



SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 BULLETIN

My dear brothers and sisters;
Grace and peace to you!

Though we can never fully grasp the infinite perfection of God and His ways, a basic knowledge of Scripture reveals that God's logic often differs from worldly logic.

Our first reading, from Isaiah, reminds us that God often thinks bigger than we do. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." As His followers we must strive as best we can to think as God does, using our time (and our talents and treasure, too) with eternity in mind.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus offers us a glimpse of the "Godly logic" of the Father through a parable of a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. Some workers are called early in the day, others not until very late. Yet the landowner pays them all a full day's wage. This angered the laborers who had worked longest. But those laborers were relying on human logic and human calculations. They were not thinking as God does.

This can happen to us Christian stewards as well. We can grumble and complain (at least internally) when we compare ourselves to others and sense that not everyone is contributing as much as we are to the parish, the neighborhood, within our family and so on. At those moments, we need to think bigger!

We must remember that it is a great privilege to have been called by the Father to work in His vineyard. Living the stewardship way of life brings us meaning, depth and purpose.

Let's embrace this Godly thinking and thank Him for calling us to this way of life. I would like to thank all our parish staff, essential volunteers in this time of pandemic, various lay organizations, PPC-Finance, Maintenance, and various ministries for your amazing contributions. God bless you richly!

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

PARISH ADDRESS

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PASTORAL / OFFICE STAFF

Pastor – Father Nilo Macapinlac

Deacon – Charles Johnston – Retired

Pastoral Ass't – Donna Litwin

Office Admin – Mia MacDonald

PARISH EVENTS

Bible Study w/Fr. Nilo – Tue – 7 PM - Zoom

Call to Protect Volunteer Training – Oct 3

@ 9:30- Noon (Parish Hall – Safety Measures)

Book of the Month Club – TBD

CALL TO PROTECT

Deacon Charles is planning a training session for Call to Protect for all of our volunteers who need training. If you are involved with one of our committees, are signed up as an essential volunteer or are hoping to volunteer your time in the upcoming months for Mass, this training is mandatory. Contact the office or Deacon Charles directly to register

Oct 3 – 9:30-12 – Parish Hall

God Bless and Be Well

FAMILY LIFE

Welcome Wagon Team- We are looking for people to join our Welcome Wagon Team. We are wanting to welcome new Parishioners as they join our Parish – help them discover what our Parish offers and educate them on our various committees and offerings within the parish. Please contact Maria if you are interested in being involved.

Cultural Traditions- Our Tri Parish Community is blessed with a diverse community that we would like to recognize. We would like to learn about each other's Catholic Traditions – some examples would include Santa Niño de Cebu (Filipino), St. Patrick's Day (Irish), St. Nicholas Day (European), the Blessing of Easter Breakfast (Croatian) and so many more. We would like to share in these traditions through our coffee parties (when we are able) and through the bulletin. Please share how these traditions are celebrated through food, processions, blessings, etc so that our Parish Community can celebrate together. Our Catholic traditions are so rich, and give "flesh" to our faith.

As we roll into Fall with Thanksgiving, All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day – are there any special ways in which your Culture celebrates these days?

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – FIRST COMMUNION

We are now accepting Registrations for children who will be taking their First Reconciliation/ First Communion this year. Classes will start via Zoom at the end of October.

Don't Forget – we have Sacramental Prep Books and CD's here at the Church for our little people who are signed up and preparing for their First Communion (2020) These are fantastic resources for you to review as a family with your child.(1 child - \$20 2 children - \$30.)

BIBLE STUDY W/ FATHER NILO

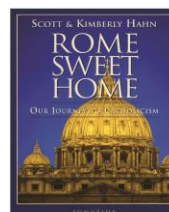
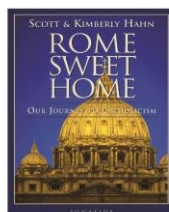
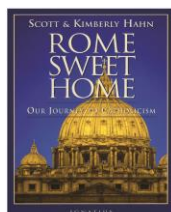
Father Nilo will be running a bible study on Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom. It's not too late to sign up. He will be using a FORMED.ORG program for all to follow. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office or touch base with Father Nilo directly.

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

You can download a book for some weekend reading. If you haven't already taken the opportunity to read "Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism" by Scott & Kimberly Hahn, here is your chance. You can download it onto your Kindle or through another book app. Discover how the Hahn's found Catholicism and the story of their conversion. It's an incredible story and an inspiration for all readers – it causes you to step back and take a look at your own Faith Journey.

<https://watch.formed.org/rome-sweet-home-our-journey-to-catholicism-by-scott-kimberly-hahn>



BOOK OF THE MONTH

We will be ordering books in from Dynamic Catholic. They are easy-to-read, yet have spiritual content that makes you think. There are several ways to utilize these books:

1. For your own enjoyment and personal reading. Think about stocking up for Christmas gifts!
2. Find a *Book Buddy*. Do you know anyone who may be a senior, housebound, or alone, who enjoys reading books and discussing them? It could be done live or by phone.
3. Start a *Neighbourhood Book Club*. Perhaps there are others in your area that would like to gather to enjoy discussing? Again, it could be done live, socially distanced of course, or by Zoom

Maria will be ordering books each month. The two titles below are being brought in for our first order. There are two titles available for our first order, and thereafter, we will bring in one book a month. The cost of each book is \$10 CAD. You can pay at the office or through e-transfer – ststephen102@gmail.com – please refer to the Book title in the description.

Book 1- *Beautiful Hope*- When everything seems chaotic and we are faced with a multitude of negative realities, we might be tempted to say that nothing makes sense anymore. But we are not alone—God walks with us and his presence fills us with hope. Because of this we are able to smile in the midst of our difficulties. Despair is defeated because God is with us. The contributors to this book share stories that are meant to spark your own exploration of hope and increase its abundance in your life. We need an infusion of hope so we can see more clearly and live boldly as children of God.

Book 2- *The Mission of the Family*-When asked to name the most important things in our lives, many of us put “family” near the top of our list. But what is the purpose, what is the meaning, of family? How can the family practice the Catholic faith at home, in its parish, and in today’s society? Discover God’s important mission and purpose for you, your spouse, and your children.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

~ The Father Forsythe Council of the Knights of Columbus - covers Olds, Didsbury, and Sundre – recipient of the Knights of Columbus **Star Council Award** for the fraternal year 2019.

~**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).

~ The Knights of Columbus – **Alberta/NWT State Council usual Charities Appeal Raffle** has been indefinitely cancelled. NOW the CHARITIES APPEAL is an online 50/50 Fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased by residents of Alberta, 18 years of age or older, at the website: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/kocab>. Please consider supporting the charity work of the Knights. Ticket sales end Oct 21st, 2020 with the draw on Oct 28th, 2020. Thanks!

**Back by
Popular Demand!**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling “Mundare Sausage” on Saturday October 3 from 10-2 underneath the awning. They sold out last time, so don’t miss out.

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

GET TO KNOW YOUR PARISH MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

Ministry or Parish Group- One ministry or group in the church will be described with contact information for the head of that ministry. Please consider using your gifts and talents to help St. Stephen's grow!

Youth Group – Dominic Valencia is our Youth representative for the Parish Pastoral Council. Dominic, along with a team of wonderful volunteers, under the guidance of Father Nilo, plan, organize and lead the Youth of our Parish in their Faith Journey. They help our Catholic Youth to connect with each other and with the Parish community. Despite the challenges of Covid, our Youth committee continue to plan for Zoom events and intend to find creative ways to keep our Youth connected. If you are interested in participating in our Youth Group or becoming part of our Youth committee, please see Father Nilo or Dominic.

MASS SIGN IN & PROTOCOLS

If you haven't had a chance to sign up online, we suggest you do so. This process helps us to create a spreadsheet of Parishioners attending Mass and expedites the process upon arriving. If you are unable to do so, we will continue to require each family to fill out a Contact Tracing Form at each Mass. The sign in link is available on our website, on our Facebook page or you can contact the office for assistance. The Archdiocese of Edmonton now requires us to wear Masks for the duration of Mass including entering and exiting of the Church. We are blessed to be able to gather as a Parish Community and thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

BUSINESSES OWNED AND OPERATED BY YOU- OUR PARISH FAMILY

Catholic Businesses and Services- In an effort to help promote the small businesses/services of our parishioners during this time of covid-19, we will offer a business card sized space in the bulletin for you. This is a perfect way to get your business known and an easy way for our Parishioners to shop local through our very own skilled and talented people within the parish. Donations towards the bulletin space are welcome, but not required. You can contact the office to sign up.



YOUR CARD HERE

Promote your Candles, crafts, services, products, home based businesses, plumbing, carpentry,

Parish Giving

We continue to be thankful to our Parish Community who have been able to continue to give to the Church during these unprecedented months. Below are additional ways to give when you are unable to come in person.

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 – ststephen102@gmail.com. Please include your name so donation can be recorded correctly.

Automatic Contribution – Forms are available at the church to set up your weekly donations through Debit/Credit Automatic withdrawals