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.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 12, 2020

How to Realize You're Special

Bob was only 13 when his father left the family. Being the second oldest of seven children, Bob felt he had to become the man of the home. Weeks later, he was also devastated when his basketball coach tried to molest him. The pain continued a year later when his father eventually started a second family and when his family moved to Florida. He didn't realize it at the time, but the key word that described his experience was betrayal. He couldn't trust anyone. He also didn't realize that his trust in God was wounded.

But he made it through high school, then married a wonderful woman, had two children, and went on to be a successful doctor, professor, and therapist. When his wife returned to work, however, the void and restlessness in his heart manifested. At a Bible study, he heard the call of Jesus to give his life fully to Him, but was afraid of getting hurt again. He also realized that he was afraid of giving his heart completely to his wife. Therapy

brought up more issues: He projected his wounds onto her, and was angry that she didn't meet his needs, while he never met hers.

A breakthrough came during a retreat: He was touched by the honest sharing and vulnerability of the other men, which led to forming a men's group. He became their leader, during which time he saw Jesus heal others, and so the heavy burden he felt of always having to provide for others was lifted.

On another retreat, he recognized he was still doubting God's goodness. A friend helped him realize that his reading of occult books some time before needed to be purified in Confession. The next day, after Confession, he lectored at Mass, and sensed the Holy Spirit's presence in a unique way, and recognized Jesus' presence in the Eucharist like never before! His joy was restored! At 3 a.m., some friends woke him up to pray, and they sang like never before! He was so full of joy that he was laughing and crying at the same time, and he hadn't cried since his parents' divorce. Now he understood why he doubted God's goodness. He had projected his relationship with his father onto God: I can never please God, He's never there for me, He's a good father who turns out bad. But now, Bob knew in his heart and felt that God loved him, and he no longer had to earn that love (Bob Schuchts, *Be Healed*).

There are two fundamental identities we can have: either as children of God or as orphans. If we don't feel loved by God, then we'll believe no one's taking care of us; we'll always try to win people's love by our appearance, grades, achievements, etc., and whenever these things are threatened, we'll experience anxiety, anger,



The Baptism of Christ by Juan Fernández Navarrete

or emptiness. But children of God have a profound sense of their goodness. [...]

Jesus' baptism, in today's Gospel, is about the revealing of Jesus as God the Father's Son: "When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:16-17).

"The heavens" being "opened" obviously means revealing Jesus' true identity.

Remember, at this point, Jesus hadn't done any public ministry, so people would not have known His full identity. God the Father's "voice from heaven," says, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." These words echo the first reading where God says, "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul

delights" (Is 42:1. Cf. Curtis Mitch & Edward Sri, The Gospel of Matthew in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture, 70-71).

Let's focus on the word 'delight.' The Father delights in His Son even before Jesus began His public ministry. The Father loves Jesus not because of what He does, but only because of their relationship (Cf. Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, Vol. 1, 23). Jesus knows He's the Father's only natural son—He knows He's special. I asked you parents before: Why do you love your kids? Because they're cute and talented? No. It's because they're your kids.

When we're young, according to Bob, who's now, Dr. Bob Schuchts, a great Catholic leader, we perceive this delight from our parents when their faces light up, they're happy to see us. We feel safely loved, we're affirmed in our goodness. Now, we need to start examining our hearts: Do we remember seeing that delight in our parents when we entered a room? And do we delight when we see our kids? Does our delight change when they misbehave? [...]

In St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus meets a rich man who wants to know what to do to inherit eternal life, and it says, "And Jesus looking upon him loved him" (9:21). Here's an experiment: Look at someone you know, stare at them, think about loving them, because they're related to you or because they're a brother or sister in Christ or a member of the human family, and notice that you'll start smiling. Because when we look at someone with delight, we smile!

What about when we sin and hurt God? He still loves us, because we're His children. Three years ago, I taught you a phrase:

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St. Anthony of Padua School

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Website: stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca

School Email: office@stanthonyofpaduaschool.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 Confessions Masses 8:15 am 8:00 to 8:10 am Monday 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
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, January 13	Ferial	Maria Gingoyou
Tuesday, January 14	Ferial	Zara Velasco
Wednesday, January 15	Ferial	Marjorie Bayley†
Thursday, January 16	Ferial	Richard Edge
Friday, January 17	<i>Memorial</i> St. Anthony, Abbot	Helen Israel
Saturday, January 18	Ferial	Virginia Law†

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen Francis, Feli Hempl, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Mary Messere, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.



Baptism this weekend!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our parish family. **Alyssa Wong** receives the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, January 12 at the 12:00 pm Mass.

Upcoming Homily Themes

January 18 & 19 How to Have Spiritual Friends

January 25 & 26

Are We a Divided Parish?

* NEW SEASON: Life is a Gift

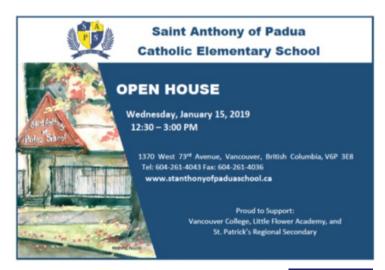
February 1 & 2 8 Reasons Euthanasia is Wrong

February 8 & 9 Stopping 42 Million Murders

February 15 & 16

Receiving Healing & Mercy

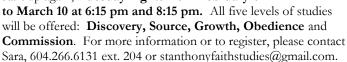
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coming soon...Faith Studies!

Note: Registration deadline is Sunday,

January 26. The 17th round of Faith Studies will
start up again, Tuesday nights from February 4





Catholic Women's League: February Events

1.) Celebrate Chinese New Year with the CWL at their monthly Coffee Shop & Bake Sale on

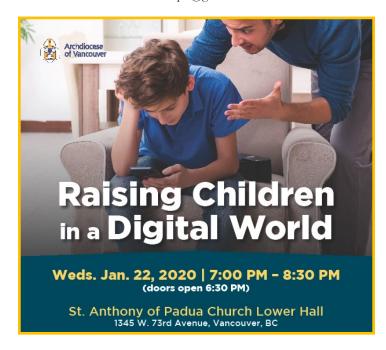
February 2! If you'd like to help the CWL usher in the Year of the Rat, donations of sticky rice cakes, sweet desserts and pastries would be greatly appreciated!! Please bring your treats downstairs in the kitchen before Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Thanks to all supporters of the CWL!

2) CWL Movie Night On February 12, 2020, 7:00 pm, in the Church Hall, the CWL will present the International Film Festival's movie "Conviction" which brings to light prison reform through the eyes of women who are incarcerated.

Looking for a vibrant, supportive Catholic community of women who love God? CFC Handmaids of the Lord invites all women in the parish to attend Christian Life Program (CLP) every Monday at 6:30 pm, February 3 to April 6 in the church hall. For more information, contact Zeny, 604.261.7077.

Theology Week Info Session

On Tuesday, January 14, from 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm, Dr Lynda Robitaille from St. Mark's College will lead an info session about a week-long program called *Foundation of the Catholic Faith* from July 20th to July 24th, 2020 at St. Mark's College located at the UBC campus. This program offers an opportunity to learn a variety of central elements in the Catholic tradition, as well as the practices of theological reflection and discernment. Fr. Nick Meisl, Dr. Nick Olkovich, and Deacon Hilmar Pabel will be the course instructors. For more information, please contact Sara Ho at the Parish Office: saraho.sapv@gmail.com.



...continued from the cover

Nothing you can do can change God's love for you. It rhymes. When we sin, it's still wrong, still hurts God, us and others, but it doesn't change His love for us. God's face of love only changes in expression. It's not one of hatred or distance, but of hurt and concern.

We're now in our last homily on Alpha as Culture, and the theme we're considering is training. In order to run Alpha well, we need training in hospitality, listening, etc. And now I want to train you to recognize how special you are, to receive the Father's love, with three ways:

- 1) Make honest prayers. Honest prayers give God permission to touch our hearts and emotions. We should think of Mass as a safe place to pray, a safe place for God to touch our hearts and emotions.
- 2) Imagine you're at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and you're being baptized with Him. A part of Catholic spirituality is using our imagination to meditate on the Gospel passages, seeing, hearing, and smelling what's going on. When we do this kind of prayer sincerely, it allows Jesus to love us in powerful ways. The Bible teaches that it's by baptism that we become adopted sons and daughters of God (Cf. Rom 8:15,17;

Gal 3:27; 4:5-7). Now, obviously God loves all people, which is why Jesus died for all. But, to be adopted children comes through baptism. Why? Baptism is about washing away our sins, being cleansed, and starting afresh; it's a spiritual birth. And this spiritual birth is a choice; God won't force us to be His children. But, if we choose to, then that humility allows us to feel His delight. If anyone here or anyone you know wants to be baptized, please talk to Peter Lee, our Director of Evangelization about it.

3) Finally, remember the experience of love we've received in the past. This is important especially if there are days when we're discouraged, feel mad or unlovable. Remembering is a very important Christian and biblical concept. God's already done something beautiful for us in the past, but that love is still real.

Today's a beautiful day. Do your best to smile and smile at others, because God's smiling at you. We are God's beloved children. I feel really special. I hope you do too.

- Excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, January 11, 2020.

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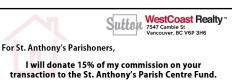
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