



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

Epiphany of the Lord – 07 January 2018



Rev. Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD
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PARISH STAFF

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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: Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany is defined as "a sudden intuitive perception or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something." Stewardship leads us to an epiphany: everything in life is a gift from God. This is true of everything we have: our worldly possessions and accomplishments; spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love; relationships with our spouse, family, and friends; our physical health and intellectual ability; the natural environment; life itself. They are all God's gifts! One day, God will require an accounting of the use each of us has made of these gifts he entrusted to us.

Thankfulness □ Gratitude □ Generosity

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Thank you for your kind and generous support toward our Parish here in Agassiz. It is a real consolation to me to realize that there are those who are willing to make sacrifices in order to share in the mission of the Church. In a very real sense, you are among those who give life to build our Parish as one community and family. Your generosity of time, talent and treasure never ceases to amaze me. It is always heartwarming when I am surprised with an unexpected donation, but it is the continued support and loyalty of parishioners such as yourself that I have learned to depend and count on. It is with deep and mindful gratitude that I send you my blessing. I say "mindful" because I know that you have often continued your generosity even though times might have been a bit difficult for you. Indeed, you are practicing true stewardship in recognizing that everything anyone of us possesses is truly a gift from God.

Again, I thank you from my heart for all your past support. I look forward to continuing this relationship with you for years to come. May all your days be filled with all the blessings you so richly deserve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD

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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St. Anthony of Padua Church

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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, Sr. Theresa Clarrizio, SA.

We remember in prayer: those who have died Ellen Sciotti, 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.

Up-Coming Events

Adoration: First Friday of every month at 9.30am

Divine Mercy Novena: Every Friday 9.30 am.

Holy Communion for the shut in - may be given at home upon request. Please contact the parish office.

Winter Institute 2018

The Winter Institute is a day dedicated to ministry training and faith formation courses. Courses include writing and sharing your testimony; classroom management; and sexual orientation and identity. Join us Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Holy Cross Regional Secondary, Surrey. Registration is \$40 on or before Jan. 22 (\$20 for half-day course). For course descriptions and registration, visit rcav.org/oc-winter-institute.

Men's Discernment Night

Do you have questions about discerning God's call for your life? Vocations in Progress for single men, aged 17 and up, is an opportunity to meet priests, ask questions, and learn about their life and spirituality. The informal event will include prayer, dinner, and discussion at St. Patrick's Church, Vancouver, on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 - 10 p.m.

Archdiocesan Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life:

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 one is on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Burnaby, 7 - 8 p.m.

Catechist Evening:

The Catechist Evening is an event celebrating the work of our archdiocesan catechists. PREP coordinators and leaders are invited on Friday, Jan. 12, at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 6 - 8 p.m. Cost is \$10. RSVP before Jan. 9 by e-mailing Murita Chua at mchua@rcav.org.

The Art of Invitation: An Alpha and Discover Discipleship Workshop

Do you feel called to help a friend renew their relationship with God? Sometimes all it takes is starting a new conversation with them. But how do we start that conversation? Learn practical tips from Mara Narciso (Alpha Canada) and Amber Zolc (CCO and Archdiocese of Vancouver) about the Art of Invitation on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. RSVP at discoverdiscipleship.ca/2017/12/28/alpha-and-discover-discipleship-information-sessions.

Estate Basics and Memorial Planning Workshop

This presentation by Catholic Cemeteries will help you gather your thoughts before you write your first will. Learn about the beauty and dignity of the funeral rite and how to formulate Pre-Need arrangements. Receive free guides and practical advice. No investment services or insurance will be promoted or sold. Join us in the McCarthy Room at Christ the Redeemer Church, West Vancouver, on Jan. 21, 9:45 a.m. after the morning Masses. Sign up at rccav.org/events/170.

Reflection: The Epiphany of the Lord

Up until now, all has been quite humble. A donkey-ride to a dusty town south of Jerusalem. Hotel rooms all booked up. Giving birth in a stable and laying the baby in an animal's feed trough instead of a cozy cradle. Into this scene of obscure poverty suddenly bursts an exotic entourage from a far-off land. Dignitaries in dress uniform lavish the newborn with expensive gifts that seem out of place in the humble surroundings. This event is so significant that it is accorded its own feast in the Roman liturgy, celebrated traditionally on Jan 6, immediately after the twelve days of Christmas. This solemn feast is called Epiphany, a word that means "manifestation" or "appearance." For a fleeting moment, what seems to be no more than another crying baby of an indigent family "appears" for who He really is—the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The gifts he is given, prophesied in Isaiah 60:6, tell the story: gold fit for a king, incense for the worship of God, and myrrh, bitter yet precious, for the hero who will lay down his life for his people. There are several important things to note about these prestigious visitors. They are Gentiles, not Jews. From the very beginning of his human existence, then, Jesus is clearly not just the Jewish messiah who has come to deliver the people of Israel from foreign oppression. No, he is the universal king, the ruler of all, who has come to tear down the hostile wall dividing Jew from Gentile, nation from nation. If you've ever wondered what the word "Catholic" means, here we have it. Derived from Greek words meaning "according to the whole," it means that Christ did not come to establish some local religious sect for a select few, one "cult" among many. No, the Church he founded is "catholic" or universal, spread over the whole world, welcoming the whole human race into one nation, one family, under one King.

Something else is to be noted about these illustrious visitors. As Gentiles, they are pagans. In fact the term "Magi" is clearly linked to the word "magic." It was not in the Bible that they normally looked for wisdom (otherwise they would have known to go straight to Bethlehem). But in reward for their ardent though perhaps misguided search for truth, God led them to Christ anyhow, in His great mercy. Ever since the days of Balaam, God has shown us that pagans can be mysteriously drawn to him and used by him, at times even through their own imperfect traditions of wisdom. If you go to the Sistine Chapel and study Michelangelo's work, you can see evidence of this. Lining the top of one wall of the chapel are famous paintings of many of the Old Testament prophets. Opposite them are not New Testament apostles as one may expect. But rather, a row of the Sybils, the prophetesses of the ancient world, in whose oracles there were discovered shadowy allusions to a future savior-king. One of Michelangelo's Sibyls has her mouth agape with astonishment, her eyes fixed on the fresco of the risen Christ at the back of the chapel. Indeed, the deepest desires of all peoples, the elements of truth found in all their religions and philosophies, are fulfilled in Christ.

Does this mean that all religions are equal and that we should not impose our ideas upon others? Not at all. St. Justin said that there are "seeds of the Word" scattered throughout the world. But seeds are meant to sprout, grow, and bear fruit. Hearing the full gospel and partaking in all the means of grace are ordinarily needed to make that happen. All peoples of the world have a right to this "Catholic" fullness. And it is our obligation to share it. Paul VI said it well: "others may be able to be saved without hearing the gospel, but can we be saved if we neglect to preach it?"

St. Francis Xavier Relic Pilgrimage

The Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Jesuits in Canada, and Catholic Christian Outreach are collaborating to bring the famous relic of St. Francis Xavier to North America for the first time in generations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the incorrupt first class relic of one of the greatest missionaries and evangelists since St. Paul the Apostle. All are invited to public veneration of the relic on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at St. Francis Xavier Church, Vancouver (Mass with Archbishop Miller at 7 p.m.) and Thursday, Jan. 25, at All Saints Church, Coquitlam. Visit rcav.org/event/sfx-relic-jan-24 for the relic pilgrimage schedule in Vancouver.

Fiat: Women's Discernment Events: Snowshoeing on Cypress Mountain

Fiat activities are open to single Catholic women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning God's call in life. Following the example of Mary, who gave her fiat to be both virgin and mother, we desire to hear and follow God's call to holiness through discernment of His will for our life and vocation. This event is on Saturday, Jan. 13, and begins with Mass at Christ the Redeemer Church, West Vancouver, at 9 a.m. before snowshoeing to Bowen Lookout on Cypress Mountain. To register or for more information, contact womensvocations@rcav.org or call 604-683-0281.

Pre-Lenten Parish Mission

All are welcome to our Pre-Lenten Parish Mission where Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM, will present the theme "If you knew the gift of God." Join us at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Port Coquitlam, from Jan. 22 to 25. Confessions are 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (except Thursday), and mission talks are at 7 p.m. More info at 604-942-7808 or e-mail assumptionofmary@shaw.ca.

Mass Intentions

Sunday	9 am 11 am	Tristin Schmt+ Larry & Blondine Hammel+
Monday	9 am	Aleksandra Chromy+
Tuesday	7 pm	Walter Thompson+
Wednesday	9 am	Hans Paulus+
Thursday	9 am	Maria Lejeune+
Friday	9 am	Emile Vandean+
Saturday	9 am	Marilyn McAuley+

31 December 2017; New Year 2018

Envelopes	\$1,180.00	
Loose	\$62.00	
Total	\$1,242.00	\$657.05