

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 IN LENT

MARCH 1ST, 2020

An Opportunity to Grow

Opportunities give us a chance to grow and improve. I've mentioned before how many people go through the same problems every year: Their year starts out okay, then they have a crisis, have a good cry, then things go back to normal. The following year, they go through the same crisis, get overwhelmed, have a breakdown, call a friend, and then recover. But things don't improve because they never respond to the opportunities God is giving them.

The First Reading is about the greatest failed opportunity, and the Gospel is about conquering what had been lost.

The First Reading is about Adam and Eve being tempted by the devil to disobey and not trust God the Father. It says, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate" (Gen 3:6).

The temptation is broken down into three deceptions: The tree is 'good for food,' 'a delight to the eyes,' and 'to be desired to make one wise.' These three deceptions are related to what St. John writes in the New Testament: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father" (1 Jn 2:16). Most theologians refer to these vices as lust, greed, and pride.

1) Lust means disordered sexual desire, where we use people sexually, taking instead of giving, objectifying instead of loving people. We've talked about this before: Men typically use love to get sex, while women use sex to get love—both are sinful.

But lust can also mean more generally any disordered search for pleasure (Cf. CCC 377). Pleasure is good! God gave us pleasure to direct us to good things and to delight in them. But when we seek the pleasure of eating apart from nourishment, we become gluttonous and unhealthy. When we seek the pleasure of buying things all the time, we become wasteful and superficial. When we get messages, likes or watch porn on our phone, we get dopamine hits in our brain, and so we become limited spiritually, emotionally, physically, and relationally.

2) Greed means coveting things we don't have, always wanting to possess more. Related to this is envy: When we envy people's homes, their lives, the way they look, this saps our gratitude. Gratitude and happiness go together, because the more we recognize the good things we already have, the happier we are!

3) Pride is the worst because it detaches us from reality. Rather than enjoying being God's children, we're insecure and full of anxiety, always trying to prove ourselves. Rather than accepting our



strengths and weaknesses, we're always competing with others: When they win, we lose; when we win, they lose.

Jesus overcomes these three temptations in the Gospel. "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Mt 4:1). He's going to prepare for His mission with 40 days of prayer and fasting.

First, the devil says, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread," (Mt 4:3) in other words, break your fast and preparation—this is the lust of the flesh and a disordered desire for pleasure. Jesus responds, "Man

does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4). This means there are more important priorities in life than our body (Curtis Mitch & Edward Sri, Matthew in *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*).

If we want to become truly human and overcome those repeated annual problems, we need to sacrifice our desire for immediate pleasure to something higher. Happiness and discipline are proportionate: The happiest people we know are always the most disciplined, always (Matthew Kelly). Is there something more we desire, something that God has put on our heart, or do we live by bread alone?

Second, "Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his Angels concerning you'' (Mt 4:6), in other words, disordered pride: Make God serve you in a difficult situation. Jesus answers, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Mt 4:7). Here Jesus is quoting the Old Testament (Dt 6:16) when the Hebrew people were in the desert and, even though they saw God provide for them, they lost trust and stopped believing in Him, and so they tested Him, asking Him to prove that He was with them, when He already had. [...]

Third, "The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me'" (Mt 4:8-9). This is lust of the eyes, greed. But we don't need more things to be happy; we don't need to idolize what other people have. Look at what we often sacrifice: We sacrifice our prayer to have more fun; we sacrifice our family, friendships, and health to work more, because the world tells us that we need more.

But Jesus says to the devil, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him" (Mt 4:10). Many of us have experienced the peace and satisfaction that God alone gives, the joy of being loved.

...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 (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, March 2	Ferial	Gaspere Leone †
Tuesday, March 3	Ferial	Remembrance Tree
Wednesday, March 4	Ferial	Stanley & Yu Yen Tup Chong †
Thursday, March 5	Ferial	Luz Hamoy CutLer †
Friday, March 6	Ferial	Marcelle Bryan †
Saturday, March 7	Ferial	Simon Scully

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.

Policy for booking Mass Intentions

In order to give more people a chance to book Masses for loved ones and deceased individuals, Mass intentions are now booked in two phases:
 1) January to June and 2) July to December. **Bookings for phase 2, will start on Tuesday, March 3.** All bookings must be made in person at the Parish Office. Please call Annie at 604.266.6131 ext. 203 for more information.

Upcoming Homily Themes

March 7 & 8
Three Ways to Transcendence

March 14 & 15
Being on Time for Mass

March 21 & 22
Hitting the Wall: How to Deal with Suffering

March 28 & 29
From Fear to Hope For Our Children: A Request for Sacrificial Giving

April 4 & 5
Did You Know That Jesus Sang?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MAN OF THE SHROUD EXHIBITION
An extensive exhibit on the history, significance and scientific aspects of The Shroud of Turin

April 15 – 20, 2020
St. Anthony of Padua Parish
8891 Montcalm St, Vancouver, BC

SHROUD EXHIBIT SCHEDULE	PRESENTATION SCHEDULE
Wednesday, April 15 to Friday, April 17 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Saturday, April 18 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Sunday, April 19 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm Monday, April 20 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (Exhibit closes at 6:00 pm)	"Exploring the Mystery - The Shroud of Turin" Lecturer: PROF. CHERYL WHITE, Ph.D., Shroud Scholar Thursday, April 16 & Friday, April 17 10:00 am and 1:00 pm (for Grade 6 and older students) 7:00 pm (for adults) Saturday, April 18 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (for adults) Sunday, April 19 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm Talk on Divine Mercy and "The Man of the Shroud"

ALL WELCOME. FREE ADMISSION.
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

For more info/group bookings, email theshroud2020.sapv@gmail.com
or call Janet/leave message at 604-569-5949

Exhibit made possible by the Vancouver Shroud Association (VSA) www.manoftheshroud.org

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS: SAT., MAR. 7TH

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

2019 Income Tax Receipts are now available in the church foyer throughout the weekend, or at the Parish Office during the week from Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, tel. 604.266.6131.

Join us for the Stations of the Cross, every Tuesday evening during Lent, starting March 3 at 7:00 pm.

CWL UPCOMING EVENTS:

- * **Bake Sale** Sunday, March 8th after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. Donations of baked items are appreciated, at the 5:00 pm Mass the night before.
- * **Women's Retreat** CWL invites all the women of the Parish to a Lenten retreat, led by Fr. Pierre Leblond, at our church, March 14, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please RSVP to aedge@telus.net so that we can prepare refreshments accordingly.



Give St. Anthony a Brick

BRICK COMMITTEE UPDATE:
Total funds raised, so far: **\$3,902,350**
Thank you parishioners & supporters!!

...continued from the cover

But we're always tempted back to getting cheap happiness. Jesus is telling us: If we love Him first, everything else will fall into place.

So here are two opportunities: **1) Jesus is our example.** Every Lent when I hear that Jesus went into the desert to fast for 40 days and 40 nights, I want to imitate Him. I want to defeat the problems in my life. I love that idea of simplifying my life, getting away from distractions and focusing on what's truly important. **2) Jesus will live His desert experience in us this Lent.** The Church teaches that "Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us... He enables us as the members of his Body to share in what he lived" (CCC 521). This teaching is abstract but powerful. For example, the love with which Jesus refused the devil while He was in the desert is offered to us; Jesus will actually give us that same strength so that we can overcome our temptations. He actually wants to live His desert experience, the desert victory, in our lives. [...]

We're starting a new season today called *Loving the Liturgy*, and I want to explain and teach you more about the liturgy so you learn to love it. Liturgy means the public worship of the Church (Fr. Peter Stravinskis, *Catholic Encyclopedia*). The Rosary, Stations of the Cross, reading the Bible are devotions, done by individuals or groups. **The liturgy is principally the Mass and sacraments, which are the official prayer of the whole Body of Christ.** [...]

Being the first Sunday of Lent, Jesus is offering us a desert experience with Him. Every calendar tells us when to rest, work and celebrate. But the Church's liturgical calendar tells us when to fast.

Isn't that interesting? Our civic calendar has days off and celebrations which is good because rest is good, but it has no fasts, which makes us too comfortable and weak. [...]

The next six weeks are like the spiritual playoffs. We just finished the regular season and now is the time to unite ourselves to Jesus and play our best game.

Start thinking about where God is calling you.

Where does He want to heal us? The traditional three forms of Lenten penance are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer will combat our pride, fasting will fight the lust of the flesh with discipline, and almsgiving (greater generosity with our time, treasure and talent) will combat our greed.

Write down your Lenten penances: Is it going to some daily Masses, getting to the chapel, the Rosary, Tuesday night Stations of the Cross, spiritual reading, buying a book for Lent? Is it doing a spiritual program like Exodus 90 to overcome lust, men joining the E5 program to fast once a month on bread and water for their wives or girlfriends? Is it giving money to the poor and needy, serving in the parish?

We have a chance to grow with Jesus living in us and He can do in us more than we think! [...] What do you deeply desire? Where does your heart rest?

Jesus has defeated the devil and wants to live that victory in us. We have an opportunity to grow with Jesus.

- Excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, March 1, 2020.

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