

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2018

He came because He loves us!

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Today, let's consider the big picture, looking at things from God's point of view. It'll help put things into perspective, make sense of things, and show us where God wants us to go. We're going to use all four Gospels for Christmas and break down the homily into four parts.

1) Here's part one, from the Gospel for Christmas during the day. The Gospel begins this way: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life" (Jn 1:1-4). What does the "Word" mean here? We talked about this last year. It's Jesus. So, "In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. Jesus was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Jesus, and without Jesus not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Jesus was life." The first part of the big picture is remembering that Jesus exists; He created the world out of love, and that means that we are good and we are loved!

My parents' marriage, for the most part, wasn't a happy one. And in 1993, they were going through a financial crisis and my mother was suffering a lot. But during a family get-together, my older cousin Nadine said something to my mother that changed her life. She said, "Auntie Julianne, you deserve to be happy." That woke her up, because she had forgotten that Jesus loves us and made us to be happy.

And not just a little happy, but infinitely happy. Look, if you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap. If you want to be happy for a day, go shopping. If you want to be happy for a month, take a vacation. If you want to be happy for ever, let yourself be loved by Jesus and focus on Him! If we're not happy in our marriage, at work, in our life, or tonight, something's wrong. So, number one is: God loves us and created us to be happy.

2) From the Gospel at night: St. Luke says, "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria" (Lk 2:1-2). Historical records show that Emperor Augustus was called 'Son of God' and a 'saviour'; he 'established peace' and his birth brought 'good tidings' (Pablo T. Gadenz, *The Gospel of Luke in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*). What's interesting is that there's a comparison here between him and Jesus. In this passage, Jesus is called Son of God (1:35) and the saviour (2:11), and He brings true peace (2:14) and good news (2:10). These four qualities are all in St. Luke's Gospel.

Here's the point of the comparison: During that time, most of



the world was worshiping a false god and couldn't recognize the true God. We too have false gods. I was reminded of this a month ago while on retreat. I still have parts in me, for example, that are still focused on achievement for its own sake. What's wrong with that? God wants excellence, but not when it takes His place. When a person's addicted to achievement, thinking that it will satisfy them more than God, that's a false god. When a person chooses which kinds of success are important rather than letting God indicate which are the most important, that's false. [...] Why are we frustrated in our lives? It could be because our lives are structured around false gods and we let them dictate our lives. The second part is that we have gods that separate us from Him.

3) The third part is from the Christmas vigil Mass: This Gospel lists dozens of ancestors of Jesus all the way back to Abraham—hard to understand for us, but it made sense for Jewish people back in Jesus' time. One of the things St. Matthew was trying to do is point out how Jesus is the new King David. At the end of the genealogy, St. Matthew writes, "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations" (Mt 1:17). [...] St. Matthew also writes at the very beginning, "An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Mt 1:1). And David is listed as the fourteenth name in the whole list, and he's the only person in the genealogy who is given a title. Just as David was the leader of the Jewish people, so Jesus, the new David, is our leader and points the way back to God. And, just like David, Jesus is also a priest, the

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New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve

*Mass: Monday, December 31, 5:00 pm
Holy Hour & Gaudeamus: 11:00 pm*

New Year's Day

*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm*

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 24	Ferial	74	All Parishioners
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day	Missal	—
Wednesday, December 26	<i>Feast</i> St. Stephen	1839	William Miller †
Thursday, December 27	<i>Feast</i> St. John the Apostle	1842	Clifford & Rosalind Kriekenbeek
Friday, December 28	<i>Feast</i> The Holy Innocents	1844	Frank Kim Sing †
Saturday, December 29	Fifth Day of Octave of Nativity	86	Lim Family

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Nick De Vos, Tamara Dixon, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen Francis, 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 29 & 30
3 Ways to Increase our Faith



January 5 & 6
God Takes Away Nothing, But Gives Everything

January 12 & 13
Why Should God Let Us into Heaven? Here's the Answer

January 19 & 20
God Wants to Hear Our Problems



January 26 & 27
(Parish Mission)
Guest Preacher: Fr. Nick Meisl

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FREE Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Knights of Columbus on **Sunday, January 6, 2019** after all Masses!! Invite your friends to Mass, and enjoy a hearty meal afterwards!



Give St. Anthony a Brick

**BRICK COMMITTEE UPDATE:
Total funds raised, so far: \$2,760,500
Thank you parishioners & supporters!!**

Please remember to pick-up your 2019 Collection Envelope Boxes. Please call or visit the Parish Office during the week at 604.266.6131. Non-parishioners who would like a box of envelopes are asked to please complete a parishioner registration form.

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perfect priest gave His own life to forgive our sins and take away our guilt! This is what we're celebrating today: God became man to bring us home and reconcile us to Himself.

Plato, the Greek philosopher, believed that if humans simply know the truth, they'll be able to fix their lives. Many today believe that: If we simply educate people about right and wrong, the world will be fixed. And there's something to be said for this. But, as Christians, we believe that simply knowing the truth isn't enough. Humans are damaged in their ability to choose what's right; we know we should put God first, sleep more, prioritize our families, take care of health, etc., but can't do it by ourselves. We need a saviour; we need help and grace to help us choose the right way. The third part is that Jesus came to save us.

4) The final part is from the Gospel at dawn and it shows Mary, who's already full of grace. In this scene, the shepherds have gone to see Jesus just born, and when they arrive at the manger and see Joseph, Mary and Jesus, they tell them what the angels had revealed. And it says, "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). Many people at that time were too busy with the census and didn't realize what God was doing, but she does. So, she's our model on how to respond to Jesus. She knew she needed a saviour and was humble. The fourth part is that Jesus waits for our response.

Here are three opportunities for us to respond to Jesus:

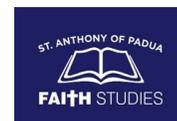
1) During my retreat, I admitted to my spiritual director that I have a false god and need Jesus. Then I went to prayer and asked Jesus to save me, be my true God, and help put my desire for achievement in its proper place. We can all make a similar prayer. I prayed many times, "Lord, I'm a captive. Set me free," and I found so much peace in this prayer, and that got me ready to make changes in my life when I came back, and I'm still

FAITH STUDIES start January 29th!

Note: Registration deadline is Sunday, January 20.

The 14th round of Faith Studies will start up again, Tuesday nights from **January 29 to March 5.** All five levels of studies will be offered: **Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience and Commission.**

NOTE: Limited spots are available in each of the levels. For more information or to register, call Angel José at the Parish Office, 604.266.6131 ext. 204 or email her at stanthonyfaithstudies@gmail.com.



Pro-life Mass & Prayer Vigil



One of the fundamental answers to abortion is prayer. Please join your voice with ours as we pray on the first Saturday of January for a new culture of life. **Archbishop Michael Miller will celebrate Mass at our parish on Saturday, January 5 at 9:00 AM.** A reception will take place after Mass, followed by a prayer vigil at BC Women's Hospital.

making them!

2) When Nadine told my mom she deserved to be happy, that reminded my mom of what she wanted most: to go back to the sacraments. So she made a decision to go to an Advent penitential service after 17 years. I'm so happy everyone's here, and I want all Catholics to receive Jesus worthily in Communion. If we haven't been to Mass every Sunday, aren't able to receive, or haven't been to Confession in a while, we can't receive, because we need to first apologize to Jesus in Confession.

3) If you're looking for a spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us here. We've been working on growing as a community for many years now. [...] In two Sundays, on Jan. 6, we'd like to invite everyone, in particular those who are spiritually seeking, to our free pancake breakfast after all our Sunday Masses. And in one month, on Jan. 29, we'd like to invite anyone seeking to know more about faith to try our Faith Studies program, which has been running here for three years. It's the largest and most robust program for spiritual growth in our diocese, and we've had 513 people go through the first level; we had 86 people last round. It's just six nights, about one hour long; you're in a group of five people with one leader, and you get a chance to listen, and, if you feel comfortable, you can share your thoughts, and learn. It's so helpful!

All of us have an opportunity for a better life. After my mom came back to Mass in 1993, I got confirmed a year later, then my oldest brother got confirmed two years after that, and then our middle brother, and then I entered the seminary, then my oldest brother started doing full-time pro-life work, and then the middle brother entered the seminary, and then we both became priests, and three years before my dad died, he came back to God.

Remember the big picture: Jesus loves us and created us to be happy, but we have false gods that separate us from Him; so He came to save us and is waiting for our humble response like Mary's.

Merry Christmas!

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

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 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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