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 IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 26, 2020

Are We a Divided Parish?

Jesus wants our parish family to be united. St. Paul writes in the second reading: "For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ" (1 Cor 1:11-12). The new Christians in Corinth were now in factions, disputing with each other: some said they followed St. Paul, who founded their Church in 51 A.D.; others followed Apollos, a talented lay preacher; others followed Cephas, the Greek name for St. Peter, the first pope; while others followed Christ—no scholar is exactly sure what faction this refers to, but the main point is that they were divided.

How about us? Are we traditional or liberal Catholics? Modern or conservative? Are we engaged or unengaged, meaning we don't fully support where the parish is going? [...]

St. Paul wants us to be 'united in the same mind and the same purpose.' How? Catholics have what are called the visible bonds of communion: one faith, one worship, one governance (See CCC 815). The easiest way to remember this is that: 1) we believe the same things; 2) we pray the same way; 3) we have the same leadership. The reason Protestants are partially separated is because they have different beliefs, don't have the sacraments, and don't follow the Church's hierarchy. Orthodox Christians have the seven sacraments and essentially the same teachings, but don't obey the pope.

But this affects us Catholics too. When one of us skips Mass on Sunday to play sports, this hurts our family unity because we're no longer praying together. Not only is it a mortal sin against God, it's a sin against the sacred family meal Jesus gave us. When one of us in our hearts doesn't believe one of the official teachings of the Church, it's a sin against unity. Let's explain.

Our examination of conscience asks, "Did I refuse to believe any official teachings of the Church?" This means teachings, not practices. We don't have to agree with every practical decision of the pope (like whom he appoints as bishop) or like our church music, that priests wear black. And this question refers to official Church teaching, like bishops being the successors of the apostles—that doesn't mean they're perfect. Official teaching includes moral issues like abortion, gay marriage, in vitro fertilization, etc. It doesn't refer to whether parishes should use Alpha or not.

And to be a sin would mean there's a refusal to believe, not just questioning. Questioning means, "Hmm... I don't know why women can't become priests. I accept it, but don't know why."



The Preaching of Saint Paul at Ephesus by Le Sueur

Many Catholics don't know the reasons but trust the Church's teaching—why? Because they've figured out something essential to Catholicism, and it works in two steps: 1) Do you believe Jesus is God? 2) Do you believe Jesus founded the Catholic **Church?** That's why I've given many homilies on these two topics: Can we prove Iesus is God? Can we prove Iesus founded the Church? If we believe these two ideas, it's logical that we'll accept the Church's official teachings, because Jesus gave the first pope the ability to define teaching and protects the Church from teaching error—that's from Matthew, chapter 16. We don't have to study every book on theology about every moral question because we trust the people Jesus sent.

But, if we don't know if Jesus is God or if He founded the Church, then it's logical

that we won't trust the Church. Now, here's the thing: for many of us, no one's ever sat us down and talked to us about these ideas. The fact that we get stuck on the morality of issues like abortion, etc., reveals that we're unsure about one of these two questions.

So, when is it a sin not to believe? It's a sin when we consciously say, "I don't trust this or that official teaching despite knowing that Jesus is God and that He founded the Church." "But," you could ask, "Fr. Justin, what if I don't know if Jesus founded the Church?" Then you have to start investigating these most important ideas. [...]

On the other hand, for many of us, we think, "Yeah, it's clear Jesus is God. And I know He founded the Church. So, I do believe her official teachings." Next question: But, Fr. Justin, what are her official teachings? Just go to the Catechism of the Catholic Church—that's our sure guide.

Here are the advantages of this: Not only do we have a clear, strong faith in Jesus according to what the Bible teaches, but we don't have to research every single teaching for ourselves. This is what Protestants have to do: They have to study the Bible and church history forever before realizing that Jesus in truly present in the Eucharist, that Jesus ordained priests, that Mary is our mother. [...]

With this unity in the Church, we still have diversity in music, prayer, the way we live our lives, provided there's nothing immoral. And even with these three visible bonds, the Church teaches that we still need above all the invisible bond called love (CCC 815). [...]

Now that's Catholic Church unity. But there's still parish unity, because each parish is a particular family with special gifts and a special mission. For example, we're here to become saints, which is

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.

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Kindergarten to Grade 7 1370 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9 Principal: Mr. Michael Perry Telephone: 604.261.4043

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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	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

1st Saturday each month

9:45 pm to 4:45 pm

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

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Monday, January 27	Ferial	People who suffer from anxiety & depression	
Tuesday, January 28	<i>Memorial</i> St. Thomas Aquinas	Fung Kee Ng	
Wednesday, January 29	Ferial	Pinky Brown †	
Thursday, January 30	Ferial	Leonarda Da Vera	
Friday, January 31	<i>Memorial</i> St. John Bosco	Fidel Tudtud †	
Saturday, February 1	Ferial	Crispina Remedio †	

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, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.



In loving memory... Please pray for the repose of the soul of our long time parishioner, **Mary Messere** and for the consolation of her family members. The **prayer vigil** will take place on **Wednesday**, **January 29 at 7:00 pm** and the **funeral Mass** will be held on **Thursday**, **January 30**, **11:00** am at our church.

Upcoming Homily Themes

* 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

February 22 & 23

Judgemental + Gentle = Perfection

* NEW SEASON: Loving the Liturgy

February 29 & March 1
God Gives Us an Opportunity to Grow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Studies: Registration deadline is Sunday, January 26. The 17th round of Faith Studies will start up again, Tuesday nights from February 4 to March 10 at 6:15 pm and 8:15



pm. All five levels of studies will be offered: Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience and Commission. For more information or to register, please contact Sara, 604.266.6131 ext. 204 or stanthonyfaithstudies@gmail.com.



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.

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why I try to love and challenge you constantly. Not every Catholic will agree with this style of spirituality. My hope is that, if you understand that our parish is very up front about desiring to become saints, you'll understand why we give 10% of the parish's money to those in need, why our Sunday Masses are longer than most, because, if we want to grow in charity and love, we can't rush our most important prayer. If we're going to be united, we need to agree with this parish vision, otherwise there'll be disunity. It's not written in stone and can change in the future, but for now it gives us focus.

Let's talk about evangelization and Alpha. [...] St. Paul says something interesting today: "Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power" (1 Cor 1:17). Scripture scholars note that St. Paul is not minimizing the importance of baptism, but simply reminding us that his primary mission is to proclaim (E.g. The Letters of St. Paul, in The Navarre Bible). For decades, we Catholics have been told that all we have to do is love people, be holy, and that's enough for evangelization, which is incorrect. Witness of a holy life comes first, yes, but is not enough (St. Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi). Proclaiming is necessary (St. John Paul II, Christifideles Laici), not in a pushy way, but a loving way; not necessarily door to door, but in a way that's suited to each of us.

A few feel we shouldn't use Alpha because it has some theological errors in it because it was created by the Anglican church. The truth is there are a few theological errors in Alpha,

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

9:45 AM - 1:00 PM 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM PRAISE & WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

Catholic Women's League: February Events

1.) Celebrate Lunar 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.

A live-in weekend at Seminary of Christ the King in Mission will take place February 7 - 9. The weekend is for young men and boys who are interested in the priesthood or religious life. Please contact the Rector, 604.826.8715 or email rector.majors@yahoo.ca if you are interested. For more information, please visit vocationsvancouver.ca/events/pray-and-play/.

but the vast majority of it agrees with Catholic teaching. And if there were a better Catholic version, we would use it.

So, why do we use it? Because its presentation of Christ and other truths of the faith are so riveting and captivating that it moves our hearts. St. Paul today talks about the power of Jesus' Cross to save, and Alpha's videos do this in a remarkable way. Thousands of non-practicing Catholics have had a conversion through it, and thousands of people have become Catholic through it. [...]

Last point: Our parish is being divided by the large number of young people who don't encounter Christ, aren't being discipled, and so are walking away. I didn't think I was going to announce this now, but God's been telling me for the past nine months and I have to do it now: We need to hire a full-time young adult and youth minister. Many of you have been telling me to think about our children, and I've been seeing lots of our youth falling away. I asked our 138 members of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry to pray for guidance on this, and I realized we've got to start the process now. In a few months, I plan on asking everyone to give sacrificially and financially to support this. And this is part of the greater context of our family's growth. We'll need to hire other people too: some hires are very visible like this one, but others are necessary too—I'll let the Holy Spirit guide us on this.

Everything has to lead us to Christ, Who is the truth, and help us love like Him.

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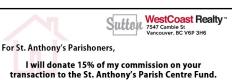
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