



May 3, 2020

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.

My dear people of God,

We are united in prayers and embraced lovingly by our Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. May you find peace, and comfort in Him who indeed is our Good Shepherd especially in this challenging time.

Today's readings on this fourth Sunday of Easter offer us a glimpse into the heart of our loving Savior. He is the Good Shepherd and we can confidently place our trust in Him as we live the stewardship way of life.

This endearing image of Jesus as shepherd, and His personal love for each one of us, is described in our Gospel passage from John, through the words of Jesus Himself. Here we read Jesus' description of Himself as the "Good Shepherd." He says of Himself, "The sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice."

This aspect of our Lord's tender and personal love for each one of us is a compelling reason to embrace the stewardship way of life — in the offering of our time, talent and treasure to Him, we can express our gratitude to Him for the incomprehensible love He has for us.

Embracing this way of life certainly requires trust on our part. But Christ has proven Himself worthy of our trust. He "bore our sins in His body." He calls Himself our shepherd and He offers Himself as the guardian of our souls. He has withheld nothing of Himself and His goodness from us. He would never ask anything of us that would bring us harm. He tells us "I came so that [you] might have life and have it more abundantly." This Easter season, let us resolve to entrust ourselves and our lives gratefully to Him. I would like to share with you the message of our Shepherd from Rome, His Holiness Pope Francis. On the following page is his message for all of you.

May this month of May 2020 be a time of grace and prayer, as we journey with Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. Fr. Peyton once said: "The family that prays together stays together." Keep safe, keep healthy and keep holy. May God bless you and keep you always!

United in prayers,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor



LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and [it is easy also on the internet](#) to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

Pope Francis

First Prayer

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin*



Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this corona virus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.



(Letter from the Pope Cont'd)

Nota Bene from Pope Francis on Virtual Danger: *Pope Francis on Live-streaming In his homily for April 17, Pope Francis, reflecting on the community of disciples around Jesus, issued a caution about live-streaming Mass and prayers. Here are excerpts of that homily, taken from Zenit.org:*

"[The] familiarity of Christians with the Lord is always of community. Yes, it's intimate, it's personal but in community. A familiarity without community, [...] a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the Sacraments is dangerous. It could become [...] a gnostic familiarity, a familiarity only for myself, detached from the people of God. The Apostles' familiarity with the Lord was always that of community, it was always at table, sign of community; it was always with the Sacrament [...]" "I say this because someone made me reflect on the danger that [...] this pandemic that has made all of us communicate, including religiously, through the media, through the means of communication, also this Mass, we are all communicating, but not together, we are spiritually together. The people are [few but] there are many people: we are together, but not together. The Sacrament also: you have it, the Eucharist, today, but the people that are connected with us only have Spiritual Communion. And this isn't the Church: this is the Church of a difficult situation, which the Lord permits, but the ideal of the Church is always with the people and with the Sacraments — always. "[A] Bishop wrote me, "Be careful not to virtualize the Church, to virtualize the Sacraments, to virtualize the People of God. The Church, the Sacraments, the People of God are concrete." It's true that at this moment we must have this familiarity with the Lord in this way, but [we] must [...] not stay there. "May the Lord teach us this intimacy with Him, this familiarity with Him but in the Church, with the Sacraments, with the holy faithful people of God."

Youth Retreat – Live Stream – May 23 – 31st, 2020

Mike Landry, a crew of youth ministry veterans and some of our very own pastors in the Archdiocese are putting together an online youth retreat in preparation for Pentecost

This retreat will include streamed Masses, talks, Holy Hours, discussions, and a special episode of 'Left Footers' – all designed to prepare us to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In response to Pope Leo XIII's request in 1897 that we'll also pray an online novena (nine days of prayer) as "...a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian." This online retreat, brought to you by the Vocations office of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, is open to any young person (teenager or young adult) who'd like to enrich their spiritual life, start or enhance their habits of prayer, and become the saints God created them to be.

It is absolutely free of charge, and you can learn more about it – and register for it – at www.mikeisthird.com/veni.

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.

www.caedm.ca/donate - You can select St. Stephen's in the drop down box

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/890356249RR0001-the-catholic-parish-of-st-stephen/>

COMING SOON: We will soon be able to accept Interac Transfers for anyone who prefers to use this method.

Automatic Contribution paperwork is available for anyone wishing to utilize this method. Please contact Mia in the office for assistance.

Victory Gardens

We have been blessed with the opportunity to start the church garden this year! We are going to start slowly with some potatoes, beans, beets, lettuce and a few flowers.

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

Don't forget to drop off packages of seeds or plant pots in the boxes between the church doors!

As we had to cancel our mission this year, you are invited to watch the *Theology of the Body Institute Virtual Conference* on May 8-10th. Information is on the attached document. Realizing the value of our personhood and bodies is vital at this time, as the attacks of the "culture of death" are increasing dramatically through euthanasia and abortions. We will have a follow-up session possibly the following week.

Some websites that we have come across:

Families: *Catholicsprouts.com* has many resources to share with families. Podcasts for children as well as parents, Challenge Patches, many free resources!

Teens: Earlier this year Peter Van Kampen brought his games and talks to the St. Stephen's youth group. Check out his Facebook page for lots of Catholic tips! *Facebook.com/peter.kampen.7*

Children: Sign up with *Teachingcatholickids.com* They have lots of freebies and activities for children.

Catchat.ca has many fun, musical activities for children. Check out their website. They even have a virtual Vacation Bible School coming up!

Sidewalk Chalk Art- We are encouraging families to produce their own work of art on their sidewalks, driveways, fences, decks or garage doors etc. using sidewalk chalk. Please don't do it in the street! The theme should be inspirational- honouring God and inspiring hope! Please take a picture of your work and email it to Maria maria@bluemantle.ca. Each one will be featured in a future bulletin.

Other 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



Divine Mercy Chaplet – Zoom Gathering

We are united in Prayer at the hour of Mercy – We invite you to join us via Zoom for our Parish Community to come together and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. Finance Report. If you are interested in participating with our Parish community, please contact your community leader for the Zoom invite.



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.

Confession

Father is available on Saturdays at 11:00am for Confession in the library. We ask that everyone maintain Social Distancing while here.

Good News

We are asking all Parishioners to share their Good News in future bulletins. We love hearing about Covid and Purell the piglets and all their brothers and sisters, about families and friends praying and skyping, and any other stories you want to share.

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.

Be Safe

Be Well

Be Holy