



**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

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – 31 Dec. 2017**



**Rev. Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD**  
**PASTOR** [stenylocd@shaw.ca](mailto:stenylocd@shaw.ca) (778-321-8301)

**Deacon James Meskas** (604-615-5677)  
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**PARISH STAFF**

Beccie Bokenfohr (Administrative Assistant)  
[st.anthonys@shaw.ca](mailto:st.anthonys@shaw.ca)

**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

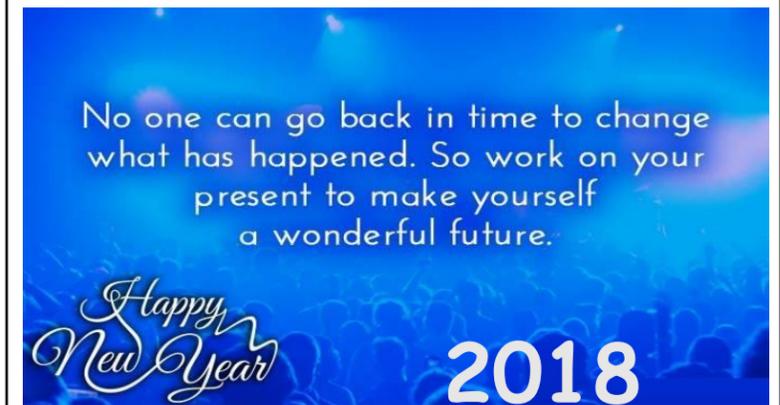
Janelle Ryan 604 796 1078

Project Advance: Leonne Beebe 604 796 3382

Gerard Gouwenberg, 604 316 9708

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

**Reflection:** Day-to-day family life can be a challenge for many of us. It helps to look to Joseph and Mary as the best model for living out our vocation as parents. Inspired by their example and led by the Holy Spirit, we can steward our children as God wants. The most important gift any of us can give our children is to nurture them in faith; so that, like Jesus in today's Gospel, "they grow and become strong, filled with wisdom" and have the "favour of God" upon them. Caring for our families is indeed the most vital and real-life example of good Christian stewardship.



"God is not indifferent! God cares about mankind! God does not abandon us! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to share not only this profound conviction but also my cordial good wishes for prosperity, peace and the fulfilment of the hopes of every man and every woman, every family, people and nation throughout the world, including all Heads of State and Government and all religious leaders. We continue to trust that 2018 will see us all firmly and confidently engaged, on different levels, in the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is both God's gift and a human achievement. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women, who are called to attain it.

- To God Almighty = \*I say Thank You.\*
- To my true friends = \*I appreciate you all.\*
- To those who showed me love = \*I'm grateful.\*
- To those who hurt me = \*I forgive and forget.\*
- To those I really hurt = \*I'm so sorry, please forgive me.\*
- To those who challenged me = \*let's do it again.\*
- To those who helped me = \*I am so grateful.\*

**The search for HAPPINESS is the main reason for UNHAPPINESS.**

**Accept the life as it comes, you will find HAPPINESS in every moment.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018**



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**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, Mike Joe.

**We remember in prayer: those who have died:** Maurice Fernandez, Fred Postnikoff, Ray McDonald, Vivian Ferguson

**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

**Third Annual Ordinandi Dinner**  
Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful as we gather together in support of the men who are soon “to be ordained” (“ordinandi”) to the priesthood. Meet your future priests: Deacon Guy Zidago, who will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and Deacon Ken Anderson who will be ordained for the neighbouring Diocese of Prince George. Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$50 (Student rate: \$25). You can also sponsor a priest or seminarian. To register or for more info on how to sponsor a priest or seminarian, visit vocationsvancouver.ca.

**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.

**Journey Discipleship Course - Abbotsford**  
The Journey Discipleship Course incorporates prayer, providing in-depth discipleship and spiritual care with the goal of helping individuals experience Jesus in their relationships, sexuality, and identity. Each evening consists of worship, teaching, and prayer in small groups. These gender-specific groups are safe places for bringing our struggles to God and each other. There are weekly reading assignments for reflection, study, and prayer. This comprehensive course runs on Thursdays from Jan. 25 to May 17, 7 - 9:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Church, Abbotsford. For course content and more details, visit rcav.org/event/journey-discipleship-course. Space is limited. Contact Journey Canada at fraservalley@journeycanada.org to request an application.

**Reflection: Mary Mother of God: 01 January 2018**

I like Luke's comment about Mary: She treasured these things and pondered them in her heart. It offers a window into the source of her greatness and gives us something we ourselves can imitate. She treasured these things ... She was open to experience; she was receptive. She pondered her experiences in her heart... In her receptivity she was open to explore meaning and to learn. Specifically, she was searching for the presence of God, there in her experience, and was ready to cooperate with the invitation of God. To me, this is the deeper meaning of her virginity. More than a physical state, it is a spiritual orientation. Virginity is essentially pure potential, receptivity, and possibility of cooperation. In its turn, the potential of virginity strains forward eagerly to the fulfillment of maternity – the giving and nurturing of life.

As spiritual orientations, we can all imitate both Mary's virginity and her maternity, whether we're male or female, married or unmarried. Like Mary, the virgin, we can be open to experience, and receptive to reality, seeking there the presence, the call and the empowerment of God. Like Mary, the mother, we can cooperate with God in giving birth to and nurturing the growth of God's Kingdom.

Being sensitive and responsive to the presence and call of God in our lives calls, from us, as it did from Mary, for the discipline of pondering - pondering in our hearts. It means observing our inner reactions to experience: and noticing the deeper hopes and fears, the deeper desires and the angers, stirred by our experiences. It means learning to discern, through a growing familiarity with our inner world, where God is working in our lives. It leads in time to our being able to draw on the power of the creating God and cooperate effectively with God. The Mary who pondered her unfolding life in her heart was the Mary who was able to say: Be it done unto me according to your word. And here [I believe], in this unreserved cooperation, lie the fullness and the fulfillment of all love. A mature love moves beyond even the deepest and most beautiful intimacy to a whole-hearted sharing of vision, of values, of priorities, and of commitments which, in turn, lead on to willing and eager cooperation with the beloved.

Like Jesus, with Jesus, Mary's spirit exulted in the God... who raised the lowly, who filled the hungry with good things, and who showed unconditional mercy to a world whose only hope for salvation is always forgiveness and the conversion that forgiveness awakens and empowers. Even at the foot of the cross, Mary said “Yes” to the determined love of her Son that led him to accept his own brutal murder. She did not talk him out of his determination but supported him in it. Mary shared with Jesus his total commitment to exposing to us and saving us from the endemic mutual destructiveness that scars our world. Our world would be a better world if we got to know Mary better, if we shared, with her, God's vision for our world ... and, if we, like her, committed ourselves wholeheartedly to God's project for the world's salvation – whatever the cost. As I have said: That would mean for us, as it meant for Mary, a genuine readiness to ponder our life-experiences in the deeper recesses of our hearts, to learn to be receptive to the presence of God in our lives, and to find ourselves empowered and eager to say, like Mary: Be it done unto me according to your Word.

**Reflection: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

The Sunday after the Christmas is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family. Christmas itself is the feast of God entering a family to stay with the humans. It appears that God thought it to be wise to start the decisive phase of salvation history from a family. In the story of the fall, the very first negative consequence of sin was visible in the family of the first parents; they distanced themselves from God, blamed one another and their life together became difficult, painful and filled with suffering. God deemed it fit to restore the broken family bonds as an important step towards the restoration of ruptured relationship the human race had with God. When God sent his son as the member of the family of Joseph and Mary, he was undoing the mistakes of the first parents.

The Church has always presented the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model family for Christians to imitate, calling it to be the Holy Family. But for the people living in the twenty first century, there is very little that makes it attractive to them. Jesus's family was just too simple and ordinary. Though it had some royal background, the life of the family members did not reflect it. It was a family which lived under the threat of the powerful and the influenced; evicted to Egypt from their home land, forced to live as migrants in Galilee. It did not have any financial or social security. It struggled hard to win its daily bread; did not receive any privileges from any quarters. Many of the features which we cherish and long for were absent in the family of Jesus. Still the Church calls it a model family and a holy family. The reasons for the same are the following: In this family Jesus, the Word incarnate, was its centre, his bonds of love and respect for the family members were very strong, and the only philosophy of its members was to seek the will of God and to obey it. Any family which espouses these principles would be a model family always and everywhere.

Jesus was the centre of the Holy Family. God called the other two members of the family and prepared them and blessed them with special graces to welcome Jesus into their midst. Mary and Joseph accepted Jesus to be a unique gift to their family. As parents of Jesus, they lived totally for him. Under their watchful eyes Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour. Parents must learn to keep Jesus at the centre of their married life. It would help them tackle many problems that might arise in their life. If Jesus is the centre of their life, they would learn the art making the family from Jesus's perspective. Letting Jesus enter our families and keeping him at its centre is the big challenge the couples of our time face. In the Gospel we see Jesus entering the homes of many. When he enters a home he leads its members to a deeper understanding of the Word of God (as happened in the home of Martha and Mary), invites them for a change of heart (as happened in the home of Zacchaeus), gives them healing(as happened in the home Peter) and restores life to its fullness (as happened in the home of Jairus).His presence in a home guarantees solution to the most waxing problems affecting it (as happened in the wedding home at Cana). Still many are afraid to let Jesus in, in their home.

The first reading from the Book of Sirach is a fine interpretation of the fourth commandment. It admonishes us to love and respect our parents. Those who honour their father atone for sins, and those who

respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure. Ours is a culture which respects the parents and the elders. In our homes and schools this virtue is very much insisted. It's fine. However, children, when they grow adults, do not take this virtue very seriously. So much so, we see parents in their old age are abandoned and uncared for or dumped to an Old Age Home where the love and warmth of a home is terribly missing. We shall not forget that parents in their old age need the loving and caring presence of their children and grand children. In a family where the bonds of love and respect are strong, the old and the infirm will be well cared for. A love less family is a sick family; it can never be a holy family.

The other characteristic that is noticeable in the Holy Family was its commitment to follow the will of God in everything. All the members of the Holy Family sought the will of God unreservedly. There was no trace of selfishness and vested interest in their life. Their unwavering faith in the providence of God enabled them to accept the joys and sorrows of life with serenity. They did not complain about anything. They accepted every happening in the family with humility. They were convinced that whatever happened to them was the Lord's doing. This attitude of theirs increased their love and respect for one another. They trusted each other as they trusted God. So they stood united in the ups and downs of their life. What we see in the families around us is the lack of openness to God and one another and the consequent disunity. When we push up our selfish agenda it will hurt both God and other members of our family. On this feast day of the Holy Family, let us recollect what the Psalmist has to say: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. •

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Sunday</b>	9 am 11 am	Fr. D.D. MacDonald+ Tony Struys+
<b>Monday</b>	10.30 am	Olsthoorn/VandeRaadt Fly+
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 pm	Francis Zak+
<b>Wednesday</b>	9 am	Maureen Shyba+
<b>Thursday</b>	9 am	Jeanine Wauthy+
<b>Friday</b>	9 am	Bernard Wauthy+
<b>Saturday</b>	9 am	Jean-Leon Wauthy+

**24 December 2017: 25 Christmas 2017**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$1830 .00</b>	<b>\$1885.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$109 .00</b>	<b>\$324.20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1947 .00</b>	<b>\$2209.20</b>