



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

3rd Sunday of Advent – 17 December 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>

Advent, Christmas and New year Celebrations

Mark your calendars

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

Reflection: Joy: Giving is a popular topic of conversation this

time of year. There is joy in giving. When we give in gratitude to

God for the many gifts He has given us, it enriches the experience

of giving a gift. When gratitude is behind our giving, joy always

accompanies the gift. Joy radiates from giving, and thus, joy

shared is joy multiplied. Stewardship is giving, motivated by both

joy and gratitude. It's more than giving to a need... it's needing to

give!

Day of Obligation: Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday.

Because Catholics are obliged to attend Mass for Sundays and

Holy Days of Obligation, some have asked whether a Sunday

evening Mass on Christmas Eve would fulfill both the obligation

for a Sunday Mass and the obligation for a Christmas Day Mass.

The faithful should attend two Masses to fulfill their Sunday and

Christmas Mass obligations.

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Dec. 17th at 4.30 pm

All are invited (please signup)

Archbishop Miller's Christmas Message

One holy night 2,000 years ago, the Son of God became man.

Born in a lowly stable, the Mighty God and Prince of Peace came

to dwell among us. "I bring you good news of a great joy for all

the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,

who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). This Christmas, the

Angel's proclamation rings out once again, inviting each of us to

welcome our Saviour. Let us not hesitate to allow him into our

homes, parishes, schools, workplaces, and communities!

rcav.org/archbishop-millers-christmas-message-2

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



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Up-Coming Events

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, Ken Ferguson, Stella Hildebrandt.

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

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018

Pope Francis, in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, urges us to respond with love and to encounter our Lord Jesus Christ whenever a stranger knocks at our door. He says: "This is a great responsibility, [whom we], are called to respond to the many challenges of contemporary migration with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight, each according to their own abilities. Our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate." Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish, Vancouver, by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, for the 6th year in our Archdiocese. A celebration of different cultural traditions will follow Mass. Visit rcav.org/wdmr or send us an email at wdmr@rcav.org for more details.

ONE Conference 2018: The annual ONE Conference brings 1,000 parish and ministry leaders from across Catholic Vancouver together to connect, learn, and inspire each other. Mercy and Beyond: Sharing our Joy is the theme of the 2018 ONE Conference, and we will hear from two remarkable keynote speakers who have inspired thousands of people to receive God's mercy and share his joy with others. Sign up to get notified when registration opens at onecatholic.ca. The ONE Conference will be on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, at the Chandos Pattison Auditorium at Pacific Academy, Surrey. rcav.org/event

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

"May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end." Join us as we celebrate life on Thursday, Dec. 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m. Reception to follow in the Cathedral Hall (donation of finger foods is appreciated). rcav.org/event/annual-mass-life-2017

Parenting Ministry: Making Sense of Anxiety in Children and Youth. Dr. Gordon Neufeld sheds light on the problem of the escalating level of anxiety in our children and paves the way for natural interventions to get to the root causes as opposed to just managing symptoms. Although the focus is on children, the material will benefit anyone suffering from anxiety. St. Ann's Family Group invites parents and caregivers to this course on Thursdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1 from 7 - 9 p.m. Cost is \$30/person. Register to reserve your spot. For more details, email stannsfamilygroup@gmail.com or visit rcav.org/event/making-sense-of-anxiety.

(Continued from last week Bulletin)

12. Why do I receive a penance?

To complete the process, a penance is imposed. Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all disorders caused by sin. While we are not capable of truly satisfying God for the evil we have done and its consequences, we must make satisfaction for our sin through some action or prayer that will express our desire to make amends and to repair something of the disorder, damage or harm which our sinful actions have brought into the world. The penance imposed takes into account the penitent's personal situation and serves to support his or her spiritual good. It corresponds as much as possible to the gravity of the sins confessed. It may be a prayer, an offering, works of mercy, sacrifices or service to another. But this penance is in a real way our share in the Cross and helps us to be more closely joined to Christ.

In the Introduction to the Rite of Penance, we are reminded that true conversion is completed by acts of penance or satisfaction for the sins committed, by amendment of conduct, and also by the reparation of injury. The kind and extent of the satisfaction should be suited to the personal condition of each penitent. In this way the penitent is helped to be healed of the evil which caused him to sin. Therefore, it is necessary that the act of penance really be a remedy for sin and a help to renewal of life.

13. How often should I go to Confession?

Individual and integral confession remains the only ordinary way for us to reconcile ourselves with God and the Church. A Catholic who has committed mortal sin is obliged to seek God's forgiveness in this sacrament as soon as possible. In ordinary circumstances, a Catholic who has committed mortal sin should not receive Holy Communion before receiving sacramental absolution. Not only does God forgive our sins, but we also receive the power of God's grace to struggle against sin and to be strengthened in our commitment to God and the Church. So powerful is the grace of this sacrament that the Introduction to the Rite of Penance reminds us that frequent and careful celebration of this sacrament is also very useful as a remedy for venial sins. This is not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of baptism so that, as we bear in our body the death of Jesus Christ, his life may be seen in us ever more clearly.

Conclusion: Our Continuing Conversion

As we complete these thoughts on the sacrament of Penance, we might well reflect that the deepest spiritual joy each of us can sense is the freedom from whatever would separate us from God, a loving and merciful Father who receives each of us with all the forgiveness and love lavished on the prodigal son. Renewed, refreshed and reconciled in this sacrament once more, we who have sinned become a "new creation." Once more we are made new. It is this newness of spirit and soul that we hope all of us experience time and again in the sacrament of Penance.

2017 Advent Penitential Services

The Church encourages Catholics to participate in preparation during Advent by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. Here is a list of penitential services across the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Locations are separated into the archdiocese's six geographical deaneries. rcav.org/advent-penitential-services

Reflection:

You've got a few Johns to cope with today: There's me, John, reflecting on another John, the Baptist, as he is presented in today's Gospel passage by a third John, the Evangelist.

For John the Evangelist, the significance of John the Baptist is that he bore witness to Jesus. He was the one whose role was to introduce Jesus onto the public arena and to identify him as one greater than he. Further into the story, John the Baptist would give witness to the fact that Jesus, like the Lamb of God, was destined to take away the sin of the world.

We, too, in our different ways, are called to witness to Jesus, not necessarily by getting up on a soap box or a street corner or setting up a TV company and making televangelists of ourselves. I like the comment attributed to St Francis of Assisi: "Proclaim the Gospel at all times. But use words only when you have to." How, then? How can we witness to the presence and the power of Jesus, and to the way that he takes away the sin, the destructiveness, of the world?

Indeed, what do we see as the world's sin? the world's destructiveness? Sometimes it is hard to describe - since we are so used to it. It's everywhere. We don't notice it. It's a bit like the polluted air you sometimes see settled over the city of Melbourne as you come down the Pentland Hills on the highway near Bacchus Marsh. It shows up in the myriad ways that people fail to respect the dignity of other people. It is hauntingly clear in the countless war zones that scar our world. It is written on the faces of raped women and hungry, disease-ridden children. It is less clear, less confronting, less stark, perhaps, in our own little corner of the global village, but is nevertheless there in thousands of ways whenever we distinguish "them" from "us".

Jesus' answer to the mutual destructiveness of people was to love them - to see their dignity and to respect their dignity - whoever they were. With eyes wide-open, he accepted the vulnerability of love, perhaps even the futility of love, and, rather than withdraw from his insistence on the way of love, he allowed himself, as the Lamb of God, to become victim of the world's fears and aggression.

We witness to the impact of Jesus by taking on, after him, his way of redeeming our world. It is fascinating to see the power of his way working so effectively in so many people - in so many of you - in the ways that you relate to others in love, expressed through your respect, care, protection, even advocacy, within your families, the local community, the wider world - shown, quite simply sometimes, by your listening to people, accepting them as they are, reaching out to relate to them, using your own giftedness to teach, to serve, to protect, to speak out on their behalf, and so on

These are the some of the ways in which, like John the Baptist, we, too, witness to the light that is Jesus.

Christmas performance

Please join the students and staff of Agassiz Christian School for their Christmas performance 11:00 am or 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. Each class will be presenting a special number, the band will perform and the all-school choir will finish the evening off. The students are looking forward to performing for you! Please join the school in supporting the local Food Bank by bringing a non-perishable food item to the concert. Hope to see many of you in attendance!

Parenting Ministry: Living Through Grief

This presentation will focus on healthy grief reactions and provide suggestions on how to manage them. Topics include grief and faith; factors that influence grief; children and loss; and unhealthy grief reactions. There will be time for questions and discussions. Free admission and refreshments. Living Through Grief will be presented by registered psychologist Denis Boyd on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Helen's Church, Burnaby. Contact marcellegirard@shaw.ca for details or visit rcav.org/event/living-through-grief.

Ordination of Guy Zidago

The Archdiocese of Vancouver joyfully announces the ordination of Guy Zidago to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB. You are cordially invited to celebrate with us on Friday, Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Light refreshments to follow in the Cathedral Hall.

Poinsettias for Christmas



Poinsettias for Christmas:

Would you like to place a poinsettia in our Christmas Altar Display to honor a loved one? If so, you may use the specially marked envelopes provided in the pews, along with the donation and the name(s) of those to whom who you wish to acknowledge. (Kindly indicate your name or envelope number) You may drop them into Sunday offering basket, or at the parish office. Thank you!

Mass Intentions

Sunday	9 am	Hans Lejeune+
	11 am	Roy & Stacy Vanderwyk
Monday	9 am	Gelmana Shin
Tuesday	7 pm	Mary Vandean+
Wednesday	9 am	Nara
Thursday	9 am	Gelmana Shin
Friday	9 am	Nara
Saturday	9 am	Steven Bayes

10 December 2017

Envelopes	\$1,167.00
Loose	\$126.25
Total	\$1,293.25