

# 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 7, 2018

## How we welcome the sinner

If our parish is focused on hospitality, how do we welcome people who don't follow Jesus' commands? How do we welcome people in gay relationships, who have had abortions, who are trying to change their sex, etc.? Some people won't enter a Catholic church unless they feel welcomed.

There are two extremes to the answer: On the one hand, some churches don't welcome people who publicly don't follow Jesus teaching. They may not say this, but it's obvious from the way parishioners treat new people: They'll quietly avoid certain people. On the other hand, some abandon the Bible's teaching on life and sexuality and so never talk about difficult moral issues; for example, they have so-called 'Gay Pride Masses.'

Jesus was in a similarly difficult position according to today's Gospel. It says, "Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?'" (Mk 10:2). They were testing Jesus, who just returned to the region where Herod was the ruler, and Herod and his current wife were both divorced and remarried, so, if Jesus says divorce and remarriage are forbidden, then Herod will likely have Him killed like he did St. John the Baptist, who opposed his divorce and remarriage (Cf. Mk 6:17-29; Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, 83); but if Jesus says that divorce and remarriage is allowed, then He goes against biblical texts. How does He answer? He doesn't sidestep the issue, but He also doesn't just give a simplistic, take-it-or-leave-it answer. What He does is He explains His position based on God's original plan for humanity. He says, "Because of your hardness of heart [Moses] wrote this commandment for you" (Mk 10:5). Hardness of heart means "a stubborn refusal to yield to God and his ways. It is the willful blindness to truth for which Jesus... chided... even his disciples (Mary Healy, *The Gospel of Mark in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*). Isn't it true that we all have a hardness of heart? Then He offers us something we long for: To live according to God's original plan for us. He says, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" (Mk 10:6-9). While there's a part of us that doesn't want to hear God's plan on sex and difficult moral issues, there's a deeper part that wants to hear the truth.

How many have heard of Roe vs. Wade? It's the United States Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in 1973. The real name of Jane Roe was Norma McCorvey, who was an abortion advocate for decades. But something very interesting happened to her in 1995. While working at an abortion clinic, a pro-life group opened up next door and the tensions between the two groups were vicious. At a book signing of hers some time before, the leader of the pro-life group, Rev. Flip Benham, called her a baby killer, while "she left him drunken taunts on his answering machine." And, one day, in a parking lot that the two groups shared, he asked her, "Are you still killing babies, Miss Norma?" She said, "Lighten



up. What you need is to go to a good Beach Boys concert." "Miss Norma, I haven't been to a Beach Boys concert since 1976." She wrote later that, after their quick mention of the Beach Boys, "Flip became more human to me." And soon after those insults, one Saturday she was smoking outside and he sat down beside her and "apologized for calling her names: 'I saw my words drop into your heart, and I know they hurt you deeply.' [She] was taken aback. She excused herself, went inside and cried." Their relationship slowly improved. [...] One morning, he said to her, "You know, Miss Norma, I used to be pro-choice. When my wife found out she was pregnant with our twins, I told her to have an abortion." She later wrote: "If Flip was supposed to be my archenemy, why was he giving me information that could prove damaging to his reputation?"

In 1995, she finally accepted an invitation to church after refusing many of them. She wrote, "I can't really recall much of what [the pastor] shared but each word began to open the window in my heart just a little farther." So, on August 8, she was baptized Christian and became a vocal pro-life advocate. Three years after that, she became Catholic.

This story illustrates by example and counter-example what Jesus did in the Gospel. Like Jesus, Flip was very clear about God's teaching on life. But unlike Jesus, he insulted Norma. When was the breakthrough? When he started acting the way Jesus would want: He humbled himself and apologized. You see, Norma was made to be loved, and when Flip insulted her, He wasn't following God's original plan. Norma, even if she didn't know the Bible at that time, knew she was designed by God to be treated with respect. So, when he apologized, Norma experienced God's original plan in a concrete way. Also, when Flip admitted that he too needed God's forgiveness, her stereotype of pro-life people being 'self-righteous' began to crumble (Fr. Frank Pavone, *Ending Abortion*). So, part of

...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*

Address: 8891 Montcalm St., Vancouver BC V6P 4R4  
 Mailing Address: 1345 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Van., BC V6P 3E9  
 Tel 604.266.6131  
 Hours Tuesday—Friday  
 9:00 am—12:00 noon  
 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, October 8	Ferial Thanksgiving Day	1184	Felicidad Co†
Tuesday, October 9	Ferial	1187	Adrian Francis
Wednesday, October 10	Ferial	1189	Deceased members of the Kam Family
Thursday, October 11	Ferial	1191	Arlene and Rob Beach
Friday, October 12	Ferial	1192	Dorothy Miller †
Saturday, October 13	Ferial	1195	Farrah Marie Chan †

**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**

October 13 & 14

*Disordered Attachments to Possessions*

October 20 & 21

*What is God's Hope for Me When I Suffer?*

October 27 & 28

*Helping Those in Need*

November 3 & 4

*What a Priest Does All Day*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

...continued from the cover

our answer to, “How do we welcome people who don’t follow Jesus’ teaching?” is to welcome them like everyone else! We’re all sinners; none of us should act self-righteous. So I hope, if you’re a guest here, you feel welcomed. Every Catholic church has people who have had abortions; every church has people who are divorced and remarried, every church has people who have same-sex attraction, etc. [...] Fr. Frank Pavone, who was the priest who received Norma into the Church, says one of his favourite pro-life activities is to sit down and talk with abortion providers. Like Jesus, he doesn’t soften his position, but he says, “The best way to convince someone of the dignity of human life is to treat him/her with dignity.” When Christians stand up for the dignity of life, we have to stand up for the dignity of all people by treating them with respect.

If ever we’re in a dialogue with someone who feels we’re not welcoming enough, perhaps we could ask them, “Would you like us to change our teachings? Do you want us to compromise our beliefs?” For example, on June 3, Corpus Christi Sunday, we said that not everyone can receive the Eucharist—remember? We said this isn’t a question of welcoming, it’s a question of covenant. The Catholic Church, like Jesus, will offer blessings to everyone and will pray for anyone. But, covenants mean we’ve made a promise to God, to keep His commandments—this applies to Catholics too. If we break the covenant, then we can’t receive the symbol of that covenant, the Eucharist.

So, let’s deal with people who are divorced and remarried because Jesus does so in the Gospel. First, start with the original plan: Jesus says, “From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Next, as Pope Benedict said, if we’re divorced and remarried, we’re not excommunicated (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, *Salt of the Earth*). We’re still Catholic, accepted and loved by God, and part of the big dysfunctional Catholic family. We’re not alone, because there are many Catholics who shouldn’t take Communion for one reason or another. We should come to Mass and get involved as much as possible in the life of the parish. And then, you’re invited to come talk to me, Fr. Pierre, or Deacon Andrew.

Fr. Mike Schmitz tells the story about his family: In 2012, during the debate on the redefinition of marriage in Minnesota, a family member brought home his gay boyfriend, and on the family lawn was a sign that said, “No,” to the redefinition of marriage. At the end of the weekend, the boyfriend was driving away with Fr. Mike and said, “I’m so worked up.” “How come?” “We just spent this great weekend with your family who clearly love you and love me, and yet they have that lawn sign that says they don’t want the redefinition of marriage.”

The stereotype is that you either celebrate everything I choose and do—that means you love me—or you must hate me. That’s a false choice. But this man realized, “They really, really cared about me, and yet they still disagree with this redefinition of marriage.”

We welcome every person according to God’s original plan. His plan is that we respect life, and marriage, and every single person.

...excerpt from Fr. Justin’s homily, October 7, 2018

## Consecration to Mary, the Mother of God

Our parish’s day of Consecration to Mary is December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The 33 days of preparation begin on Monday, November 5th. There are two ways to prepare: 1) **33 Days to Morning Glory** by Father Michael Gaitely focussing on the works of four prominent saints who were devoted to Mary. 2) **Total Consecration Through the mysteries of the Rosary** by Father Ed Broom. Information will be available at every Mass on Oct 6 and 7 or by calling Tilly Bara at mb391906@gmail.com . Please join us for the opportunity to draw closer to Christ through Mary’s intercession.



## Parish Bazaar and Bake Sale

will take place on **Saturday, October 20th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the church hall. **You may bring in your donations** such as clothing and footwear (in good condition) as well as housewares that are not broken. Please note: we cannot accept electronic products, computers, TV sets, baby chairs, prams, beds, etc. You can leave your “treasures” **by the side door of the church on the landing below the steps.**



We will need a lot of help at the bazaar, ie selling at the tables, clean-up, etc. and a sign-up volunteer list will be available in the church foyer. We are also appealing to crafts people for their handmade items, and our bakers for delicious goods (breads, cakes, pastries, etc.) Please contact Gillian at gillanmill@shaw.ca.

**Does your ministry or parish group have a notice for the Bulletin?** Please send it to the Parish Office by email at catherine.sapv@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is 2:00 pm every Wednesday, for the upcoming weekend.

## Give St. Anthony a Brick

**BRICK COMMITTEE UPDATE:**  
**Total funds raised, so far: \$2,343,423**  
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**A gentle reminder:** If you have assigned envelopes or are using the visitor envelopes, please remember to clearly write down the amount of your offering, your name, and contact number. We would really appreciate it!

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