

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Bulletin

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 18, 2018

Let's help people find God

Are people searching for God? Are the people you work with or go to school with searching for Him? My general feeling is that most aren't. That's because we rarely hear about God or faith in conversations or popular culture. Religion is taboo. An Angus Reid survey in 2017 showed that Canadians view the word 'religion' to be more negative than positive, and secularism, atheism and agnosticism are all growing.

But, while it's true that 54% of people don't wish to have a closer relationship with God, 46%, basically half the people we meet, actually said they do! In 2015, another survey said that 30% of Canadians are inclined to embrace religion while 26% are inclined to reject it, and 44% are somewhat in between—this is not as bad as I thought it was. And just less than half of that 'In between' group "are open to greater involvement with religious groups if they can find it to be worthwhile." So, statistics say people are more open to God than we may think, which is great.

Now, what does theology say? The opening of the Gospel tells us that some Greeks who went to Jerusalem to worship said to St. Philip, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (Jn 12:21). This is important because the Greeks weren't Jewish and didn't believe in the God, but now some are searching for Jesus. This event is one of the climaxes in St. John's Gospel: Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus said, "I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice" (Jn 10:16). Now we see Jesus bringing all the sheep home and they're looking for Him. Theology tells us that everyone's searching for Him, because "the desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God" (CCC 27). Theology tells us that all people have a homing beacon inside themselves and so, whether they know it or not, they're searching for Him.

I learned something fascinating in philosophy: Everything we do is for the sake of happiness. Whenever we do something, it's because we think it'll make us happy. Why do we do fun things? Because it makes us happy. Why do we serve others? Because it makes us happy. [...]The Greek philosopher Aristotle said, "Happiness is the one thing you can choose for itself; everything else is chosen for the sake of happiness" (Nicomachean Ethics, Book I, 7). So everyone's looking for happiness, and theology teaches us that "only in God will [man] find the... happiness he never stops searching for" (CCC 27).

So, here's the deal: Statistics say half of people want to be closer to God, philosophy tells us that everything people do is for the sake of happiness, and theology tells us that true happiness is found in God, but we Catholics don't do much to help people come closer to God. What do we do to help people who are searching? It's been pointed out that most Catholic parishes do very little to help people who are searching. Our parish celebrates Mass, Confessions, baptisms, and



weddings; we run a school and PREP mainly for our kids; we have the Knights, CWL, the Novena, parish retreats, etc. This is necessary and wonderful. But what do we have for people who are searching? Not as much. We do have Alpha and Faith Studies, we welcome people on Sunday Mass, but there's a huge disproportion between what we do for ourselves and what we do for people looking for Jesus.

Why? 1) It's very deeply ingrained in our Catholic mentality that Catholic churches only exist for Catholics. It sounds logical, until we realize that Jesus is calling all sheep to His flock, and people are actually searching. 2) You're probably like me: I always believed that most people aren't searching for God, so why would I bother them? 3) Many Catholics aren't convinced that Jesus is worth sharing. Because they haven't encountered the good news of Jesus, they won't bother sharing Him.

Now, in our parish, we've spent a lot of time focusing on encountering Jesus and growing in our relationship with Him, so there's a lot of fire here. And now it's time to meet people where they're at. Our example for how to do this is from a clue in the Gospel: The Greek people who were searching for Jesus went to one of the two apostles with a Greek name: Philip! There were twelve apostles, all of them Jewish men, but two of them had Greek names: Philip and Andrew. This meant that "Philip act[ed] ... as an intermediary between the... Greeks... and Jesus" because "he probably spoke Greek and could serve as an

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Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang

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 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
 In case of emergencies,
 please call the office anytime.

Web: stanthonyvan.com
 Email: office@stanthonysvancouver.org

Parish Registration

Our parish family warmly welcomes new parishioners. Please register at your earliest convenience by filling out a registration form located in the vestibule or by stopping by the parish office during office hours. If you are registered and moving, please advise the parish office.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:15 am
 Tuesday 7:30 pm
 Wednesday-Friday 8:15 am
 Saturday 9:00 am

Lauds

Weekday 8:00 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 8:45 am
 Sunday 7:45 am

Confession

Weekday 8:00 to 8:10 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 9:45 am & 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
 1st Saturday each month 9:45 am to 4:30 pm and
 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm in the chapel
 (1365 West 73rd Avenue)

First Friday of each month: 8:45 am to 10:00 am in the church followed by Benediction.

First Saturday of each month: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm in the church during all-day confessions.

Please call the parish office for more information on other Sacraments and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes.

St. Anthony of Padua School

Preschool to Grade 7

1370 West 73rd Avenue,
 Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9

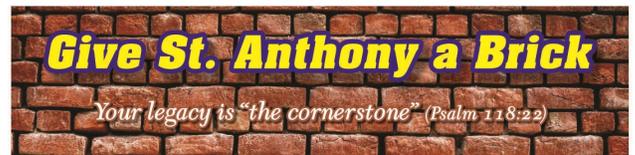
Principal: Darren Yanko

Telephone 604.261.4043
 Fax 604.261.4036
 Website stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca
 School Email office@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca
 Preschool Email preschool@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Monday, March 19	Solemnity of St. Joseph	1448	Ladislo Urrutia †
Tuesday, March 20	Ferial	229	Rauga Jayamanna †
Wednesday, March 21	Ferial	232	Frank Kim Sing †
Thursday, March 22	Ferial	235	Battista & Eleonora Piazzone†
Friday, March 23	Ferial	238	Clifford Kriekenbeek
Saturday, March 24	Ferial	241	Henriette Rozario †

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Nick De Vos, Teresa Gaio, Cecile Hernandez, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Filomena Sison, Liliana Taylor, Fernando Tiago and Theresa Yoshioka.



If you would like to help us build our Parish Centre by purchasing a brick, please contact any one of our authorized brick sellers:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Hadi Susanto | Adelle Coronel |
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| Elizabeth Chang | Edna Gotia Tan |
| Francesca Kim | Amy Venida |
| Janet Laguio | Angie Lim |
| Hardy Antolis | Maria (Chona) Trinidad |
| Ratna Antolis | Jim Trinidad |
| Casey Cameron | Freddie Golamco |
| Alex Hui | Vivian Golamco |
| Vienna Woo | Marline Kolterhoff |
| Kitty Ng | Gillian Miller |
| Denise Lui | Kathy Kim Sing |
| Mars Lo | Linda Chen |
| Cathy Lo | Jessica Dy Tang |
| Diana Lo | |
| Marilou Yodogawa | <i>At the Parish Office:</i> |
| Annie Pancito | Catherine Kriekenbeek-Lee |
| Vicky Lai | Grace Lim |
| Vera Rahardja | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Got questions about life?

St. Anthony's Alpha

Starting Thursday, April 5, 2018, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Gigi Blin Cafe, 1400 West 70th Avenue, Vancouver

Contact alpha@stanthonysvancouver.org



What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly open environment. It offers a simple and attractive invitation to those wanting to reinvestigate Christianity, consider it for the first time, or for those asking life's big questions such as 'Is there more to life than this?'

How does it work?

Alpha is 12 sessions with a day away in the middle. Each session includes dinner, a short video and discussion where you can share your thoughts and ask questions. The videos are designed to encourage conversation and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you want.

For more information, visit:

alphacanada.org

Sign-up for Alpha at the parish

Welcome Booth after all

weekend Masses or email

alpha@stanthonysvancouver.org

Keeping Families in Faith

The Domestic Church in a Global Village



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila to visit Vancouver

Cardinal Tagle will deliver a talk on **Keeping Families in Faith: The Domestic Church in a Global Village** at the **Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver on Monday, March 19 at 6:00 pm**. The evening will begin with an opening performance followed by an address by Archbishop Miller, CSB. Tickets are \$10 - \$40. Tickets are now on sale! Visit <http://rcav.org/cardinal-tagle/>.

Update on Preschool

We are pleased to announce that St. Anthony's Pre-school will re-open in September 2018. Application forms are available at the Parish Office, starting Tuesday, March 20 with a return deadline to the Parish Office of Wednesday, March 28. Acceptance letters will be sent out by Friday, April 6. Orientation date is to be announced. For more information, or questions, please email Tilly Bara at mb391906@gmail.com.

Save the date!

Our Youth Retreat for students in Grades 8 - 12 will take place on Saturday, April 28. More details, including how to register, will be coming soon! Registration is on a first-come, first serve basis. Watch the bulletin for more details. For more information, contact Hardy Antolis, ghardyantolis@gmail.com.

Dying Healed

THE PROGRAM



A three evening presentation will be offered on **Tuesday, March 20th to Thursday, March 22nd, starting at 7:00 pm Lower Hall, St. Anthony of Padua Parish**. The following speakers will be featured during this interactive workshop: **Natalie Sonnen**, Executive Director of LifeCanada, **Annabelle Chong**, Executive Director of Vancouver's Life Community and **Fr. Justin Huang**. Please register in advance by calling 604.733.6266. Cost is \$45/person. Please pay at the door.

Help people find God

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interpreter." And then he goes to St. Andrew, and together they bring this news to Jesus. Pope Benedict says, "This teaches us always to be ready to accept questions and requests, wherever they come from, and to direct them to the Lord." So, God is asking all of us to be intermediaries between Him and people who are searching. [...]

My brothers and sisters, Jesus is asking us to be more like St. Philip: open about our faith (otherwise people won't know who to ask). We need to be virtuous, otherwise no one will come to us if we're jerks or weird! We need to be filled with the joy of Christ! When people see us, what do they see: Catholic and thriving, or Catholic and miserable? Do they see Catholic and thriving, or Catholic and surviving? This is the first step.

The second step is to invite people to learn more. Remember, 46% of people want to be closer to God. As we get to know people, where they're at and what they need, we'll probably discover that they're open to learning more. The best environment we have, our chosen tool, is Alpha, which starts in three weeks. It's not overwhelming, but a place to get to know people, to ask questions, and to learn about the fundamentals of Christianity in a non-threatening environment. Ultimately, it's a place where we can encounter Jesus in a real way. Is there anyone in our lives who's searching or has asked questions about the meaning of life, God,

faith? Would inviting them help? Ask God if you should make an invitation.

Do you know why we spend so much time and effort on Alpha, Faith Studies, hospitality and the way we celebrate Sunday Mass? Because they are occasions when we can love people who are looking for God. And we have to spend more time, effort and money on this, because we do a lot for ourselves, but God is calling us to do more for people outside.

Could you imagine how many people would be loved if all 1080 of us were like this: open and confident about who we are, ready to talk to people and invite them, ready to go out of our way to help them? Wow!

We started with statistics and let's end with one. We all know how the Catholic Church is portrayed in movies, TV, and social media. In 2015, Canadians were asked how positive they felt toward the following religions: Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Atheism, Evangelical Christianity, Sikh, Mormonism, Islam. Where do you think Catholicism was in people's rankings? First. That's right: Canadians are most positive about Catholicism, more than any other religion. People are more open to God, and the Church, than we think. People are looking for Jesus, and we have to help them find Him.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, March 18, 2018

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