

FATHER NILO MACAPINLAC

My dear friends, people of God,

Praise to Christ our Eternal King, King of Mercy and endless glory! Today we come to the end of the liturgical year, celebrating the magnificent feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our readings provide contrasting images of this King of ours — He has authority over all, and yet, He is humble and tender in His care for us, especially the most vulnerable.

How can we properly honor and love such a King? By offering Him our very lives through the stewardship way of life.

The Gospel passage from Matthew shows us how. The passage begins with Christ's own description of His Second Coming, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him." Then the moment of judgment will come. Some will be invited into the Kingdom of Heaven — the others to eternal punishment.

This judgment will be based not on how influential we became in society, how high we climbed the corporate ladder, nor any "worldly" achievements. Rather our judgment will be based on how we treated the least of those around us, whom Jesus calls His brothers and sisters. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." To make His point very clear, Jesus gives specifics — feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, showing hospitality to the stranger, caring for the ill and imprisoned. This could be palpable in our human experience at this time of pandemic. We need to live the call of God in action by practicing both corporal and spiritual acts of mercy which we can find in our Gospel today. Let us not forget those who have gone ahead of us especially the suffering souls of the faithful departed in our prayers and Masses. More so those who are deeply suffering around us, the depressed, the abandoned, the poor, the broken hearted, the unemployed, widows and orphans and all those who are struggling in their lives. The more deeply we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more closely our priorities will align with His. Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon our faithful departed. Through your infinite mercy, they may be consoled and be refreshed. Amen

God bless you richly!

In Christ, King of Infinite Mercy, Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

Father encourages you to find time for Confession during the upcoming Advent season. In place of our Advent Penitential Service, Father will continue to be available on Saturday mornings. In addition, he is available for Confession through private appointments.

PARISH ADDRESS

4302 57th avenue Olds, Alberta T4H1C5 403-556-3084

<u>ststephen102@gmail.com</u> – Office <u>ststephenPA@outlook.com</u> – Pastoral Ass't <u>www.ststephens-olds.ca</u> - Website

PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac
Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired
Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin
Office Admin – Mia MacDonald

Office Hours of Father Nilo (Parish) Tues 9-5 Wed – 8-12 AM Thurs – Trochu Friday 9-5

MASS TIMES

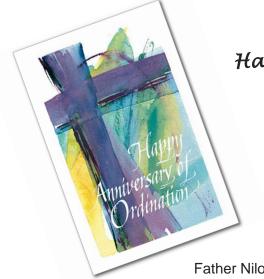
Saturday Evening – 5 PM
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday – 11:15 AM
2nd, 4th Sunday – 9:00 AM
Daily Live stream – 6 PM
Friday Morning Mass – 9 am
Confession – Every Saturday 11am
Appt's for Confession are also
available.

St. Stephen Fundraiser's

Thank you to all who supported our recent Cocobrooks fundraiser. Our tailgate pick up party is scheduled for Nov 23, 2020.

Watch our Facebook Page for a new Fundraiser.

God Bless and Be Well



Happy Anniversary Father Nilo

Thank you for your faithful service to the people of God.

Father Nilo will celebrate his 15th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood on Nov 21, 2020.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Thank you to everyone who was able to support the Cocobrooks Fundraiser. Thank you to our committee members who shared their time and talents to help organize and implement this Fundraiser.

SACRAMENTAL PREP - FIRST COMMUNION

There are Prep Books and CD's at the Parish for those who have begun their Sacramental Prep These are fantastic resources for you to review as a family with your child. (1 child - \$20 2 children - \$30.)

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

In lieu of our regular Baptismal Preparation classes, new parents wishing to get their child baptized will meet with Father Nilo for an interview and discussion. We are also advising new parents to use the wonderful resources available through **Formed.org** in preparing for Baptism.

Contact the office for more information.

FAMILY LIFE

Family Life is inviting all the nationalities in the parish to submit a tree ornament that symbolizes your native ancestral country for the Christmas tree that will be in the foyer during Advent. Let it be a sign of unity in our parish!

We would also appreciate any recipes that your native country favors during the Advent and Christmas season. We are especially looking for Scottish (St. Andrew's feastday), East Indian (St. Francis Xavier), Greek (St. John Damascene), St. Nicholas (European), Mexican (St. Juan Diego), Swedish (St. Lucy) and Spanish (St. John of the Cross). We hope to have a nine-day novena beginning on Dec.16th-24th, which invites all the cultures such as the Filipino, Mexican, etc. who celebrate with certain foods, prayers and songs during that time. Please email it to Maria at maria@bluemantle.ca or give it to the office ladies.

<u>Theology of the Body</u> – the book of the month for November available on the table just inside the first set of doors. Each book is \$10. Please pay the ladies in the office.

Mission of the Family – still a few books left. Make sure you get yours!

Calling all new **homeschoolers**! If you would like to meet other homeschoolers in the area, please call Maria @ 403-415-6833.

BOTTLE DEPOT - ST. STEPHEN'S FUNDRAISING

Members of our Filipino community have helped us set up an account/bin at the Bottle Depot. You can drop your bottles off and inform the staff that they are for St. Stephen's OR we have a wonderful Volunteer that is able to pick up your bottles for donation. Please contact Joseph at 403-586-45909. Thank you to those who are contributing to this campaign!!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

If anyone is interested in joining the CWL & becoming a part of this integral group & women of faith we are taking memberships. Contact Pres. Joanne @403 791 1186 OR membership contact Laurel @403 556 2360

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

The Knights will be having their Winter Mundare Sausage Sale on Dec 12, 2020 10-2pm. Swing by to support our Local Knights and fill your freezer with Sausage!

The Knights are setting up the Nativity Scene at St Stephen's on November 28th at 9:30am - as we begin Advent. This is part of our Keep Christ in Christmas program. All available Brothers are asked to help if they can. Please contact Beat Zumbuehl at: mbzumbuehl@gmail.com. Thanks!



SOCIAL JUSTICE

THE SEASON FOR GIVING IS NOW: GIVING COMPASSION, LOVE, SUPPORT & HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED. Our Social Justice Committee asks your help with our 2nd annual Street Backpack project in partnership with The Mustard Seed. We had an overwhelming response last year which was received with such gratitude! Our Alberta winters can be freezing cold & harsh for those on the streets. This year with the pandemic the need for help and compassion is even greater. The items that are put in a special backpack for these folks are necessities that provide immediate comfort. This gift will ease the suffering of a homeless neighbour. It is a gift that will keep their hope & spirit alive. YOU have the power to make a difference!

Please pick an item or two from the list below & bring this item to place in the labelled boxes in the foyer. We will make sure it gets to those special backpacks! Thank- you so much for your generosity!

Items needed include:

Backpacks toothpastes, toothbrushes

Disposable razors shaving gel & lotion running shoes travel size tissue,

hand sanitizer deodorant, travel size body wash blankets

travel size shampoo & conditioner sweaters, toques, scarfs, mittens (adult and child) toilet paper socks, T-shirts, underwear(male & female all sizes)

combs & brushes Q-tips feminine hygiene products ear plugs

nail clippers trail mix/ granola bars

paperback book, small flashlight

notebook & pen small towel, reusable water bottle, sunglasses

COMMUNITY

Snow Shoveling - Winter is upon us, and with it, the snow.

Mr. Michael McAllister of our Parish, is offering Snow Shoveling to those who are unable to manage this task on their own. You can call Michael at 403-556-7843 or 403-638-7461.

CHURCHWATCH PROGRAM

The Parish Pastoral Council is looking to developing a CHURCHWATCH program. Buildings that are unattended for periods of time are much more likely to suffer from vandalism including arson. A Church watch program is a simple, effective and participatory way for a congregation to protect its church. The program is a commitment by participants to bring supervision of the church into their regular routine.

We are in need of a designated contact for the program and it would be more convenient for them to live in town. This person would liaise with the local police when contacted by participants in the Church watch program. The program consists of participants agreeing to pass by the church on a regular basis to ensure that no potentially harmful activity is going on there. This entails walking or driving by the church and taking note of anything going on. When you are out running errands try to take a route that goes by the church. If you are walking your dog, use the church as a destination or part of the route. If you saw someone on the church grounds that were behaving suspiciously, you would **not** confront them. You would try to make yourself visible to them from a safe distance and then contact the Church Watch leader and advise them of the situation. They will be responsible for contacting the police if it is deemed necessary by demonstrating that the church is being watched over, people will be discouraged from damaging it.

If you are interested in becoming the Church Watch coordinator or a member of the Church Watch group, please contact the office at 403-556-308

FORMED.ORG

The Parish office would like to know if you have been able to enjoy all that FORMED has to offer. If you could take a few minutes to email Mia with your recommendation. She will share your suggestion in upcoming bulletins. If you are having issues or need assistance, please don't hesitate to call the office. Ststephen102@gmail.com

Beginning next week and continuing through the weeks of Advent, we will share specific links and reflections through Formed.org. We encourage you to view these programs with us by dedicating a small part of your week to your Journey through Advent.

ESSENTIAL VOLUNTEERS

More Essential Volunteers are needed to help with our Weekend Mass. We are incredibly grateful to those who have been serving on our team since the beginning, and our hope is that we can continue to build our Essential Volunteer team. As Advent approaches, we are looking to fill our volunteer spots for the Christmas Mass schedule. If you are able to help, please let Donna in the office know.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

What do you call a sleep walking Nun?

A Roam'n Catholic ☺