



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

7237 Morrow Road, Agassiz, British Columbia V0M 1A0

(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.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph December 31, 2023



Stewardship Reflection

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." -
Colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Prayer Requests

*Please pray for those who are ill or housebound
in our Parish family*

Sandra Kos, Dan McIntyre, Louie Yaretz, Harley Martin, Kolt Klassen,
Ann Struys, Joanna Black, Debbie (Frank and Lynda's daughter), Cheryl
Yaretz, Lyn Milburn, Janet Quinn, Paul Van Scheyndel, Stella
Hildebrandt, Adriana Striker, Paul McKenzie, Marilyn Struys,

Please pray for those who are deceased

+Teddy Tope (Francesca Waight's great grandson)

TALK TO US

Pastor: Fr. Dennis O. Flores

dflores@rcav.org

Deacon: Jamie Meskas

jamiemeskas@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Beccie Bokenfohr

stanthonys@shaw.ca

(604) 796-9181

MASS TIMES

Sunday Mass:

Saturday Mass of Anticipation - 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass - 10:30 am

Weekday Mass:

Monday, Thursday & Friday - 9:00 am

Tuesday - 7:00 pm

Liturgy of the Word:

Wednesday - 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

20 minutes prior to Mass

or by appointment

Rosary:

Begins 30 minutes prior to Mass

Eucharistic Adoration:

All Fridays following Mass

Benediction at 10:15 am

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: December 30th - 4:00 pm

+Rocheleau Family Members

Sunday: December 31st - 10:30 am

+James Waight

Rudy Acosta Jr. (healing)

Monday: January 1st - 9:00 am

+Struys Family & Friends

Tuesday: January 2nd - 7:00 pm

+John Dumas

Wednesday: January 3rd - 9:00 am

Liturgy of the Word

Thursday: January 4th - 9:00 am

+Jennifer Escudero

Friday: January 5th - 9:00 am

Paul McKenzie (healing)

Saturday: January 6th - 4:00 pm

Paul McKenzie (healing)

A Christmas Blessing

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
With particular concern this Christmas, we turn our gaze to the suffering Holy Land, to Bethlehem. There the Lord came into the world in a stable and was laid in a manger where animals feed on hay, since his parents could find no room in an inn. Let us, then, look at the scene. Mary and Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family. Their Child was born in the midst of great hardship. Yet, they are full of profound joy, because they love each other and they are certain that God is at work in this astonishing birth.

And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant wasn't going to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. It was their simple faith that helped them to recognize that the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes was the fulfilment of God's promised Saviour for all the people. God came among us in silence and in the darkness of night. Why like this? Because the Word of God had no need of spotlights or loud human voices. He himself is the Word who gives life its meaning. He is the Light that brightens our path: "The true light, which enlightens everyone" (Jn 1:9). Christ's birth was the victory of the Light over the darkness of evil and sin.

At Christmas we celebrate that our mighty God truly became "Emmanuel," God-with-us. No barrier or any distance can separate us from him. God is so powerful that he made himself vulnerable and came to us as a defenseless child, so that we might love him. God is so good that he gave up the splendour of his divinity to be born in a stable, so that we might find him. In that Child Jesus, God became so close to us that we are able to speak to him personally and to enjoy a trusting relationship of deep affection with him.

To give a deeper meaning to Christmas, I urge every family to set up a Nativity scene in their home. It is a simple but effective way of passing on the beauty of the faith to your children. Let them experience amazement and wonder at Jesus' birth. The manger helps all of us to ponder in our hearts the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem stable.

Jesus comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Like the shepherds on that silent night, let us set out in haste and allow ourselves to be amazed by the Child lying in a manger who is waiting to welcome us.

With my blessing, prayers and warmest best wishes for a joyous celebration of Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ J. Michael Miller CSB

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

A Heartfelt Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped so much with the Christmas Liturgies!

To the members of the choirs that came to serve at the Midnight and 9 am Masses last weekend! Thank you so much! It was beautiful.

To everyone who stayed and helped to decorate the church last Sunday, thank you so much!

To Natasha Breitreuz for watering the Poinsettias in the church and the Shrine! Thank you.

To Metro and Emee for organizing the Midnight Reception!

To Annette for helping out with the cleanup at 2 am! You're all the best!

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

Knights of Columbus Meeting:

Thursday Jan 4th @ 7:00 pm

Pastoral Council Meeting:

Tuesday Jan 9th @ 7:30 pm

PREP:

Will resume on Thursday Jan 11th

THE THRIFT STORE

The Thrift Store reopens this Tuesday at 10 am. We are so grateful to all of the volunteers and donors who make this store work in our parish! God bless each of you!

PROJECT ADVANCE

We still need to meet our goal of \$8400. This week marks the deadline for all 2023 donations that will qualify for Tax Receipts. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

ENVELOPES

Please pick up your Sunday Offering Envelopes in the back of the church if you haven't already done so. **Remember to date your cheques 2024.** All donations that you wish to have included in the 2023 tax year must be submitted by December 31st. This includes Project Advance.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CWL Word of the Week HUMANITY



Love one another. Catholic Women's League members go beyond charitable acts with compassion, love, sympathy and tolerance, seeking out issues of injustice. Come share the love.

OFFERING COLLECTIONS

Sunday, December 24 & 25, 2023

Loose: \$684.80

Envelopes: \$3165.00

Total: \$3849.80

