

# 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 24, 2019

## Feeling at Home with God

In November, we talked about the three transcendentals of truth, goodness and beauty. There's another transcendental, called "being" which Fr. Robert Spitzer calls "home," when we have a "perfect sense of harmony with all that is," with everything, the whole cosmos (Ten Universal Principles, 137). Now, of course, our true home is heaven, but we shouldn't feel a sense of alienation now; we should feel at home with God, in the Church, and with the people around us. And when this need is fulfilled, philosophers, theologians, and mystics tell us that we experience six realities: awe, holiness, joy, love, unity, and quiet (Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, *New Proofs for the Existence of God*, 282).

God wants us to be at home with Him! This is what Moses experiences according to the first reading. "Moses... led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am'" (Ex 3:1-4).

God always starts by calling us by name! He calls us in our daily lives to experience something greater! But He doesn't want to overwhelm us: He gently gets our attention, then invites us closer to His holiness, and waits for our response. Have we ever experienced this call? He's gently calling us today. "Then God said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'" (Ex 3:5). This is the experience of awe and holiness! Moses has to remove his sandals because this isn't any regular place, just as we remove our shoes in people's homes when we visit or when Muslims remove their shoes when entering a mosque. He hides his face because Jewish people believed that if they saw God face to face, they would die. [...]

"Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters... I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey'" (Ex 3:7-8). God reveals Himself to us in order to love us. He sees our pain and emptiness and wants to give us new life. "But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the children of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you"' (Ex 3:13-14).

Moses asks God's name because Moses lived in a polytheistic world, where there were many gods, so he wanted to know God's authority compared to other gods. But God's name is unique, because He is existence itself: I AM WHO I AM (John Courtney Murray, "The Problem of God" in *Yesterday and Today*).



*Rendering of our new Adoration Chapel*

Jewish people never said God's name out loud because it was so sacred. They wrote it like this: YHWH [Screens], which most scholars believe the vowels give this: YAHWEH (The International Bible Commentary, 414). They never said it out loud because they didn't want to treat God like other false gods. Pope Benedict said that modern Bible translations were wrong to write out this name, as if it were some familiar item in religion (Jesus of Nazareth, Vol. 1, 143).

But by God revealing His name, God's establishing the possibility of a relationship. In the 2009 reboot *Star Trek*, Captain Kirk tries to find out Uhura's name in a bar. Why? Forgive the poor language, but it's so that he can hit on her—it's that shallow. That's why she won't give it at first. But finally relents by giving only her last name, because giving her first name would be too personal and she doesn't want to have a relationship with him. Similarly, once people know the name of 'Jesus,' they can have a personal relationship with Him and enter into His covenant. Once people know the name, "I AM WHO I AM," they can know God in a way that's completely different than just saying, "God, can you help me with this?" etc. That's why it's so important that we evangelize and share our faith, because we're giving people a chance to have a relationship with God that they don't have, to know God on a first-name basis.

God wants us to be at home with Him and in His Church. So we have three actions that will help us and others find their home with God:

1) We're four weeks away from Easter, and God is asking us to invite people home the way we did in Advent. And it always starts with prayer. Do you remember that story about the church where the people wrote down the names of their loved ones, whose salvation they were concerned about, in the wet concrete underneath the carpet of their church? We did something similar by writing

*...continued inside*

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**St. Anthony of Padua School**

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**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  
 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** enter at 1365 West 73<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Weekday Masses & Intentions**

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Mon., Mar. 25	<i>Solemnity</i> Annunciation of the Lord	1454	Aida & Marcelo Cescano †
Tues., Mar. 26	Ferial	185	Nefriti Coronel
Wed., Mar. 27	Ferial	189	Rob & Arlene Beach
Thurs., Mar. 28	Ferial	191	Rosario Lao †
Fri., Mar. 29	Ferial	194	Gil de Vera †
Sat., Mar. 30	Ferial	197	Woodhouse 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, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Ron R.,  
 Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Christina Sayo, Liliana Taylor, Fernando  
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**Upcoming Homily Themes**

**March 30 & 31**  
*Is Being a Good Person  
 Enough to Get into  
 Heaven?*

**April 6 & 7**  
*Judging is Wrong,  
 But Sometimes it's Right*

**April 13 & 14**  
*What's Better: Spending Time with a Picture of a  
 Friend or Spending Time with That Friend?*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



A live-in weekend at **Seminary of Christ the King** in Mission will take place April 5 to 7. The weekend is for young men and boys who are interested in the priesthood or religious life. High school aged boys can pick

-up an application at the Welcome Booth or the Parish Office, or email [frpeterosb@gmail.com](mailto:frpeterosb@gmail.com). Young men in Grade 12 and those who have graduated high school are asked to contact the Rector, 604.826.8715 or [rector.majors@yahoo.ca](mailto:rector.majors@yahoo.ca). For more information, please visit [vocationsvancouver.ca/events/pray-and-play/](http://vocationsvancouver.ca/events/pray-and-play/).

**Update: Steubenville Conference** The early bird registration deadline is fast approaching! March 31st. Join your fellow parishioners at this event which takes place from July 25-26. The conference features speakers on Applied Biblical Studies, and Defending the Faith. Take advantage of a \$20 discount for the registration fee. For more information on registering, please email Jessica or Agnes at [stbv.sapv@gmail.com](mailto:stbv.sapv@gmail.com).

**Retrouvaille Weekend for Couples, April 5 - 7, (Barnabas Landing, Keats Island)** Retrouvaille is a marriage program for couples whose marriage has become off course. It begins with a weekend program that can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact our registration team: Marc and Candice at 604-530-6710 or visit our websites [www.retrouvaillevancouver.com](http://www.retrouvaillevancouver.com) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

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*Spring*



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Name Tag Weekend  
March 30/31  
AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES

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ORDERS TAKEN AT THE WELCOME BOOTH  
OR TEXT 778-319-7814

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down the names of people we love on the cards in your pews and placed them underneath the altar so that we could pray for them. Let's do this again: Take the cards, write down the names and then hand them into the collection basket.

2) We're starting Alpha on Thursday. God calls us by name, gently, without forcing, but inviting and waiting for a response. Alpha is a perfect place to encounter God's truth, goodness, and beauty. One of the most beautiful things for me is when I see participants and leaders at Alpha have an experience of feeling at home. One young man told me how the hospitality there is so good; people are friendly and happy to get to know you. Through this experience of being at home, God calls us to experience something greater! The first video of Alpha is entitled: "Is there more to life than this?" And that speaks to hearts that are yearning to be at home. Think about coming this Thursday and inviting a friend. There's no commitment with Alpha: We can try it and come back, or try it and not come back.

3) This is why we've re-designed our chapel, so that the physical surroundings give us an experience of God's home. It's supposed to be beautiful, sacred, and homey. The focus will be on the tabernacle, which is majestic because the King of kings is majestic. The ceiling tiles, the pillars, the wooden panels will all add to the beauty. The windows have been enlarged significantly so that God's light can come in, and we can

appreciate the natural beauty of the garden outside. It's going to have a carpet so that we can sit on the floor at the feet of Jesus the way Mary did (Lk 10:39). And we're going to have to take off our shoes like Moses, because we'll be on sacred ground (Cf. Ex 3:6).

This chapel is designed to be a second home for us. People will be going in and out constantly. People will come in to find nourishment, strength, peace, and joy; to say, "I love You, Jesus," "I need You," "Please help me." I would love non-Catholics to feel comfortable in the chapel because Jesus is waiting for them there; this will be everyone's home; everyone's welcome. Even if they don't recognize Him in the Eucharist, they'll still encounter Him. This will be a place of refuge, where broken people can find love and belonging.

And then Jesus will send them out on a mission to love like Him! Everyone will come out with more grace, even if they don't feel it, and then they'll share what they've received and love more at home, be more virtuous at work, and proclaim Him in every circumstance. And then we're going to invite our friends and strangers to come.

In this season on the Eucharist, our goal is to have a Eucharistic heart, meaning one that recognizes Jesus in the Eucharist, and goes to Him to be with Him. And we'll express this by committing 15 minutes of adoration a week. He's calling us from the burning bush, and we're invited to respond.

Do you believe adoration can change the world? I do. Jesus wants us to be at home with Him!

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, March 24, 2019

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