

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1st, 2019

The Gift of the Wake-up Call

Wake-up calls are gifts, because they focus us on reality! In the Gospel, Jesus gives us two wake-up calls to the reality of death and judgment, not to sadden ourselves, as St. John XXIII said, but to spur us on to sanctity!

“As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” (Mt 24:37-42).

“Eating and drinking” are used here as signs of a care-free, foolish life. Noah is a symbol of those who faithfully and lovingly respond to God, while the world is punished for not loving Him and following His commands. The idea that judgment comes while people are working “in the field” or “grinding meal together” means that it will happen in a regular day. So, Jesus tells us to “keep awake,” always ready for death and judgment. [...]

As we pointed out in March, being a ‘good’ person is not enough to enter heaven for three reasons:

1) What does it mean to be good? Good according to the Bible, or good according to Canadian standards, which means being nice, but allows us to be selfish and not have to stand up against evil? And how many of us can say we always obey their conscience? I can’t. 2) Everyone needs a saviour, because we all sin and all need to make up for it, but we can’t, so Jesus will do it for us, if we respond to Him in faith and love. 3) Heaven is God’s home and being with God the Father, so, to be in heaven means loving the Father, not just being good.

“But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed

awake and would not have let this house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour” (Mt 24:43-44). It’s interesting that Jesus compares His coming to something negative, like a “thief.” It’s because judgment has a negative aspect to it. Jesus will judge fairly, but it’s not something to be taken lightly, which is why He says, “You also must be ready,” and respond to Him with faith and love.

We’re now beginning the liturgical season of Advent, which consists of four weeks of preparation for Christmas. ‘Advent’ means ‘coming,’ and St. Cyril of Jerusalem teaches that we celebrate two comings of Christ: first, His coming as a baby, when the second person of the Trinity took on human nature and was given the name, ‘Jesus’ (Office of Readings, 1st Sunday of Advent). Jesus is coming to reconcile us with the Father. He’s trying to win us, and His proposal is urgent.

The second coming is what we profess in the creed: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.” This is the wake-up call which focuses us on responding to Him.

I’ve been praying and thinking about this wake-up call for over a year. As Catholics, we tend to get complacent and comfortable in our evangelization focus. Jesus came to win us back and did it with urgency, but we lack that same focus. So, I’ve been thinking: How do we grow in that sense of responding to Him and helping others respond? What God’s led me to is using Alpha as our chosen evangelization tool and trying to root its virtues more deeply in the parish. What we’re doing is starting a new season for the next month and a half called Alpha as Culture. Alpha, as many of us know, is this great 12-week program that helps us encounter Jesus: It’s loving, respectful, warm, and winsome. It’s meant for all of us so that we can choose to follow Him, but especially for people who have never really known Jesus. There have been so many conversions through Alpha here and around the world, which is why it’s a global program.

...continued inside

Christmas 2019 Parish Schedule

Penitential Service

Sunday, December 22, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Mass: Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Carols in the Church: 11:15 pm

Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

Christmas Day

Masses: Wednesday, December 25

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



New Year's Eve

Mass: Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 pm

Holy Hour & Gaudeamus: 11:00 pm

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Masses: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 5:00 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.
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St. Anthony of Padua School

Kindergarten to Grade 7
 1370 West 73rd Avenue,
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 Principal: Mr. Michael Perry
 Telephone: 604.261.4043
 Website: stanthonypaduaschool.ca
 School Email: office@stanthonypaduaschool.ca

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 (school months)	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
 Daily: 6:00 am to Midnight

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

Monday, December 2	Ferial	Kathy Kim Sing
Tuesday, December 3	<i>Memorial</i> St. Francis Xavier	Remembrance Tree
Wednesday, December 4	Ferial	Gaspare Leone †
Thursday, December 5	Ferial	Mark McNicol
Friday, December 6	Ferial	Fr. John Baptist Tu †
Saturday, December 7	<i>Memorial</i> St. Ambrose	Collho 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, Feli Hempl, Cecile Hernandez, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.



BRICK COMMITTEE UPDATE:
Total funds raised, so far: \$3,715,515
 (as of November 23, 2019)
Thank you parishioners & supporters!!

Upcoming Homily Themes

December 7 & 8
Welcoming as Christ Welcomes Us



December 14 & 15
Guest Preacher: Fr. Francis Ching

December 21 & 22
Overcoming the Fear of Rejection



December 24 & 25
A Chance for Reconciliation

December 28 & 29
Preacher: Fr. Pierre Leblond

December 31 & January 1:
Preacher: Fr. Pierre Leblond



January 4 & 5
The Best Time of Year to Grow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATE: Helping the Victims of Apartment Fire

Thank you to everyone who donated goods and offered to help the victims of the recent apartment fire. Others from the local community, including the Red Cross have responded generously, and we're told that everyone affected are in a more stable situation, so further assistance is no longer required. Please continue to pray for these individuals, as they begin to re-build their lives.



CWL Coffee Shop and Bake Sale

'Tis the season to be jolly! We invite every parishioner to join us for fellowship at our upcoming December 8th bake sale. There will be activities for children, so bring the entire family!

The CWL members are also requesting donations of Christmas baked goods that can be sold at the bake sale. If you can help, kindly bring your treats downstairs in the kitchen before Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Thanks to all supporters of the CWL!

Advent Parish Mission "Equipping for the Harvest" with Fr. Francis Ching

7:00 PM, December 15 - 17 *

Sunday, Dec. 15: Seeking Virtues
Monday, Dec. 16: A Listening Heart
Tuesday, Dec. 17: Mentoring Group



* There will be no morning Mass or Novena during the Parish Mission. Daily Mass will be at 7:00 pm on Monday & Tuesday.

Sunday Missals for sale: \$4.00/book

The new missals are in the pews this weekend! If you would like to purchase a personal copy, we have several for sale. You'll find them at the Catholic Lighthouse Media stand at the back of the church.

YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS POTLUCK & GIFT EXCHANGE

When: Saturday, December 21, 2019, after 5pm Mass

Where: Church Lower Hall

Please bring: Gift (\$10 - \$15) suitable for anyone

Who's invited? Youth, 13 to 23 years interested in singing for the Lord

RSVP: Rachel Djauhari, r.djauhari99@gmail.com, 778-960-2676

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

9:45 AM — 11:00 AM

1:30 PM — 4:30 PM

7:00 PM — 9:45 PM

PRAISE & WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

...continued from cover

There are seven best practices of Alpha that we want to focus on, one for each Sunday: 1) Prayer; 2) Hospitality; 3) Listening; 4) Evangelistically positioned (that is, reaching out to people); 5) Alpha talks (which means encountering the person of Jesus); 6) Alpha Weekend; and 7) Training. [...]

Today, we're focused on the importance of prayer for other people. Alpha is designed to fail if God doesn't show up. Without prayer, it's just good videos with conversations. But when the Holy Spirit's the principle mover, there are conversions of heart. During Alpha, we always ask our 124 members of our Intercessory Prayer Ministry to pray for the leaders and guests, and the whole Alpha Team itself prays daily for the guests, and they pray with hope, with the expectation that people will meet Jesus.

Today, we want to pray for the people we love and who haven't yet encountered Jesus, and we're going to use what's called the 11:02 Prayer. This is based on Luke, chapter 11, verse 2, where the disciples ask Jesus how to pray, and He teaches them the Our Father. We write down the names of people we love, set an alarm on our phones at 11:02 a.m. or p.m., and pray for them then. [...]

Now let's go even a step deeper than last year. I want to teach you how to offer your works and sufferings for other people. I heard a story about a cardinal in Rome who had strong temptations against faith. One night, he had a vision of a Poor Clare nun and, at the same time, felt free of his doubts. A few months later, he visited a Poor Clare monastery and, while distributing Holy Communion, saw the sister he had seen in the

vision. Afterwards, he asked to see her, and asked, "Do you pray for cardinals?" She was embarrassed, "Oh, not enough, Your Eminence, only as I fold my laundry every night" (Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV, Power in Prayer, Track 9). Can you believe that? She would fold her laundry with love and intentionally offer that love for cardinals and that freed one of them from doubt.

That's how it works: In whatever good we do, we pray, "Lord, today I'm going to offer the love with which I do my house chores, my homework, my work at the office, etc. that people I'm praying for may come to know You." Can we do this daily at 11:02, please?

Jesus is reminding us to wake up to the reality of judgment and be more outward focused. When our Mother Mary appeared in Fatima in 1917, she said these famous words, "Pray, pray a great deal, and make sacrifices for sinners [which includes us!], for many souls go to Hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them." We're all getting older, and could die before Christmas and lose an opportunity to invite, or the people we love could die within a year. Christmas is coming and now's the time to pray daily for the conversion of others.

I'm really looking forward to this season! All the preparation has made me more aware of the people around me and the people I meet on the streets. I'm praying for people and already inviting them in a new way.


- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, December 1, 2019

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