

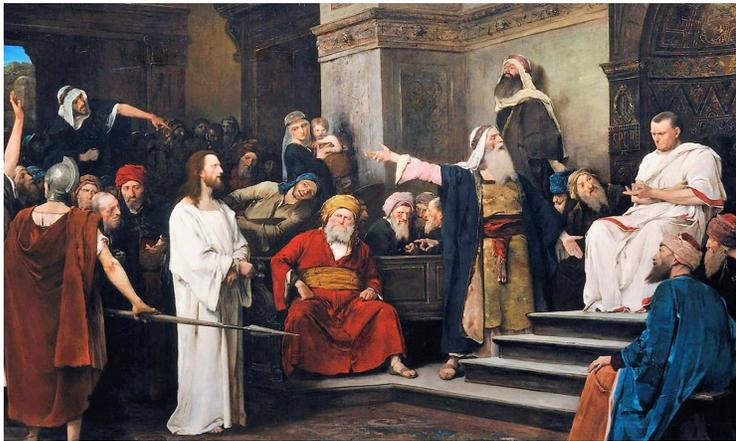
Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

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.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Relating to God through transcendentals



Dear brothers and sisters, and dear guests to our community, what positive things or experiences make us cry? Because they tell us about how we're designed and how God invites us into a relationship with Him.

Scripture scholars point out that, in today's Gospel, even though Jesus is on trial, He's offering Pilate an opportunity to believe (Francis J. Moloney, *The Gospel of John in Sacra Pagina*)! The text says, "Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'" (Jn 18:33-34). Here, our Lord is asking Pilate to decide between a faith that is based on hearsay (what others have told him about Jesus) and a faith... based on personal encounter... (what he can say about Jesus)" (Daniel Mueggendorf, *Come Follow Me*).

But Pilate distances himself from this personal faith by saying, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" (Jn 18:35). It's interesting: even though Pilate just asked if Jesus was a king, Jesus doesn't talk about Himself but about the kingdom: "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here'" (Jn 18:36). Just like He did with Nicodemus earlier in the Gospel (Jn 3:3-5), Jesus is talking about entering the kingdom—He's still offering Pilate a chance to enter the kingdom.

The last opportunity for Pilate comes when Jesus says, "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" (Jn 18:37, Thomas L. Brodie, *The Gospel According to John*). Yet Pilate rejects this offer with his now-famous question, "What is truth?" (Jn 18:38).

In philosophy and theology, we talk about three 'transcendentals,' that is, truth, goodness, and beauty. God is all of these: He is truth, He is goodness, and He is beauty itself. Whenever we see something that's true, good, or beautiful, it's a reflection of

God. And in the Gospel scene, Jesus draws Pilate to Himself by offering all three **transcendentals**: 1) Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6), so "the truth is quite literally staring Pilate in the face" (Francis Martin & William M. Wright IV, *The Gospel of John in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*); 2) We see goodness in Jesus's kingdom: His kingdom is not one of earthly power and fighting, but of peace (Cf. Jn 18:10-11); 3) His response while under trial is beautiful and inspiring (Cf. Acts 6:15). Amazingly His disposition is not one of anger or fear, but of calm confidence, self-possession and strength (Cf. St. John Chrysostom in John 11-21 in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*).

God is always offering us truth, goodness, and beauty. He gives generously! And whenever we learn something true, experience something good, or encounter something beautiful, He's drawing us to Himself.

The reason why I asked what positive things make us cry is because that often tells us which transcendental speaks to us the most. We're all unique and so relate to God in unique ways. Stephen Ray cried because he had spent his whole life looking for truth, and when he went to that Mass, he knew he was in the church Jesus founded. Have you noticed that I typically get choked up when I talk about sacrifice? If I talk about my brother fasting for his people, or about that little girl in China who died for the Eucharist, or Batman sacrificing himself for Gotham City at the end of *Dark Knight Rises*, watch out, because tears are coming, let me tell you! And my friend who described his first daughter's birth described it as beautiful, so that could be his favoured transcendental.

Jesus is asking us to identify our own unique transcendental, where He often draws us to the Father's heart. What do we like to do on the weekend? Do we lean towards truth (in lectures, reading), or to goodness (by volunteering, giving hospitality, spending quality time with family), or to beauty (going to museums, listening to music, or enjoying nature)?

What kind of books do we read? Academic ones, dramatic classics, or biographies? If we could volunteer for one cause, what would it be? If we could have dinner with anyone living or dead, who would it be? Pay attention to the values behind what we'd choose. This will let us know how to spiritually renew ourselves, whether it's by being in a beautiful church, in God's creation, immersing ourselves in the details of Sacred Scripture, or meditating on the life of Jesus.

Here are a few more applications of this. Once we know ours, we need to pay attention to the transcendental leanings of other people. What does our spouse, children or friends truly appreciate? What truly renews them? When we discover it, then we work to make, for example, our home more beautiful and tidy, or we try to give them reasons/explanations for why we do things or think a certain way; or we try to show greater love for them by acts of service, giving a gift, or telling them we love them.

...continued on inside page

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

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 Mailing Address: 1345 West 73rd Ave., Van., BC V6P 3E9
 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
 1st 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 73rd 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 73rd Avenue,
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 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, November 26 | Ferial | 1252 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Tuesday, November 27 | Ferial | 1254 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Wednesday, November 28 | Ferial | 1257 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Thursday, November 29 | Ferial | 1259 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Friday, November 30 | <i>Feast</i> St. Andrew, Apostle | 1261 | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| Saturday, December 1 | Ferial | 1263 | People who live with anxiety & depression |

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

December 1 & 2
*Praying that Our
 Loved Ones Come Home*

December 8 & 9
*How Do I Invite
 Someone to Mass?*

December 15 & 16
*What Exactly God is Asking
 Us to Do for Christmas?*

December 24 & 25
The Gift of God's Plan for Us



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS & ADORATION: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

CONFESSION TIMES

9:45 AM — 1:00 PM

1:30 PM — 4:30 PM

7:00 PM — 9:45 PM



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Saturday, December 1, 7:30 pm

St. Anthony of Padua Church

CWL Bake Sale Next Sunday

Please join us for our Coffee Shop & Bake Sale - next Sunday, December 2 after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses only. If you wish to donate some baked goods please bring them to the ladies before Mass. Thank you to all who help the CWL with our bake sales!



The Ceremony of Consecration to Mary will take place on Saturday, December 8 at the 9:00 AM Mass. If you would like to participate, please register with Tilly Bara at mb391906@gmail.com.

Our annual Anointing Mass for the Sick and Aged will take place on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 11:00 am. Mass will be followed by a luncheon in the Lower Hall of the church. Please sign-up at the back of the church. If you are homebound and would like to arrange an appointment for anointment, please call the Parish Office, 604.266.6131.

Mass Intentions The Parish calendar is fully booked for the remainder of this year. However, Fr. Peter Chiang has offered to take requests for Mass intentions from our parishioners. If you would like Fr. Peter to offer Mass for your intention(s) please contact the Parish Office, 604.266.6131 to make the arrangements.

Sex Abuse Crisis Forum

The next forum for Catholics concerned about the sex abuse crisis, will take place on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:30 pm, in the Church Hall. For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact the Parish Office, 604.266.6131.

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In terms of evangelization, knowing people's preferential transcendental is part of the way God will lead them. We're here to proclaim Jesus at every opportunity, because this is the most loving thing to do, and we want to do it in a way they can receive it. For instance, there are some people today who will study themselves closer to Jesus and the Church. The famous Scott Hahn, Jennifer Fulwiler, St. Edith Stein all converted mainly because of intellectual arguments. If we ever meet someone who's primary leaning is towards truth, then we need to help them with good arguments or by giving them quality videos or books like *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis or books by Peter Kreeft. Admittedly, most people don't come to God primarily by truth, because, in our post-modern culture, many don't believe in truth and most of us have been taught to think with our feelings. Often when I give people rational arguments for the existence of God, the divinity of Jesus, or why God allows suffering, they still don't accept it because there's an emotional or spiritual block.

So, what's probably the most persuasive transcendental for people today is goodness. Bishop Barron says that the greatest Catholic evangelist of the 20th century was...? Mother Teresa. By her incredible love of the poor, her self-sacrifice and radical life, she persuaded the whole world that she truly believes in Jesus and that Jesus's love is real. Many people, including the famous

BBC journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge, came to Jesus through her. Similarly, my dad finally came back to God through the goodness of the people at Alpha.

But Bishop Barron, perhaps the greatest American Catholic evangelist today, says we should evangelize by leading by beauty, because it's disarming; people need to see the whole picture, how Jesus and Catholicism makes life better, before entering into the details of the faith.

Brothers and sisters, we need to do all three, like Bishop Barron, whose style is "intelligent yet understandable, compelling yet approachable." No dumbed-down Catholicism. We need to be smart, bold, confident, and beautiful, as Jesus was. As we get closer to Christmas, we need to keep in mind that our focus for these months, hospitality, is designed to win people through goodness. [...] God created us out of love, and we've separated ourselves from Him, but He sent us His Son to bring us home, and we are invited to respond — that's the kerygma, the essential message of Christianity, as we've talked about before. Jesus is always trying to win us through transcendentals. What will be our response? I hope we open our hearts, repent and ask Him to be in the centre of our lives.

-excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, November 25, 2018

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