



SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 BULLETIN

My dear brothers and sisters;

Peace and good will!

As Christian stewards we are called to a high and holy standard — living as Christ's disciples every day and with every person the Lord places in our path. But we can move towards this goal in "baby steps." Jesus demonstrates this comforting truth through the parable He tells in today's Gospel from Matthew. It is the story of two sons whose father instructs them to go out and work in his vineyard that day. While the second son agrees to his father's request, he does not follow through — he fails to obey the father's will. The first son tells his father, "no." At least he is honest! And in the end, he reconsiders and obeys his father.

The first son's honest, less-than-perfect response, is consoling to us Christian stewards. Haven't we all felt this way at times when God's will for us seems to be just too hard? We can be honest with God at these times. He knows our thoughts already, after all. But when we stayed engaged in a real relationship with Him, even if it's just to say, "I don't think I can, Lord," He will supply us with just the grace we need to change our minds and do what He is asking us to do.

We can even take a step backward from time to time because our Father is merciful and kind. What matters is that we keep baby stepping along, assured of the grace we need to more closely imitate the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is the beauty of the stewardship way of life. May the Lord bless those who humbly serving the Lord in various ministries in our parish including those essential volunteers. Today is known as the World Day of Refugees and Migrants, let us pray for those who are distant from their family that they may become missionary disciples of the Lord wherever they are called for service. We humbly pray for their well being as they strive to be contributors to our economic stability and the common good as a nation.

Next month is the month of the Most Holy Rosary, let us pray as a family and we will experience the fruits of being together as family united in prayer especially for protection in this time of pandemic. God bless you all!

Yours in Christ the Lord,

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

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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?

Month of the Rosary - The month of October has traditionally been known as the Month of the Rosary. We have need of the intercession of Our Lady especially in this year of the Coronavirus. To this end, we will be honouring Our Lady through the following means:

1. Free rosaries will be available in the foyer of the church. Help yourself and please take an extra one to give to someone else who may not know the power of the Rosary.
2. Live streamed rosaries are prayed daily through Facebook, the Internet and Youtube.

<https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/> at 5:30 a.m.

<http://www.catholicTV.org/shows/the-rosary> check for rosary times

<https://therosary.online/> pray at any time

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CatholicTV>

3. We encourage everyone to pray individually and even better, as a family for an end to the pandemic of Covid but also of escalating violations of human rights.
4. *John 19:27 "And from that hour the disciple John took Mary to his own home. ...".* **"Bring Mary Home" Rosary Rally-** Friday October 16th at 6:30 p.m. (with rain dates of 23rd or 30th.) on back lawn of St. Stephen's. Everyone is invited to bring a candle, either wax or battery-operated. Dress according to the weather.

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 candidates 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.

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

Join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal as they recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet with beautiful imagery.
<https://watch.formed.org/devotional-1/videos/divine-mercy-chaplet-franciscan-friars-of-the-renewal>



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.

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!!

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!

Liturgy – Judy Walhstrom has just come on board as our Committee Chairperson for Liturgy.

Our Liturgy committee oversees Spiritual Development, Faith Formation, organization and preparation of Liturgical events including our Holy Mass, Baptisms, Funerals and weddings. Our Liturgy committee includes our Music Liturgy, which includes Mary Trenholm and her team who provide us with Music for all liturgical events. Our team of Sacristans, led by Cindy Boffey, fall under Liturgy and are instrumental in coordinating and preparing for our Liturgical service – including care of our sacred vessels, inventory of consumables like altar wine and altar bread, and readiness of the altar for Mass. If you are interested in joining the Liturgy committee, please see Judy for more information.

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 2019/2020.

~ **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.

Knights of Columbus is pleased to bring you a live virtual presentation by Tom Hegna on October 8th at 6pm MST. Registration is required for a limited number of spots. If you would like to attend please send an email to kofc4748@gmail.com and we will forward you the link. A Link to short 1-minute intro/bio of Tom: <https://youtu.be/4YkdBIYYUMo>

The General outline of the presentation is as follows: Introduction; Step 1: What is Your Plan? Step 2: Maximizing OAS/CPP Step 3: Explore a Hybrid Retirement Step 4: Protect Your Savings from Inflation Step 5: Secure More Guaranteed Lifetime Income Step 6: You Must Have a Plan for Long-Term Care Step 7: Use Home Equity Wisely; Using "Longevity Credits" for Retirement Income; What Does Life Insurance Have to do with Retirement? Conclusion

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.

Blue Mantle 
Olds AB T4H 1L9
Local : 587-796-0903
Maria and Dan Killoran
Homeschool and Catholic Books
www.bluemantle.ca ~ 1-877-858-6833

YOUR CARD HERE

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

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.

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

OUR PEOPLE

Update- Viviane Ganser is now back at home, after being released from hospital on September 17, 2020. She is slowly learning to adjust to life away from a hospital environment, although she will still be partaking in rehab, as an outpatient, on a weekly basis. Each day is a challenge as she tries to return to some form of normalcy. She has come a long way, over the past two and a half months, due principally to the prayers that she has received from the parishioners of our church congregation and prayer groups in Olds, Didsbury and Sundre. This has meant so much to both Viviane and I and we both thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like to talk to Viviane you can do so by phoning our home number (403-556-7686) at any time during the day. We have an answering machine so you can leave a message, or your name and number, if for any reason Viviane is not home when you call. Again, please keep Viviane in your prayers as her recovery is an ongoing process and has a ways to go yet. Thank you, Alvin

