

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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARCH 3, 2019

Adoration Bears Good Fruit



In 1946, 323 priests and nuns from Italy's village of Lu re-unite in their hometown.

What we're talking about today is the human need to bear fruit, as the Bible calls it; but, at the same time, we're afraid of hearing about bad fruit. Dear guests, brothers and sisters, a month ago, God told us not to censor ourselves, so today, we should face some sobering facts. Please know, however, that I say them in love. [...]

We've mentioned before that 91% of Catholics, by age 22, no longer practice their faith. We, parents, don't like to think about it, because it could be partially our fault. The truth is, and this is a generalization, but holds true for most cases: Catholic parents who are disciples, who are devout and make Jesus the centre of their lives usually have children who are the same. Are there exceptions? Of course, but these are exemptions, not the rule.

I once met a mother who was crying that her daughter was living with an older man who was taking advantage of her. The mother wondered why the daughter didn't listen to her. Then I realized that the daughter was just following the mother, that is, the mother always resists authority, especially the authority of the Church, because she's a cafeteria Catholic, and so the daughter's doing the exact same thing.

This happens with many parents: Their children don't follow Jesus anymore and don't practice their Catholic faith, but then I learn that the parents have made compromises with their own Catholic faith.

Now we all want to improve this situation, so let's listen to Jesus. He says today: "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil" (Lk 6:43-45).

The first step to improvement is to acknowledge that the human person is designed by God to bear fruit! We're made in God's image, and God is fruitful! Love is fruitful!

This means we have to avoid two lies that make us feel good when we're not bearing fruit: 1) God loves you just the way you are. Whenever someone says, "God loves you just the way you are," say to them, "That's half true. God loves you just the way you are, but loves you too much to let you stay the way you are." So, when I tell you that I'm saddened that my priesthood hasn't borne more fruit, some of you will say, "Father, you're a good priest. You've helped a lot of people." Alright, you do it to encourage me to keep on doing good. But also challenge me to be holier. Jesus says, "No good tree bears bad fruit... Each tree is known by its own fruit." He's telling me to become a better tree! So, help me to not be complacent and bear more fruit! I'm always encouraging you to grow—I look forward to the day that you'll do that for me and for each other! Take responsibility for this and take initiative.

2) The second lie to avoid is lowering our standards. Instead of aiming for sainthood for our children, we say, "Even though my children don't practice the faith, they're good people." But Jesus says the goal of life is, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48).

Dr. Ray Guarendi, a family counsellor, calls this the "Well-they're-not-on-drugs" approach (Good Discipline, Great Teens, Chapter 4, A Bad Age). A lot of kids are rude, self-centered, self-absorbed, ungrateful, and lazy, but then some parents say, "At least they're not on drugs." Expecting our children to be nice is a low standard: It's easy to be nice; nice people typically have no real courage, and it's so vague that nice people typically also do a lot of moral evil. Some parents say that their non-practicing children still believe in Jesus—good but not enough. If they loved Jesus, they would, as Jesus teaches, keep His commandments (Cf. Jn 15:10). [...]

The second step to bearing fruit is to unite ourselves more to Jesus. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. What needs to change in our lives? During Lent, how can we live more like Christ in His prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? How can we raise the standards for ourselves?!

Choose a prayer that will bring you closer to God. Deacon Andrew will lead Stations of the Cross every Tuesday night. Fasting usually means skipping a meal, eating less, eating less of what we like or more of what we don't like! Simplify your lives like Jesus! Offer this for your children, that they come back

...continued inside

Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang *Blog: thejustmeasure.ca*
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 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

Weekdays

	Masses	Confessions
Monday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Tuesday	7:30 pm	
Wednesday & Thursday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Friday	8:00 am	7:45 to 7:55 am
Saturday	9:00 am	9:45 am

Confession

Saturday afternoon 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 enter at 1365 West 73rd Avenue
 Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm

First Saturday of each month: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm in the church during all-day confessions.

First Friday of each month: 8:45 am to 10:00 am in the church followed by **Benediction**.

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
Mon., Mar. 4	Ferial	521	John Lock †
Tues., Mar. 5	Ferial	523	Remembrance Tree
Wed., Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday	133	Yvonne Chin & Family
Thurs., Mar. 7	Ferial	138	Jennifer Chen †
Fri., Mar. 8	Ferial	141	Araceli Venida †
Sat., Mar. 9	Ferial	144	Joselito & Janet Laguio

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 Gao, Feli Hempl, Cecile Hernandez, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Christina Sayo, Liliana Taylor, Fernando Tiago, Cynthia Wing, Theresa Yoshioka.

New policy for booking Mass Intentions

In an effort to give more people a chance to book Masses for loved ones and deceased individuals, a new policy has been introduced. Mass intentions can now be booked in two phases: 1) January to June and 2) July to December. Bookings for phase 2, begins **Tuesday, March 5, 2019**. All bookings must be made in person at the Parish Office. Please call Angel at 604.266.6131 ext. 204 for more information on the new policy.

Upcoming Homily Themes



March 9 & 10
*Step Aside Marie Kondo,
 Here Comes Jesus*

March 16 & 17
*God is Always Faithful to Us.
 Are We Faithful to Him?*

March 23 & 24
*What Our New Chapel
 Will Look Like*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday, March 6 to Sunday, April 14 Take part in this campaign by committing to an hour to stand vigil at West 32nd Avenue and Willow Street, by BC Women's Hospital. Our parish has designated 4 days: Thursday, Mar. 7, Friday, Mar. 8, Saturday, Mar.9 and Sunday, Mar. 10 to participate in the vigil. You can sign up for an hour on any one of these days by filling out one of the cards in the pews or calling the Parish Office.

Parish Registration and the Use of Parish Collection Envelopes. Fr. Justin and the Parish Office regularly receives requests for Letters of Good Standing or Reference Letters as part of Baptism, Marriage or Confirmation Sponsor documents, religious certifications, or for Catholic elementary or secondary school applications. NOTE: The only official and ordinary way to obtain these letters is to register in the parish and regularly use envelopes, so that when the need arises, it will be based on official records. This helps avoid unnecessary frustration and misunderstanding when regular Mass attendance cannot be verified through use of envelopes.

REMINDER: To help our Sunday Collection Counters and to ensure your donations are accurately being accounted for on your tax receipt, please **write down your donation amount clearly** on your weekly donation envelopes. Envelopes without the amount written may not be given credit if missed by the counters. Thank you for your cooperation.

REMINDERS FOR LENT

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday Masses:** **March 6 at 8:15 am, 1:15 pm and 7:00 pm.**
- ◆ NOTE: Ash Wednesday is a day of **fast** for those 18 - 59 years old and **abstinence** for those 14 years and older. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.
- ◆ **Stations of the Cross:** Tuesday evenings, starting **March 12 at 7:00 pm.**



Do you have the desire for a deeper relationship with God through better understanding of the Sacred Scripture and to be more confident in sharing our faith?

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<https://stebenvilleconferences.com>

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or stay close to God. Almsgiving means giving to those in need. Give some money to or serve those in need. Do acts of kindness for others. And the most powerful work of mercy will be 40 Days for Life, where we'll stand up for the defenseless and save some children from being killed. Please join the whole community in taking a public stand against abortion. If we're prolife, let's put it into practice!

But the focus of our parish right now is Eucharistic adoration. Here are three fruits of adoration:

1) It lets God's grace flow through us. Why is it that so many people say the same thing about the saints? That they remind us of Christ. How is it that St. John Paul II could see that that young Swiss guard who was away from home for the first time at Christmas was hurting? How could he change that young man's life with a few words? The answer is: It wasn't him, but Christ flowing through him. He was famous for spending hours in the chapel, often prostrate on the ground with his arms outstretched in the form of a cross. [...] The Eucharist will increase the fruit of every good work we do because Christ will be living more in us.

2) Adoration gives courage. If we want more fruit, we need more courage! In 1994, St. Mother Teresa was invited the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast. Whereas most politicians tell people what they want to hear, Mother spoke the truth. But not everyone clapped, including President Bill

Clinton and his wife, Hillary, but Mother had courage! From where? The Eucharist. She said, "In our congregation, we used to have adoration once a week for one hour, and then in 1973, we decided to have adoration one hour every day... our love for Jesus became more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, our love for the poor more compassionate, and we have double the number of vocations."

3) Adoration helps our children. In 1881, in the small Italian village of Lu, near Turin, the mothers of that town decided to pray for vocations, that some of their own children would follow God as a priest or sister. "Under the direction of their parish priest... they gathered every Tuesday for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament... received Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month... [and] prayed a particular prayer together... Through the trusting prayer of these mothers and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognize their vocations." The parents would say, "The Lord gave us our children, and so if He calls them, we can't say, 'No'." So their parish produced 323 vocations: 152 priests and 171 nuns! Some families had three or four vocations and the most well-known was Bl. Philip Rinaldi."

Focus on being a good tree! Good trees bear good fruit!

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, March 3, 2019

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