

Saint Anthony of Padua

Parish Bulletin

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 8th, 2018

The perfect image of love and mercy

The goal of today is to encounter the real Jesus, who is both just and merciful. In the Gospel, it's Easter Sunday, the day of the Resurrection, and Jesus appears to His friends who had deserted Him. So He says to them, "Your punishment will be great." No, He says twice, "Peace be with you" (Jn 20:). Wow! He's a God of forgiveness! And then He commands them to carry out the ministry of reconciliation: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:). Here, he gives them the power to hear confessions, the power to forgive or withhold forgiveness.



Many people say, "God loves you just the way you are." That's true, but God loves you too much to let you stay the way you are. The second reading tells us: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments" (1 Jn 5:). Yes, God is merciful and loves us. But, as we said on Jan. 1, Jesus didn't come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it, and told us that everyone who keeps the commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

If someone ever says, "But God is a God of mercy," we should say, "That's true. But He's also a God of justice." Why? Because Jesus taught us that the Good Samaritan was the one who actually helped his neighbour (Lk 10:). Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that if we do not help the poor and needy, visit the sick and those in prison, welcome the stranger we will go to hell. When we pray the Our Father, our prayer for forgiveness will only be heard if we meet a strict requirement, that we forgive our people (Cf. CCC 2838; Mt 18).

Perhaps the best way to explain that Jesus is a God of justice and mercy is with an image. Today is the second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy refers to the mercy of God. It was popularized by St. Faustina Kowalska, of Poland, who lived from 1905-1938. She had many visions of Jesus, who asked her to paint an image of what she saw.

What do we see when we look at the image? Do we see a wishy-washy Jesus or a punishing Jesus? This is what we should see:

- 1. The dark background:** "is symbolic of the darkness of our sins. ...Into this darkness of our life, filled with pain and fear... Jesus" enters. Notice that the light in the painting comes from Him.
- 2. Left hand on heart:** It's "in the heart that feelings, thoughts and decisions are born. It is there that the decision about love is made. In his heart, Jesus made the decision to offer his life for us."
- 3. Right hand raised in blessing:** "The one... we condemned to

death is raising his hand not to take revenge on us but to bless us."

4. Feet: Though wounded by our sins, Jesus doesn't cease to look for us. "He roams the world in search of the weak to help them come to Him." The Left foot steps forward because He's not waiting for us to come to Him, but He makes the first move and offers us the peace that He offered the apostles.

5. Eyes looking downward: "My gaze from this Image is like My gaze from the Cross" (Diary, 326), that is, looking on us with love and mercy.

6. Rays: The pale one stands for water which makes souls righteous through baptism and confession; the red for blood which is the life of souls, that is, the Eucharist.

7. White garment: Though "Christ's body bears traces of suffering... the white robe illustrates His victory over death." It's also the garment of a priest.

8. Inscription: "Jesus, I trust in You": "Jesus told St. Faustina that He wanted these words, which are an answer to His infinite love, to be visible on the image," because "the more a soul trusts the more it will receive" (Diary, 1578).

Keep in mind two things:

1) People who love Divine Mercy have incredible confidence in God and know that every sin can be forgiven. [...] But I've never seen people who believe in Divine Mercy take advantage

...continued on inside page

Join us for
Divine Mercy
Sunday
with *Benediction*

St. Anthony of Padua Church
April 8, 2:30 PM
Holy Hour, 3:00 PM

Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang

Blog thejustmeasure.ca
 Office 8891 Montcalm Street
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Tel 604.266.6131
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 Hours Tuesday—Friday
 9:00 am—12:00 noon
 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
 In case of emergencies,
 please call the office anytime.

Web: stanthonyvan.com
 Email: office@stanthonysvancouver.org

Parish Registration

Our parish family warmly welcomes new parishioners. Please register at your earliest convenience by filling out a registration form located in the vestibule or by stopping by the parish office during office hours. 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

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:15 am
 Tuesday 7:30 pm
 Wednesday-Friday 8:15 am
 Saturday 9:00 am

Lauds

Weekday 8:00 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 8:45 am
 Sunday 7:45 am

Confession

Weekday 8:00 to 8:10 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 9:45 am & 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
 1st Saturday each month 9:45 am to 4:30 pm and
 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm in the chapel
 (1365 West 73rd Avenue)
 First Friday of each month: 8:45 am to 10:00 am in the church
 followed by Benediction.
 First Saturday of each month: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm in the church
 during all-day confessions.

Please call the parish office for more information on other Sacraments and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes.

St. Anthony of Padua School

Preschool to Grade 7
 1370 West 73rd Avenue,
 Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9
 Principal: Darren Yanko
 Telephone 604.261.4043
 Fax 604.261.4036
 Website stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca
 School Email office@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca
 Preschool Email preschool@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Monday, April 9	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	1454	Vernon Charles †
Tuesday, April 10	Ferial	284	Fung Kwan Ng †
Wednesday, April 11	St. Stanislaus	287	Felipe Gabinete †
Thursday, April 12	Ferial	290	Kyle Mulrooney †
Friday, April 13	Ferial	293	Joan Woodworth †
Saturday, April 14	Ferial	296	Dorothy & William Miller †

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Nick De Vos, Elaine dos Remedios, Teresa Gaio, Cecile Hernandez, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui -Ying, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Filomena Sison, Liliana Taylor, Fernando Tiago and Theresa Yoshioka.



St. Anthony's Parent Education Series presents:

BUILDING RESILIENT CHILDREN IN AN AGE OF ANXIETY

By PJ Lewis, Registered Clinical Counsellor and Co-founder of Lifted Counselling and Consulting

As a skilled speaker, PJ has presented at numerous forums, workshops and conferences locally, nationally and internationally. He is also a family counsellor who works with children and youth for the Government of BC. He is deeply committed to family life with his wife and four children.

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
 7:00 - 8:00 pm, followed by discussion and refreshments until 8:30 pm
 St. Anthony of Padua Church Basement
 8891 Montcalm Street, Vancouver

For more information, email Angie Dee at angelyndee@hotmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love and mercy

...continued from cover

of God's mercy; they would never say, "God loves me just the way I am," and use it as an excuse to not change. No, these people try to become like Jesus.

2) St. Faustina often prayed for the conversion of those who were dying. She said, "God's mercy sometimes touches the sinner at the last moment in a wondrous and mysterious way. Outwardly, it seems as if everything were lost, but it is not so. The soul, illuminated by a ray of God's powerful final grace, turns to God in the last moment with such a power of love that, in an instant, it receives from God forgiveness of sin and punishment, while outwardly it shows no sign either of repentance or of contrition" (Harvey D. Egan, *An Anthology of Christian Mysticism*, 573). But she adds that, at the moment of death, some people still consciously reject this grace, which is tragic.

Yes, God's mercy is infinite, but our opportunity to accept salvation only exists in this life. Once we're dead, there are no more chances. If there were, people would take advantage of God's mercy, do whatever they please, knowing that they can always ask forgiveness later.

Jesus said to the apostles that they could forgive sins or retain them. So, when should a priest not give absolution in Confession? This is rare. The answer is: If we go to Confession, we need two dispositions of the heart: sorrow for sin and the resolution not to sin again (Cf. CCC 1451).

Firstly, we were taught in the seminary that, if a man comes to confession and confesses beating his wife, but then says, "Well, Father, she deserved it," is he really sorry? The priest has to find out if he's really sorry, and if the man keeps on arguing and justifying it, then he's not truly sorry and doesn't actually want forgiveness, and so the priest should not absolve him.

Secondly, if someone confesses a sin but basically hints that it's going to happen again and they're not even trying, is that person really sorry? Again, the priest has to find out if the person is going to actually take the steps to try and stop this, and, if it's clear that the person won't even try, then he's not really sorry and doesn't want forgiveness.

All we should do is try our best to truly hate our sins and make efforts not to commit them again. Be sensitive but not hyper-sensitive. Some very good people often wonder if they're truly sorry for their sins because they keep on doing them. It's very obvious by the way they talk that they're not happy about their sins, but then they keep on coming back. To these people we say, "We know you're sorry. That's why you're here. You're falling because of weakness. Don't be afraid of coming back. But, at the same time, make a stronger commitment to fight this, and take more practical steps to overcome it."

Jesus says today, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn 20:). Just as He's the image of the Father, so we're supposed to be images of Jesus. When people look at us, what do they see? Do they see a hand raised in courtesy (like during the sign of peace) or reluctance to extend it? When they look at our eyes, do they see love or disinterest? Do we go looking for people, or stay in our own little world?

We will be just and merciful if we encounter Jesus, who is just and merciful. The best image of Jesus is Divine Mercy.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, April 8, 2018

Register now for the Youth Retreat!



Our Youth Retreat for students in Grades 8 - 12 will take place on Saturday, **April 28, from 10:00 am—4:00 pm** (lunch break at 12:00 pm) in the church basement. Registration fee, including lunch is \$25 per person. The theme is: "**Homecoming**" and will be about relativism, Catholicism alive in Christ and His Church. We'll talk about the saints and how we are all called to

be saints. Space is limited. Please contact Hardy Antolis GHardyAntolis@gmail.com for more info or to reserve your space.

Last call for tax receipt pick-up after Mass

The 2017 tax receipts will be available at the Welcome Booth for two more weekends. After the weekend of April 14th & 15th, they can be picked up at the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am—3:00 pm.



The Knights of Columbus are hosting Pancake

Breakfast on Sunday, April 22nd after the 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm Masses. Enjoy a



hearty breakfast downstairs in the church basement with your fellow parishioners. Cost is \$6 per adult, and \$14 per family.



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