



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
 We, the Catholic community of St. Anthony of Padua,
 relying on the wisdom and the grace of God, unite
 ourselves to the call for renewal and transformation of
 our spiritual, social and economic life

33rd Sunday in ordinary Time – 19 November 2017



Rev. Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD
PASTOR stenylocd@shaw.ca (778-321-8301)

Deacon James Meskas (604-615-5677)
jamiemeskas@gmail.com

PARISH STAFF

Beccie Bokenfohr (Administrative Assistant)
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SUNDAY EUCHARIST
 Sunday 09:00 am, 11:00 am
WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
 and Saturday 09:00 am Tuesday, 7:00 pm
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Monday,
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8 to 8:40 am,
 Tuesday 6:30 pm to 6:55 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Every Friday at 09:30 am (Benediction at 10:30 am)

PARISH GROUPS

Parish Finance Council: Karl Dopf 604 302 1988
Parish Pastoral Council: Rick McArthur 604 220 5843
CWL: Joan Postnikoff 604 491 1891
Knights of Columbus: Gerard Gouwenberg, 604 316 9708
Youth Ministry: Adriana Striker, 604 795 0270
PREP:

RCIA: Ginny Lejeune 604 796 9573

Lectors: Jack Van Dongen 604 997-4625

Eucharistic Ministers: Cruz Ortiz 604 761 1929

Counters: Wilma Struys 604 796 8901

Sacristy: Patrick Donegan 604 796 0261

Ushers/Greeters: Gerald Struys 604 796 8901

Fundraising committee: Jack Van Dongen 604 997-4625

Parish Screening Committee:

Peggy Turner 778 878 0650

Maintenance: Frank Van Scheyndel 604 491 3000

SACRAMENTS: Please contact the Parish Office

Music coordinators

Anna Gouwenberg at 604-796-2341

Ron & Marguerite Rocheleau 604 796 1236

Anthony Pavick 604 860 0202

Janelle Ryan 604 796 1078

Project Advance: Leonne Beebe 604 796 3382

Gerard Gouwenberg, 604 316 9708

Parish Website: <http://stanthonyagassiz.ca>

Reflection: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." - Matthew 25:21.

God expects us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us; He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

Advent, Christmas and New year Celebrations

Mark your calendars

Advent begins: December 3rd first Sunday of Advent.

Christmas Potluck Dinner: December 17th at 4.30pm

Advent Confessions: December 19th at 6pm to 7pm.

Christmas Eve Mass: December 24th at 5pm (Sunday)

Christmas day: December 25th at 10.30am

Last day of the Year: Dec. 31st **Adoration** at 10am to 11am

New Year 2018: 1st January 2018 Mass at 10.30am

World Day of the Poor is Sunday, November 19

Pope Francis has declared the first World Day of the Poor this coming Sunday, November 19. Archbishop Miller has written a letter to all the faithful: "In declaring this the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has given us a great gift. The approach of Advent – a season known for giving, but also for rampant consumerism – makes this an opportune time to reflect on the kind of society we want to live in." You can download Archbishop Miller's official letter here, or read the rest of his letter online here. Get involved by visiting rcav.org/poor or stay tuned on Catholic Vancouver's social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @archvancouver.

Faith Formtion: Knowing & Defending Your Faith

Janelle Ryan and Adriana Striker will be presenting to the parishioners, on Thursday, November 30 at 7pm, the 2nd of a 2 DVD course. **We encourage everyone to come. You will be amazed at the information and help you will receive from these sessions. It is our efforts to empower you towards defending our Faith. Please bring your Bibles. Refreshments served. (Also, please sign up so we can know the numbers coming, for the setup.)**

A Special thanks to Ginny Lejeune, Adriana Striker and Janelle Ryan for organizing this. May God bless you and your Family for the work that you do for the Church, in particular to our Parish. Your help in helping us to grow in our faith is highly appreciated.

7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz BC V0M 1A2

Email: parish.sapa@rcav.org or st.anthonys@shaw.ca Phone: 604-796-9181 Web: <http://stanthonyagassiz.ca/>



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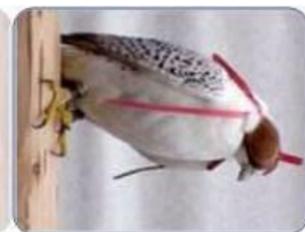
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Up-Coming Events

Adoration: First Friday of every month at 9.30am
Divine Mercy Novena: Every Friday 9.30 am
 Advent Confessions on Dec. 19th @6pm
 Christmas potluck dinner December 17 @4.30pm

We remember in prayer all those who are sick, including: Peggy Turner, Florence Sinclair, Cheryl Yaretz, Fr. Gerry Guillet, Paul Mckenzie, Ernie Solomon, Louis Hunter, Richard Pennier-Hall., Carol Beebe, Mike Harrison, Nick Rusnak, Terry Huculak, Quirinus Corneilius, Stella Hildebrandt.

We remember in prayer: those who have died: Maurice Fernandez, Fred Postnikoff

Teaching Positions: Various teaching positions available on the CISVA employment page. Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese is seeking individuals interested in working in the CISVA as Educational Assistants and as Teachers. Please visit our website at www.cisva.bc.ca for further information on how to apply and to view available teaching positions.

Archdiocesan Holy Hour every month

Join Fr. Rodney Nootebos, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, along with other members of the faithful throughout the Archdiocese, in a monthly Holy Hour of prayer, intensely focused on asking the “Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers into the harvest.” The next Holy Hour will be Sunday, Nov. 26, at St. Ann's Church in Abbotsford at 3 p.m. Visit rcav.org/event-archdiocese-holy-hour for the full calendar and to download a printable poster.

Bulletin advertisements: We are thankful to the businesses that have so generously placed advertisements on the backside of our bulletin. If you are interested in placing an advertisement, there are still a few openings. Please contact Fr. Steny if you would like to do this at stenylocd@shaw.ca

Catholic Street Missionaries One-Day Training and Outreach: Spend an afternoon with us on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to experience how we reach out to our less privileged brothers and sisters on the streets of Vancouver. Our afternoon will include Bible meditation, training, homeless outreach, sharing, and pizza. (All participants need to be present at 1:30 p.m. to attend the training and Bible meditation before going to outreach with us.) Email info@catholicstreetmissionaries.org or call Mildred 778-885-9611.

Development & Peace Fall Workshop:

Celebrate women’s peace initiatives around the world and learn what we can do to advocate in our communities to support their frequently marginalized efforts at our Fall Workshop on Friday, Nov. 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. rcav.org/e

A guide to the Sacrament of Penance

1. What is Confession?

Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in his love and mercy. It is here that we meet the loving Jesus who offers sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God and neighbor. At the same time, Confession permits sinners to reconcile with the Church, which also is wounded by our sins. The sacrament, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, is known by many names. Sometimes “it is called the sacrament of conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus’ call to conversion” (1423). But it is also better known as “the sacrament of Penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction” (1423).

For many of us it still continues to be known as “the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament” (1424). At the same time, the Catechism reminds us that “it is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace’” (1424). Finally, it is also called the sacrament of Reconciliation because it reconciles sinners to God and then to each other (1424). In this text, we will refer to the sacrament as the sacrament of Penance.

Through this sacrament, we meet Christ in his Church ready and eager to absolve and restore us to new life. The graces of Christ are conferred in the sacraments by means of visible signs - signs that are acts of worship, symbols of the grace given and recognizable gestures through which the Lord bestows his gifts. In the sacrament of Penance, the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of grace are the gifts received through the outward sign, i.e., the extension of hands and words of absolution pronounced by the priest.

2. What is sin? Unfortunately, in society today, many people have lost the understanding of sin. Our Holy Father has stated that “it happens not infrequently in history, for more or less lengthy periods of time and under the influence of many different factors, that the moral conscience of many people becomes seriously clouded. . . . Too many signs indicate that such an eclipse exists in our time” Reconciliation and Penance, 18). In our day, many people have lost the sense of sin and feel that they can do whatever they wish without considering or fearing the consequences.

For such people, the term “sin” has no meaning. Yet we know that sin is a terrible evil which all of us must come to understand and with which all of us must struggle. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, sin “is an offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God”. In other words, sin is willfully rejecting good and choosing evil. In judging the degree of sin, it is customary to distinguish between mortal and venial sins. “Mortal sin,” the Catechism teaches, “destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God’s law . . . Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it”.

Reflection: Today’s gospel is one of a series of passages that address the general issue of preparing for our step into the adventure of eternal life. Today’s Gospel deals particularly with how we sense God; and our behaviour in the light of that. One approach is spelt out clearly by the servant given only the one talent: he feared his master. I had heard that you were a hard man... so I was afraid. That fear compelled him to “play it safe”; it paralysed his creativity. The outcome of that attitude is plain: he missed out. Take the talent from him and give it to the man who has five talents.

The other two took risks. The story does not explicitly make clear their sense of their master; but it was certainly not fear. Their behaviour shows obviously enough that they saw him as a man interested in more, in growth, generous, ready to trust, prepared to face the possibility of failure. The outcome: Come and join in your master’s happiness. How does it all relate to us as we live now, with one eye on eternity? Let’s check out our sense of God: when all is said and done, is our God a hard, inflexible God, obsessed with our toeing the line, our playing it safe, absorbed with commandments - a dangerous God? Or is our God a God who trusts us, gives us freedom, risks our making mistakes, wants us in his company - a God who loves us and is not afraid of life?

Let’s check out, too, our approach to morality. Have we allowed ourselves to grow to a mature level of moral development? Is our primary concern to become persons who love and reach out in compassion, and are big enough to forgive? Do we seek to get in touch with, and surrender to, our thirst for God, not obsessed with control - always wondering how we are going - but able to die to the protective self? Are we confident to think responsibly for ourselves and to refine our consciences, living, as we do, in the midst of a complex world of sometimes conflicting duties? Or, do we feel ourselves overburdened with commandments, obsessed particularly by the negative ones: don’t do this! don’t do that! too fearful to prioritise Jesus’ positive direction to love God, self and others, always needing someone to tell us what to do, scared to explore, develop and follow our own conscience and to stand on our own two feet? In contrast to Matthew’s Pharisees and their preoccupations with minute regulations, is it the weightier matters of the Torah that attract us? As Jesus listed them in a recent Gospel: .. justice and mercy and faith?

In the story, the servant given the one talent didn’t do anything wrong, except to misread the heart of the his master, and to compel his master, as it were, to act in line with his misreading. It was really a fateful mistake. Take the talent from him ... throw him out into the dark! In real life, the consequences of our choices are not so much rewarded or punished by God, but they do have their own intrinsic logic: to live fearfully is to live a diminished life; to live trustfully and lovingly is to find life to the full. We move now into Eucharist. We seek to align our hearts and minds with the heart and mind of Jesus as, on the cross, he committed his life trustingly to God. We allow his Spirit to draw us deeper... putting us in touch with our inmost self, and to live and to love from there in freedom. Perhaps we live in more dangerous times... but we refuse to focus obsessively on self-preservation. Rather we peacefully face our world, resolved to shape it ever more in line with Jesus’ values of justice and mercy and faith.

Manual Labourers Urgently Needed

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is looking for workers capable of manual labour (including lifting up to 100 lbs) and open to casual work between now and December 15 in the downtown Vancouver area. If interested please send your resume and contact information along with days and times available to: humanresources@rcav.org

Volunteer Opportunities

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is accepting applications for volunteer opportunities in the following areas: Administrative Support, Program Support, and Events Support. For more info, see rcav.org/employment/

The 2018 Sunday Missals have arrived. If you wish to purchase one for your personal use, they are available for sale in the Gathering Area for \$4 per book. Contact office or st.anthonys@shaw.ca

Project Advance 2017

Our appreciation goes out to all parishioners who have made a gift to Project Advance. To date, we have received 41 gifts totaling \$30,228.69 from our parishioners. Remember that funds received over our Archdiocesan goal will be returned to us and used for the payment of debt and paving of the parking lot. Please continue to respond in prayer and generosity. Our sharing reflects our caring.



The CWL will hand out Christmas Food Bank Bags on Sunday November 19th, you are requested to return them by Sunday, Dec.3rd.

Mass Intentions

Sunday	9 am	Marian Skalicky+
Wedding Ave.	11 am	Yoland & John Chambers (62 Av.)
Monday	9 am	Frank Boesterd+
Tuesday	7 pm	Johanna Struys+
Wednesday	9 am	Tony Struys+
Thursday	9 am	Klaus Soth+
Friday	9 am	Maria Kosla+
Saturday	9 am	Pavick Intentions+

12 November 2017

Envelopes	\$1,147.00
Loose	\$152.00
Total	\$1,299.00