



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz, British Columbia V0M 1A3 (604) 796-9181

www.stanthonyagassiz.ca email: st.anthonys@shaw.ca; parish.sapa@rcav.org

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.

December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Fr. Dennis O. Flores

dflores@rcav.org

Deacon: Jamie Meskas

jamiemeskas@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Beccie Bokenfohr

st.anthonys@shaw.ca

(604) 796-9181

Sunday Mass Times: 9 am and 11 am

Weekday Mass Times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 9 am; Tuesday – 7 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 20 minutes prior to Mass

Important Notice regarding Mass Registration

Please make sure that you register by phone or email for the Mass that you and your family would like to attend. There are 4 Sunday Masses in our parish. All of the Masses are full with the exception of the newly instituted Mass of 5 PM on Sundays. Please attend the Mass that you have registered for and avoid jumping from one Mass to another.

If you have any questions, please speak to Fr. Dennis or call the parish office. Let's keep our place of worship a safe place. times and/or by appointment

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: All Fridays 9:30 am until Benediction at 12 noon

Mass Intentions December 20 to 26, 2020

Saturday	Dec 19	5 pm	Cancelled
Sunday	Dec 20	9 am	Dale Van Leeuwen+
		11 am	Cancelled
		5 pm	Cancelled
Monday	Dec 21	9 am	Art Belhumeur+
Tuesday	Dec 22	7 pm	Wayne P. +
Wednesday	Dec 23	9 am	Honorata Flores+
Thursday	Dec 24	5 pm	Josh Guillou+
Friday	Dec 25	9 am	Rodriguez Family+
Saturday	Dec 26	9 am	Opsima family+

2021 Envelopes are prepared and ready for you to pick up in the Gathering Area at your convenience

Last Sunday Collections

Loose	\$15.00
Envelopes	\$1,060.00
Other	\$210.00
Total	\$1,345.00

Please pray for those who are ill or housebound in our

Parish family: Peggy Turner, Cheryl Yaretz, Lyn Milburn, Ralph and Jeanette Watson, Janet Quinn, Paul Van Scheyndel, Wayne Turner, Pat Donegan, Sr. Celine Graf, Elizabeth Ryan, Jane Van Laerhoven, Beryl Sheard, Joan Vowles, Jean Van Tryp, Anieta Kienzle, Helene Juzda

Please pray for the most recently deceased: Fr. Tom Nicolson

Christmas Online Mass Times:

Christmas Eve, December 24th: 5:00 PM
Christmas Day, December 25th: 9:00 AM

December 20, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Masses are closed for in-service worship, waiting for further lifting of provincial restrictions. Please find us online on Facebook. The church is open for private prayer until 5 pm daily. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held each Friday from 10 am to 12 noon. Please consider spending some time with our Lord during this very difficult time.**

St. Anthony's Thrift Store will be closed from December 24th, reopening on Tuesday, January 5th. We are so grateful to all of the volunteers who have committed themselves to making this store such a success in our local community! Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy New Year!

The O Antiphons: The Fullness of Time

December 17 begins the 'O' Antiphons, and it means Christmas is only an octave away.

The 'O' Antiphons (also known as Greater Antiphons or the Great 'O') are ancient antiphons found in the liturgy that are prayed from December 17-23. They all begin with the invocation 'O.' They call to mind the ancient longing and pleading of the people of the Old Testament for a Savior to come, invoking different Christological titles on the seven days before Christmas Eve. In praying these we remember the original yearning for the First Coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and echo the same waiting and supplication for the Emmanuel to come at Parousia, His Second Coming. The 'O' Antiphons take us through chronological order from before Creation to the birth of Christ at Bethlehem.

You also might recognize the antiphons as the same words in the favorite Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Because of this, Advent is not only the celebration of God's coming to us, but also of our coming to him.

The circle is just a simple closed geometric shape, but in context with these 'O' Antiphons it is more than a shape or letter of the alphabet. The 'O' is all encompassing. The 'O' denotes fullness, completeness, wholeness, ripeness. The 'O' symbolizes eternity, no beginning or end. This simple letter plumbs the depths and speaks to the final fulfillment in the Second Coming of Christ at Parousia.

- **O Wisdom**—At God’s word, creation was formed; the Word issued from the mouth of God, the Son, came to earth; we ask prudence to keep on the paths of wisdom to come to His Kingdom.
- **O Lord and Ruler**—God fulfilled His promises and redeemed the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, and also unveiled the Law at Sinai; Jesus as Lord redeems mankind from the bondage of sin and bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Parousia is often seen as a fullness of Pentecost.
- **O Root of Jesse**—Jesse’s tree was cut down to the root, with only the stump remaining. Jesus revitalizes that root. He is the Vine and the Branches, of which requires pruning until Parousia.
- **O Key of David**—Paradise was closed by the sin of Adam, but Jesus re-opens it with His Redemption. At the end of time there will be no more sin or obstructions to the Kingdom of God.
- **O Dayspring/Sun of Justice/Rising Sun**—The prophets begged for deliverance from the darkness of death, which Jesus accomplished at His resurrection as the new Rising Sun. At Parousia this Light of the World will dispel any remaining sin and darkness.
- **O King of Nations**—Israel in exile longed for the Kingdom of God; Jesus, Desire of Nations, extends this Kingdom to all peoples, Jews and Gentiles alike. At Parousia Jesus will draw all things to Himself and His Kingdom will be fulfilled.
- **O Emmanuel**—The sacred name revealed to Israel of Who was to come was fulfilled as Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, with His enduring presence. This is the final Scriptural image of the apocalyptic vision in Revelation, seeking the ultimate promise of the Emmanuel at Parousia: “Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20).

These ancient antiphons are some of the crown jewels of our liturgy, and the echo of the longing through the ages seems to reverberate and repeat with all the faithful through all time, on heaven on earth, “O Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20).

Our daily weekday Masses and Sunday Mass are live on Facebook for you to see each day. Please find us on our Facebook page: **St Anthony of Padua – Agassiz**



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Attention CWL members: Annual membership dues of \$30 are due now for 2021 Please submit your payment as soon as possible.



St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church



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Agassiz, British Columbia V0M 1A2
Canada

Pastor: Reverend Dennis O. Flores
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Phone: (604) 796-9181

December 18, 2020

My dear parishioners:

Peace! With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas.

During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever is our desire, whether we realize it or not, ultimately it is Jesus Himself. For this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas knowing that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community.

This year has been especially challenging and difficult, and I continue to be inspired and grateful for your continued support and faithfulness. Let us continue to pray for the end of this pandemic so that we can worship together again as one.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our entire parish family.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Flores', written in a cursive style.

Fr. Dennis O. Flores
Pastor