

# Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

With the Eucharist at the centre, we are a community desiring to be saints,  
sent out to love like Jesus and proclaim Him in every circumstance.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

## Becoming a disciple of Christ



Some theologians have identified five stages of conversion that all people go through to become disciples, or followers, of Jesus. Let's see if we can identify what stage of conversion we're at, not what stage our husbands are at, but what stage we're at:

- 1) **Trust:** "A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus... the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian."
- 2) **Spiritual curiosity:** "A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, his life, and his teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith. This curiosity can range from mere awareness of a new possibility to something quite intense."
- 3) **Spiritual openness:** "A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that he or she is open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change."
- 4) **Spiritual Seeking:** "The person... [is] actively seeking to know the God who is calling... Seekers are asking, 'Are you the one to whom I will give myself?'... Seeking to know whether he or she can commit to Christ in his Church."
- 5) **Intentional Discipleship:** "This is the decision... to make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one's life accordingly" (Sherry Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples*).

We're talking about these stages towards becoming a disciple because today's Gospel is about Jesus showing us the way of being a disciple. It says, "Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples..." (Mk 8:27). This may seem like a small detail, but in this section of St. Mark's Gospel, that is, from chapter eight to chapter eleven, the phrase 'on the way' is used seven times (*Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*). Jesus and the disciples are on their way to Jerusalem, but He's also teaching them what's the way of being a disciple (Mary Healy, *The Gospel of Mark, in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*).

He starts with two questions, "Who do people say that I am?" and, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mk 8:27,29). You see, being a disciple is bound up with our answer to this question: If we

say that Jesus is a good teacher, then we may listen to Him, but not try to become like Him—that's not a disciple. But if we say that He's God, then we'll give our whole lives to Him—that's a disciple! St. Peter gets it partially right when he answers, "You are the Christ" (Mk 8:29). He's right that Jesus is the messiah, which is what the word 'Christ' means, but doesn't know what kind of messiah. For some of us, we may be ready for Jesus to ask us this question, but, for others, we may not yet be. Please know that Jesus respects our freedom. He loves us and has made a commitment to us, but doesn't ask for that same commitment right away. When, for instance, He met the Samaritan woman at the well, all theologians note that He didn't start by telling her sins or asking for a commitment. He started with a conversation, progressively helping her to know who He is, and then leading her to make a commitment (CCC 547-548; Jn 1:29-42).

Now, if we're not yet ready for this question, Jesus will still help us. If we are, then He will take us a step further. St. Peter mistakenly thought of the messiah in earthly, triumphalistic terms, so, right away, Jesus told them that He's a humble messiah who would suffer for our sakes. This tells us that Jesus will always correct our misunderstandings and challenge us to understand who He really is. Wherever we are at is a good starting point—we want to honour that—but how can we grow? Here's an example:

Jack gave his testimony a year and a half ago. Although he had been a parishioner here for 36 years, he's only been a disciple for six—there's a difference, because one can be a Christian without being a disciple; one can go to Mass and not be a follower of Jesus. Jack was reared non-Catholic, went to a Catholic school, learned prayers and about God but understood very little. He said he couldn't relate to God. What stage would he be at here? It's hard to know. He may be at the level of trust, which is a blessing! Trust can be trust in God, Jesus, the Church, a Catholic friend, etc. He probably wasn't at the stage of curiosity, because curiosity starts with an awareness that there are more spiritual possibilities in life, and he hadn't yet done anything active like ask questions, exchange ideas or read about Jesus. But, in his twenties, he got baptized! What stage would he be at now? Probably at least trust, but no further because he said he only got baptized to marry his future wife, Anna. He did start going to Mass, but described it as "torture."—ouch! Thirty years pass and, in 2011, Anna introduced him to a Bible study. He told us that he was fascinated by the stories in the Old Testament and said, "When I read the part where Jesus died for our sins on the crucifix my heart just ached." Where's he at now? He's shot through curiosity and openness! We know he was curious because he said he was 'fascinated.' We know he was open because he's encountered Jesus and His love, and something stirred in his soul. Look what happens next: He and Anna attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar and he said, "During the lessons it dawned on me that because I never had any faith, the Holy Spirit was not upon me. I needed faith in order to understand." So he went to Confession for

...continued on inside page

**Pastor:** Fr. Justin Huang *Blog: thejustmeasure.ca*  
**Deacon:** Andrew Kung *deaconandrewrcav@gmail.com*  
**Priest in Residence:** Fr. Pierre Leblond *plb.op272@gmail.com*

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 Tel 604.266.6131  
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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 by filling out a registration form located in the vestibule or the Parish Office. 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

**Confession**

Weekday 8:00 to 8:10 am *except Tuesday*  
 Saturday 9:45 am & 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month 9:45 am to 1:00 pm;  
 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm;  
 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm

**Eucharistic Adoration** at 1365 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
 Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm in the chapel

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.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**  
 Please call the parish office for more information on RCIA classes and other Sacraments.

**St. Anthony of Padua School**  
 Kindergarten to Grade 7  
 1370 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue,  
 Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9  
 Principal: Michael Perry  
 Telephone: 604.261.4043  
 Website: *stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca*  
 School Email: *office@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca*

**Weekday Masses & Intentions**

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Monday, September 17	Ferial	1148	Gaspar, Flor & Al Gabinete †
Tuesday, September 18	Ferial	1151	Gaspare Leone †
Wednesday, September 19	Ferial	1152	Dolores Hetu †
Thursday, September 20	<i>Memorial</i> St. Andrew Kim	1154	Natividad Peralta †
Friday, September 21	<i>Feast</i> St. Matthew	1704	Sandy Lara
Saturday, September 22	Ferial	1158	Grace Lim

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

**Upcoming Homily Themes**

September 29 & 30  
*Holiness & Hospitality is Everyone's Responsibility*

October 6 & 7  
*Welcoming Those Who are Divorced and Remarried*

October 13 & 14  
*Disordered Attachments to Possessions*

October 20 & 21  
*What Is God's Hope for Me When I Suffer?*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## School Announcements

### Back to School Barbecue on Name Tag Weekend

- \* Sunday, September 23 after 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM Masses.
- \* Meet our new principal and our new and returning teachers! Re-connect with school families after the summer break
- \* After the 5:00 PM & 8:00 AM Masses, the Name Tag Committee will be serving Jell-O & pastries.

### First Parent Enrichment Event: The Art of Effective Communication Tools & Techniques for Today's Parents

- \* Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, in the Church Hall downstairs
- \* Presenter is Dolores Madaisky, MA (Psychology)
- \* Parishioners are welcome to attend!

## PROJECT ADVANCE

### UPDATE!

Thank you parishioners for supporting this year's Project Advance Campaign. As of August 31st, **140 donors** in our parish have given **\$70,271.36**.

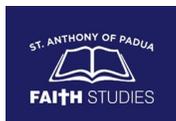
**Save the date!** **St. Anthony of Padua's Annual Dinner & Dance** will be held on **Saturday, November 17** at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Tickets go on sale after all weekend Masses.

**Are you looking for a vibrant, supportive Catholic community of women who love God?** **CFC Handmaids of the Lord** invites all women in the parish to attend **Christian Life Program (CLP)** every **Monday at 6:30pm, September 24 to November 26** in the church hall. For more information, contact Zeny, 604.261.7077.

**2018 Lower Mainland Life Chain, Sunday, September 30 at Oak St at 29th Ave., 2:00 to 3:00pm.**



Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.



### FAITH STUDIES start October 2nd!

**Note: Registration deadline is Sunday, September 23** The 13th round of Faith Studies will start up again, Tuesday nights from **October 2nd to November 6th**. All

five levels of studies will be offered: **Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience** and **Commission**. Anyone can join, as the studies are designed to meet you where you are in your faith. For more information, or to register, call Angel José at the Parish Office, 604.266.6131 ext. 204 or email: stanthonyaithstudies@gmail.com.



Sunday, September 23 at 2:00 pm in the Church Hall. Please drop by or contact Choir Director, Megan Delfin, at [delfinmegan@gmail.com](mailto:delfinmegan@gmail.com).

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the first time. What's happening now? He's at the level of seeking, because he's active, he knows a personal relationship with Jesus is possible and is asking, "Is Jesus the One? Should I give my life to Jesus?"

He then started going to daily Mass, and said that he was slowly, without realizing it, developing a relationship with Jesus. He began to put Jesus in the centre and was more mindful of what he said and did. Jack is now at the level of an intentional disciple, a follower of Jesus. He's not a saint... not yet, but did make a choice, a "deliberate act of the will" to imitate Jesus and change his life accordingly.

There are two questions we're asking ourselves today: Where are we at, and can we grow? The human person is made to grow, and spiritual growth is always healthy.

To get to the level of trust, is there anyone in our lives we can trust, like Jesus, or someone connected to Him or to the Church? Do we have some positive connection with something Christian? None of us, absolutely no one, have ever moved closer to God without some trust. [...]

To become curious, we could read a Catholic book, ask questions, go to Alpha—Alpha, by the way, is perfect for all levels of conversion.

Openness is one of the most difficult jumps because we're all afraid that we're going to lose something if we move closer to God. [...] But God never takes anything away from us to hurt us.

He only asks us to let go of certain things so that He can give us even better things! [...] If we're on the verge of openness, we might want to talk to a trusted friend, or try praying, or going to adoration—adoration on First Saturdays is hugely helpful in opening our hearts.

Seeking is a great stage: We know that a relationship with God is possible and now we're dating: "Is Jesus the one?" This is where Faith Studies is very helpful, because it focuses first on Jesus and walks us through the possibility of making a choice. We could also volunteer in the parish with Works of Mercy or in hospitality. And this journey leads to a possible decision. This cannot and should never be forced; it must be made in freedom; it's not done for anyone else. We do it because we know it's something we have to do. Once we've made this decision, we'll know, because it's a conscious choice "to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one's life accordingly." What if we're already disciples? The journey doesn't end there. Do we desire to become saints? This is what our parish is all about! We want to become truly human/fully alive, be Christ-like, do God's will, be the best version of ourselves, fulfill our vocation/destiny, be perfect in love, reach the heights of contemplation, and have the missionary heart of Jesus.

Right now, God is working in all of our lives! [...] The path to Jesus may take a long time. But He's always with us, showing us the way to become a disciple.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, September 16, 2018

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