

Saint Anthony of Padua

Parish Bulletin

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29th, 2018

Pruning helps us grow and bear fruit

Let me tell you about a friend: He was an atheist his whole life but in his 20s became Christian. He encountered Jesus, fell in love with Him, gave his life to God, started serving in his church, and really grew! But then came a problem: His prayer life started to suffer. He didn't read the Bible as much and started missing Sunday worship here and there. This went on for a few months, and then a few years. What happened? He said that it was so hard to pray and he didn't get anything out of it. He said, "It's so dry. I don't feel close to God." Who here knows what's going on in his life?

This is an extremely common situation for Christians. Many of us felt closest to God when we were young but started drifting away later on in life. Others among us have experienced God in our lives: We've gone on a retreat, hearing a talk and were on fire, but now we don't feel close to God. What Jesus said in the Gospel today gives us a possible answer to what we're going through. There are three parts to it:

1) He says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (Jn 15:1-2). What does this mean? It means that God often challenges and allows us to suffer so that we grow. This is how it works: When we're spiritually young, God gives us consolations, what we may call 'good feelings,' in order to win us. We feel His love, see Him doing great things in our life, and so we love Him—this is good. And so we start going to Mass more, praying more, volunteering to help, etc. And why are we doing it? Because we love God! Really? It may also be because it makes us feel good: It feels good to pray, to be with people at church, etc. And then God says, "Let's see how authentic is your love." And then we start getting nothing out of prayer and those people at church who used to be so nice we find out are jerks and gossips. Mass becomes boring and we don't feel close to God. And so we have a decision to make: Do we give up or keep on praying and serving? [...]

Most of us do things in life because we get something out of it. We love people who love us; we serve if it makes us feel good; we pray because we ask for stuff. But God wants us to love like Him: to love even when we get nothing out of it.

God the Father sometimes takes away our good feelings to make our love more authentic. People who are truly loving, love the people who hurt and annoy them; they volunteer for things that no one else wants to do because it's the loving thing to do, and they spend more time praising God than asking Him for things.

Do we love the God of consolation or the consolation of God? Do we love Him or the good things He gives us?

2) Jesus says, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" (Jn 15:8), and He mentions bearing fruit five times today (vv. 2,4,5,8). He wants us to be fruitful, which means that we love like Him, keep His commandments, and live a virtuous life (Fr. Raymond Brown, SS) But there's a second part to fruitfulness: Do we give spiritual life to others? When Jesus talks about pruning so that we bear more fruit, He's talking about evangelization, taking responsibility for our neighbour, and laying down our lives for them (Brown, 676). Because it's too easy for us to go to Mass, go to talks, watch EWTN and then keep everything to ourselves. Jesus prunes us by difficulties in order



to make us reach out!

3) Pay as much attention to actions as to feelings. People often tell me, "Father, I don't feel close to God." I say, "Okay, let's talk about it." And then we do. And then we discover that they are faithful to prayer, they are taking care of other people, and are trying to do God's will. Then I say, "But you are close to God! Look at the things you're doing. If you weren't close to God, you couldn't love the way you're loving."

We are so conditioned to evaluating things based on feelings, and feelings are good because they tell us how we're doing internally. But that's not the whole story.

For example, how's our day going so far? We tend to evaluate our day based on how we're feeling. But Jesus is challenging us to also evaluate our day based on how much we love. Do we smile when it's difficult to smile? Do we listen when we want to do our own thing? Do we do our duty even when it's hard? [...] I know this is very hard to understand, especially when we're suffering, so let's pray for each other today to help us see why God is taking away all the good feelings we used to get. And let's pray that we continue to pray, come to Mass, love the people in our lives no matter what.

Think about this final question: What was the most fruitful part of Jesus' life? Was it His miracles, the crowds surrounding Him, the disciples following Him, His teaching? The answer: It was three hours dying on a cross. This felt horrible. He felt totally abandoned by God. Was He? No, but He felt like it. In those three hours, we saw the greatness of His love for us. When the centurion standing there saw how He died, He said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39).

One of the greatest joys is to see people make this jump in spiritual maturity! I know this fellow who always had a good relationship with God, and then in his college years, he got very close to God. But, later on, things were tough for years: He doubted his vocation in life, he wasn't doing well at work, and all of his faults were coming out. But when he chose to persevere, to focus more on virtue, I said, "You've grown! You're like Jesus now: You're loving even when it's difficult." Jesus wants us to grow and bear fruit. That's why He prunes us.

- Excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, April 29, 2018

Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang

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Tel 604.266.6131
 Fax 604.266.0223
 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 30 | St Marie De L'Incarnation | 334 | Aurora Velez† |
| Tuesday, May 1 | Ferial | 337 | Remembrance Tree |
| Wednesday, May 2 | St. Athanasius | 339 | Berthe Reimer |
| Thursday, May 3 | St. Philip & St. James | 1493 | Joanne MacEachern † |
| Friday, May 4 | Ferial | 345 | Mary Messere |
| Saturday, May 5 | Ferial | 348 | Arlene & Robert Beach |

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.

School Announcement



Parish Education Committee (PEC)

Call for Nominations

The annual election to the Parish Education Committee (PEC) is scheduled for the weekend, Sunday, May 27. If you would like to nominate someone to serve on this very important body, which oversees the operation of our school, please pick-up a nomination form at the Welcome Booth, or contact Fr. Justin at the Parish Office.

NOTE: Candidates must be capable and devout Catholics who are registered members of this parish, and have a passion for evangelization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT ADVANCE

Live gratefully, give generously. Our Project Advance campaign continues this weekend, as we aim to raise funds that will benefit our Parish Centre Building Fund, after our Archdiocesan commitment of \$36,000 is raised. Please remember to pick up your pledge form after Mass! For more information, please contact Anna & Jack Lam at jacklam57@shaw.ca

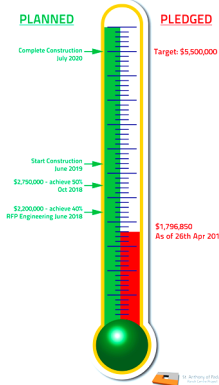


Name Tag Weekend coming soon!

We'll have another opportunity to learn each others' names after all Sunday Masses on May 19 & 20. Details on our theme will be announced next weekend.

Give St. Anthony a Brick

Fundraising Progress



\$296,850
raised in 2 months!!
Thank you parishioners!!

Total raised in April: **\$196,350**

Total raised in March: **\$100,500**

Overall amount pledged for the Parish Centre Building Fund:
\$1,796,850

Discipline That Doesn't Divide

Wednesday, May 16, 7 – 8 pm

followed by discussion and refreshments until 8:30 pm

St Anthony of Padua

Church Basement

1345 West 73rd Ave., Vancouver

Speaker: Dr Deborah MacNamara

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

Our Lady of Fatima Presentation



We invite you to honour our Blessed Mother on the eve of Mothers Day and the 101st anniversary of Fatima by attending this special presentation by Angie Dee, MA Theology on **Saturday, May 12 at 7:00 PM in the Church Basement.** Angie will unpack the complete message of Fatima and its historical connection to Communism, Islam, two World Wars, the popes of the last century and the perilous state of the world today. Her presentation includes history, catechesis, theology and pastoral advice in order to give clear direction and renewed hope through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Angie's long association with Fatima includes a private visit with Sr. Lucia in 1992, and she gave this presentation at a Marian Congress in Manila with over 6,000 in attendance. Don't miss this special opportunity!

CWL Bake Sale

Join us for our classic monthly bake sale on Sunday, May 6 after the **8:00 am & 10:00 am Masses only.** Here's a Mother's Day gift idea! These lovely handcrafted brooches, made by parishioner Kit Au will be for sale. All proceeds will be donated to the parish.



Annual Covenant House Drive

The CWL of our parish has partnered again with Covenant House, and are requesting donations of unused toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc). All donated items will go to abandoned and homeless youth in Vancouver. Please drop off your donations in the boxes located in the church foyer before Mass on the weekends of May 5th & 12th.



ALL DAY CONFESSIONS & ADORATION SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

NOTE: NEW TIMES

9:45 AM – 1:00 PM
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
7:00 PM – 9:45 PM



SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR ADORATION IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH

PRAISE & WORSHIP AT 7:30 PM

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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH



SERVING WITH FAITH AND JOY
 We would like to invite the ladies of the parish to become members of the CWL. Meetings are normally held the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:00A.M. For more information, please email Ai-Lin aleng@shaw.ca

Kids Soccer School: Mahingkeung
 Ages: 6 to 16, Co-ed, (conducted in English & Chinese), April 1 to Sept 30, **Sundays, 9:00 am - 10:30 am** at Prince of Wales Secondary, 2250 Eddington Drive, Van.
 Fee: \$30 per month Uniform: \$30 (student keeps) For more information, contact assistant coach **Anthony Lo, anthonylo@telus.net**

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Hadi Susanto, Grand Knight
 cjsanto8i@yahoo.com

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