be gradual, and followed in alignment with each of the stages of the province’s relaunch strategy. It is good, after two months of inability to gather in our churches, at least to take these small baby steps along the path toward the day when our churches will be full again.

I won’t repeat all the details of our [guidelines](#) here. You can read their content, view the explanatory [video](#) I have prepared, or check out the stories in [Grandin Media](#). What I’d like to focus upon with you is another path of return, of which we cannot lose sight in the midst of immediate preoccupations.

Last Sunday was the Solemnity of the Ascension, when we recalled the return of Jesus to the Heavenly Father, by Whom he had been sent into the world as our Saviour. Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow. He himself is the path of return to God, from Whom sin separates humanity. We follow this path by faith in the One who is the path.

Guidelines to direct our journey and define its parameters are necessary. These are given by God Himself in Sacred Scripture and the Church’s Tradition. Their content and directives are far more expansive than the ecclesial guidelines formulated to lead us back to mass, or those of the province to direct a return to regular life. Yet, the message is simple: have faith in Jesus Christ. By faith, we surrender to his authority; by faith, we accept the truth of his love; by faith, we see the truth of things and find clarity and peace.

Following this path, that of faith, proceeds in stages. While the phases of a provincial relaunch are marked by a steady progressive opening of society, the stages of faith in Christ unfold by an ever deeper conversion of heart. Acceptance of the truth, surrender to his sovereignty, shift of lifestyle from self-centeredness to

self-gift; these are the trends to monitor on the conversion graph, if you will. Here we need to guard against self-monitoring. Self-assessment is usually more positive than the facts warrant. Only the Holy Spirit knows our hearts fully. Only he can truly assess our progress along "the path of return" to the Father.

Which brings me to this coming Sunday, the Solemnity of Pentecost. We can begin to look forward to that celebration now by recognizing that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has placed us along the path of return to the Father by uniting us to himself in Baptism. We can begin to pray even now for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to deepen our faith in Christ and thus move us along the stages of conversion. Let's all commit to that as Sunday approaches.

That we have a path now of gradual return to the public celebration of mass is reason for thanksgiving and hope. What animates our hearts with peace and joy is the path of return to the Father, that path which is Jesus Christ, and along which we move by our faith in him.



Confession

Father is available on Saturdays at 11:00am for Confession in the library. We ask that everyone maintain Social Distancing while here. **Please note: Confession on Saturday May 30, 2020 is cancelled due to Father being needed elsewhere.**

St. Stephen's Community

A heart-felt Thank You to my fellow parishioners for your condolences and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my mother. The lovely cards, telephone calls, kind words and "long distance hugs" were all very comforting and much appreciated.

God Bless you all. Clara Leischner

We sincerely thank those of you who prayed for our sister, Joan, after she tested positive for Covid 19 in April. We greatly appreciate the concern shown & the support we received. It is with gratitude & Praise to God that we are happy to report Joan is now considered to be recovered from Covid. Thanks be to the Lord.

God Bless each of you. Dave Gross & the Gross Family.

Do you have a Loved One in Hospital?

When you can't visit the hospital, here's a link by which you can send well wishes to patients. Your kind words of encouragement will be delivered by the volunteers of Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health facilities. albertahealthservices.ca/info/wellwishes

Food Box

We just want to remind everyone that the Food Box is here. We are very grateful to all who help us to keep it replenished. We want to encourage anyone that finds themselves in need at this time to contact Donna in the Parish. If you know of anyone who is struggling to put food on the table, please make sure they know they have options available to them.

Victory Gardens

We are grateful for the rain to help our Garden grow.

If you are interested in helping with the garden or in receiving any fresh produce this summer, please contact Theresa at 403-559-6843 or Naamah at 403-507-2377.

Parish Pastoral Council News

It has been decided that the St. Stephen's Annual General Meeting will be postponed for now. We will notify our Parishioners when a new date has been determined. If you have any questions, concerns, thoughts or ideas for the PPC to consider, please feel free to forward them to a current PPC member or office staff.

It is that time of year again for us to elect our Parish Council Members. We will be meeting in June to discuss streamlining and strategies during this Covid crisis. It doesn't look like the virus implications will be over soon, so there is a need to plan accordingly, both short-term and long-term. We invite all to nominate or offer themselves to be members of the PPC at this crucial time. Please submit your/their names to Fr. Nilo for consideration. The following positions are open:

- **Liturgy**
- **Spiritual Development**- adult faith formation, planning the mission
- **Building and Maintenance**- we have a dedicated crew of individuals who respond immediately to the needs of the church, but a representative is needed for PPC meetings.
- **Couples for Christ**

We are in need of a new optimum router for the computers and photocopier. It is necessary for the live streaming and zoom/WebEx meetings as well that are taking place in the parish. The present one is old, and easily gets overloaded. Please consider donating towards this needed item. It would be much appreciated! Thank you to those who have responded to this request!!

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 livestreaming, and Zoom/WebEx and other platforms that are needed at this time.

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

Volunteers Needed – 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.

Most importantly, we need volunteers to make this process happen. As soon as we have made the necessary preparations as directed by the Archdiocese, including recruiting the required essential volunteers, 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 will share a link once we are ready to go. All attend

Please find attached to the email :
K of C Family Week schedule and resources
Archbishop Smith – Letter regarding reopening of Mass

