

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018

Invite confidently; God will do the rest

How many of us feel confident about saying, “Merry Christmas,” to people at work, in the stores, anywhere in public? We may hesitate because we’ve bought into the lie that we might offend everyone. I too have sometimes hesitated. We need more confidence as Catholics, especially when it comes to being open about our faith! [...]

Today, Jesus is trying to give us more confidence in who we are as Christians and in our mission to proclaim Jesus in every circumstance. There are three parts to it: First, the Gospel talks about a calling, “The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness” (Lk 3:2). John’s like the prophets in the Old Testament who received God’s word and were told to share it. This reminds us that we’ve received the Good News and that Jesus has given us a better life. As we approach Christmas, now’s a time to be most grateful to God. What are we most grateful for? Salvation, a better life, His love, plan for our lives? Or is it something as simple as what He did for us last week? As we’ve said before, our call is to joyfully share what we’ve received.

Second, there’s a preparation: “John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book... of the Prophet Isaiah... ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low” (Lk 3:3-5). The “baptism of repentance” refers to a washing of the body to signify spiritual and moral cleansing, because we need to turn away from sin and change our outlook in order to receive Jesus. When it says, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” this comes from a

practice in the ancient world to prepare roads for visiting kings so that they’d feel welcome. “People would... beautify their homes and public buildings to make their city pleasing to the king” (Daniel H. Mueggenborg, *Come Follow Me*).

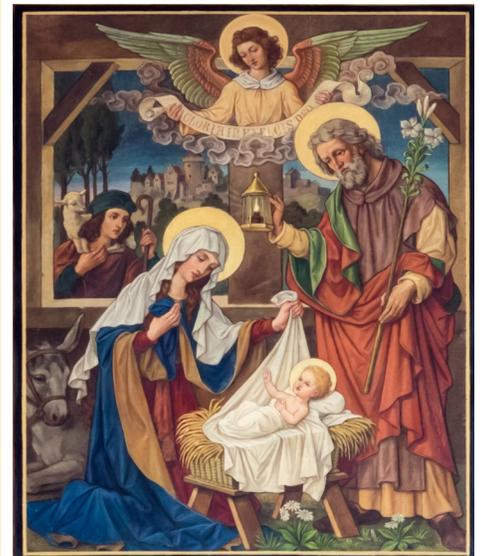
Third, this whole quotation from the prophet Isaiah is from the beginning of the main section of Isaiah. What does this tell us? Whenever people quote a beginning part of the Bible, it often means they’re quoting the whole part. So by quoting the beginning part of Isaiah, St. Luke is telling us that the seven blessings predicted in that section will come to pass. Here’s the list: 1) The Lord will rescue the poor and oppressed (Is 41:17; 42:7; 49:13); 2) Pour out the Spirit (44:3); 3) Restore Israel (43:5-7; 48:20; 49:5); 4) Come to Jerusalem as King (40:9-10; 52:7-10); 5) Destroy his enemies (41:11-13; 47:1-15); 6) Show mercy to his children (43:25; 44:22; 55:7); 7) The messianic Servant will bless the nations (42:1-4; 49:1-6) and atone for sin (50:4-9; 52:13-52:12) (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible).

Our confidence comes from our calling and God’s promises. If we help prepare people, great things will happen! Last week, we talked about praying for the people we love, that they come home or come to know Jesus.

Today we’re talking about inviting them to Christmas Mass. The vast majority of us have the gift of faith thanks to someone’s invitation, whether it was our parents raising us Catholic or someone inviting us to go deeper in our faith.

There were two fundamental invitations in my life that led me to be a disciple and a priest. I was baptized as a child but never raised Catholic,

Christmas 2018 Parish Schedule



Penitential Service

Sunday, December 23, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Mass: Monday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Carols in the Church: 11:15 pm

Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

Christmas Day

Masses: Tuesday, December 25

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

New Year’s Eve

Mass: Monday, December 31, 5:00 pm

Holy Hour & Gaudeamus: 11:00 pm

New Year’s Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

...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 73rd 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
 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,
 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, December 10	Ferial	20	Deceased Members of the Kam Family †
Tuesday, December 11	Ferial	24	Marie Dolan
Wednesday, December 12	Feast Our Lady of Guadalupe	-	Gaspere Leone †
Thursday, December 13	Memorial St. Lucy	29	Farrah Marie Chan †
Friday, December 14	<i>Memorial</i> St. John of the Cross	32	Jose Carlos Laguio
Saturday, December 15	Ferial	34	Thelma 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



December 15 & 16

What Exactly God is Asking Us to Do for Christmas?

December 24 & 25

The Gift of God's Plan for Us

December 29 & 30

3 Ways to Increase our Faith

January 5 & 6

God Takes Away Nothing, But Gives Everything

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...continued from the cover

and so I never knew Jesus, until one day my godmother asked, “San (my Chinese name), do you want to get confirmed?” I said, “Sure. Why not.” That put me on the path of being a disciple! But my vocation started from a second invitation. I didn’t enjoy my first youth group retreat when I was 15, so never went back to the youth group. But the young minister, Richard Vetter, called me the next summer and asked me to give it a second chance. He said all the teens whose behaviour I found shocking had left. So I gave it a try and, while on retreat, one confession changed my life.

These invitations were absolutely necessary. Could God have worked in another way? Yes. But we can also miss God’s calling if we don’t invite people. [...] Jesus is asking us to prepare His way by inviting people to Christmas Mass.

Remember, according to a 2017 Angus Reid survey, 46% of Canadians want a closer relationship with God, so statistically, half of the people we’re praying for are waiting for some kind of invitation. And St. Paul VI, in 1975, stated that people have a right to hear about Jesus (Evangeli Nuntiandi, 53, 80). Ever thought about that? People have a right to hear the Good News.

So, how do we do it? 1) Invite people the way we’d like to be invited. If we were to get invited to a friend’s church, we’d want it to be done out of love, not to be sold something, but because a friend truly cares about us. We wouldn’t want any pressure. 2) Be yourself. We all have unique ways of loving people, so be natural. Be joyful and virtuous, because that’s a powerful witness. 3) Tell them what it’s about: we’re going to have Mass (a service) and it’s a great way to spend Christmas, hear a good message and be with great people. If they’re looking for a spiritual home, they’ll be welcome here. And then give people a chance to think about it. For some people, we’ll know not to ask them again, while, for others who show openness, we may want to follow up with them.

Like St. John the Baptist, we’re just the preparers. Once we invite, we pray for the person and leave it to God. We’re all afraid of rejection, so realize this: It’s not about how many people come, it’s about how many people we love, pray for, and invite. It often happens that ten people will be invited and only one says, “Yes.” After several invitations and rejections, we’ll get used to inviting and not feel rejected anymore even when only one out of ten comes. We do our part and God will do His.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin’s homily, December 7, 2018



The Giving Tree is here!

This special tree is decorated with gift tags that request gifts for homeless men and women in the downtown eastside. The tree will be available in the church foyer until Sunday, December 9.

Please select your gift tag(s) and use gift bags only: no wrapping, as the Missionary Sisters of Charity would like to know the contents in order to distribute appropriately. N.B. Practical gifts are most appreciated, suggested value of \$10: socks, scarves, gloves or toiletries for adult male and female. **Last day to bring in your gifts is Sunday, December 16.**



Baptism this weekend!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our parish family. **Penelope Barbadillo Pamplona** received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, December 8 at the 5:00 pm Mass.

“Evangelizing Joyfully” with Michael Dopp

Every Christian is called to be actively engaged in evangelization, but where does one begin? What is true evangelization and why is it important? Hear from Michael Dopp, founder of the New Evangelization Summit on what it takes to evangelize in today’s culture. Evangelizing means sharing Christ with the world in every human situation and we are all called to share the good news! Learn how to develop a missionary zeal to live out our baptismal vocation on **Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Free admission but a free-will offering will be taken during the event. For more information, visit <https://rcav.org/event/sharing-christ-with-the-world>

Next weekend we will be distributing the **2019 Collection Envelope Boxes** before and after Masses. They will be available at the back of the church. If you are a registered parishioner you will be assigned a box. Non-parishioners who would like a box of envelopes are asked to please complete a parishioner registration form, which can be picked up at the Welcome Booth, or call the Parish Office during the week.



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.

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SERVING WITH FAITH AND JOY
 We would like to invite the ladies of the parish to become members of the CWL. Meetings are normally held the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:00A.M. For more information, please email Ai-Lin aleng@shaw.ca

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