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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Let's Stop 42 Million Murders

In elementary school, I remember being on a school bus going South on Granville Street, when we stopped at a light by the Chevron gas station. There was a homeless man in rags sleeping on the sidewalk, and some of the kids in the bus waved at him like he was spectacle and showed no pity. I distinctly remember the meanness of one boy, who pulled out a bill of money and waved it at the man. I hated that whole situation. They were so mean.

How do you feel about this when you hear it? I'm sure it bothers you, but it's distant. If you had been there and seen it, you might feel the same way. When we see an injustice, that's when we feel it. These children are in pain, there's no excuse for the cruelty of the bullies, and some of the parents are clueless.

The reason the Church champions life against abortion is because life is the foundational right, and because abortion is the number one cause of death in the world. In 2019, there were 42 million abortions worldwide, and this isn't from a prolife website, but from Worldometers. Overall deaths in the world due to disease were comparatively small at 13 million. Abortion kills more people than anything else. This is terribly unjust.

The First Reading from the prophet Isaiah comes from a chapter where God judges His people with legal language. It's fascinating: There's a summons, an indictment, a probation, another indictment, and then a warning. The warning is what we hear today when God says, "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (58:6-7).

The Jewish people were fasting, but doing injustice at the same time: They were oppressing workers, quarrelling, physically hitting people (Is 58:1-3). They forgot the deeper part of fasting, which is sincerely turning to God and loving one's neighbour. To fast without loving as God does is a perversion (Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P., in *New Jerome Biblical Commentary*). God wants His people to 'loose the bonds of injustice,' 'let the oppressed go free,' 'share your bread with the hungry, 'bring the homeless poor into your house,' cover the naked,' and not abandon our fellow man.

The famous Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel wrote extensively that God relates to us with human feelings: He's sensitive to evil, injustice is a disaster, He's alarmed (*The Prophets*). He speaks with feelings through the prophets. Jesus too was angry at people's hardness of heart and turning His Father's house into a marketplace (Jn 2:13-22. Cf. Mk 3:1-6; 10:13-16). In the same way, we too need to feel His pain where there's injustice.

Last year, I mentioned that babies feel pain by twenty weeks of gestation. We're against all abortion, but shouldn't Canadians at least forbid abortion after babies can feel pain? Wouldn't that be the humane thing to do? In Canada, we can get an abortion throughout



the whole period of pregnancy, right up until birth. [...]

In 2017, there were 94,000 abortions in Canada because they (babies) have no rights. When do babies get human rights? There's a funny satire video that says human rights come through the magical birth canal: When a child at nine months is in his mother's womb, it has no rights, but as soon as it exits, it has rights. Why? Because of the magical birth canal! It suddenly becomes human!

The video was made by Laura Klassen, a Canadian who was motivated to stand up for life when she saw graphic abortion images as a child. She said the images "stuck with me... because I realized how many babies were being killed". Other people have said that seeing the reality of what abortion really is moved them to change. That's what happened to me: When I was 19, the first time Stephanie Gray offered to show me videos of abortions, I refused, which I now admit was a mistake. Some months later I chose to watch and saw babies coming out of the birth canal in bloody pieces—that's when my heart was changed.

Many people don't want these images shown because they upset people. But images of war upset people—that doesn't mean we should stop showing these images. Remember years ago those pictures showing what smoking does to people's faces, how their faces age? That's how they got people to stop smoking. We're a visual people and are moved when we see reality. And what's more disturbing: the images of babies killed or the fact that it's happening?

Question: But what if people who have had abortions feel guilty when they see the images? Answer: We don't want to hurt people, but seeing graphic photos may help us repent and face what we've done, which is good. And what's more important? The right of the baby to live or the right of someone not to be offended? The right to life takes precedence. And at every Mass, we have the graphic image in the crucifix; we see Jesus in pain, almost naked, and suffering. Millennials are the most prolife generation in part because we see ultrasounds, the pictures, and we know the science of life.

In September, I mentioned that soon we'll show the reality

Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang Blog: thejustmeasure.ca

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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, Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9 Principal: Mr. Michael Perry Telephone: 604.261.4043

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	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 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, February 10	<i>Memorial</i> St. Scholastica	Battista Piazzon†
Tuesday, February 11	Ferial	Ng Family
Wednesday, February 12	Ferial	Agnes Burke†
Thursday, February 13	Ferial	Farrah Chan †
Friday, February 14	<i>Memorial</i> St. Cyril & St. Methodius	George Chan †
Saturday, February 15	Ferial	Arnulfo Duran †

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.

A FRIENDLY 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!

Upcoming Homily Themes

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

March 7 & 8

Three Ways to Transcendence

March 14 & 15
Being on Time for Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new parishioners! Thank you for joining our parish family – we're happy to have you! If you have any questions about St. Anthony's or would simply like to meet some fellow parishioners, please come by the Welcome Booth after any Sunday Mass. We would love to meet you!

Email Fraud Warning: The Archdiocese has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to a recent internet email phishing scam. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards and other forms of financial assistance. Never respond to emails requesting Google Play cards, iTunes cards or any other form of personal financial assistance, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious or parish staff. If you have any doubt, please contact the "sender" by other means to verify any requests.

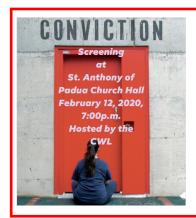
"Life is a Gift" Season
Saturday, February 15
UNPLANNED Free Screenings
• 1:00 PM Matinee

• 1:00 FM Maurice

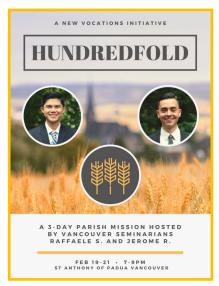
• 6:30 PM Evening Show (\$1/slice pizza)

For more information: annieinvan@yahoo.com or call the Parish Office, 604.266.6131





After learning of the shocking statistic, that women, are the fastest growing prison population, three filmmakers walked into a Canadian prison with a very simple question for the women inside. What would you have needed in society to prevent you from being imprisoned? Conviction, takes a unique and creative collaborative approach with women on the inside to answer that question.





The Knights of Columbus with the help of our CWL will host FREE Pancake Breakfast after all Masses on Sunday, February 23 in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to enjoy fellowship and a hearty breakfast with parishioners and our visitors.

...continued from the cover

of abortion here at Mass with photos because we need to feel God's sense of injustice. But, may I ask you to think about something: Do we have to wait long? Every day, there are thousands of abortions, and I feel I'm slowing down as your spiritual father because I'm afraid you're not ready—Is my decision right? Remember how one of you told me that I was holding back? Please pray about this and let me know what you think, because I don't think we can wait much longer.

How do we stop this? 1) Prayer. This is a spiritual battle, and in places that have done 40 Days for Life, we've seen 14,643 babies saved, 177 workers leave the abortion industry and 96 abortion centres close. Three years ago, when we started participating in 40 Days for Life, we had 120 people come out for a day, each person taking an hour. The next year, we had 220 people over two days, and then last year, we had 307 people, including the most men ever, for four days. This year, we're going to cover five days, starting on Thursday, February 27, right after Ash Wednesday, to Monday, March 2. It's a time of peaceful prayer and vigil. This year, we want to invite people to think about doing multiple hours, and want to add fasting, like the Jewish people did, as a sign of our sacrifice and sincerity to God. This may be the best Lenten penance we could ever do.

2) We have to be confident about sharing what we know to be true. We live in a free society where we're allowed to speak our minds. One of the best ways to help people to choose

not to have an abortion is to educate. Try sending articles to friends, or a video which explains the morality of abortion.

3) People are pro-choice, so let's present them with the three options when someone is pregnant: keep child, adoption, abortion. Laura Klassen not only works to stop abortion, but helps women in crisis. Her website says, "You may be feeling... shocked, scared, excited... we are here to support you... Don't rush into making your decision... It's your choice... but know that you are making a choice for two". She shows the facts about pregnancy, what babies look like, and reminds women that they are not alone, giving a list of pregnancy centres in one's area. She reminds pregnant women that they are strong enough to parent the child, and, if they can't, then adoption gives families who want a child the opportunity to have one. Her example reminds all of us, men and families especially, that we always want to support women in difficult pregnancies.

We all wish we could stop bullying and disease, and injustice. We now have three ways to stop the number one cause of death in the world. The first reading says that the people of Israel were being judged for doing evil, but what's interesting is that the chapter doesn't end with a guilty verdict but with an announcement of salvation! The people changed! Let's change too, because God feels angry at injustice.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, February 9, 2019

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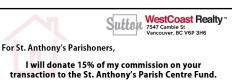
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