

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.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 6, 2019

God gives us everything that's good for us

Priests are supposed to live poverty, chastity, and obedience. For a diocesan priest like me, poverty means a frugal life like Jesus; chastity means marriage to God, not to a woman; obedience means following God's will in whatever the bishop asks me to do. Brothers and sisters, dear guests, could I ask you: If God called you to live these three, which would be the hardest?

For me, it was celibacy. When I was 18, the idea of not being married was scary: "I want what everyone else gets. How can I not get married?" I wanted to serve God with my whole life, but celibacy seemed too much. At the end of my first year of seminary, a bunch of guys rightly discerned that God wasn't calling them to the priesthood, so I went to them and tried to find out why they were leaving, hoping that whatever reason they came up with I might have too! And so I started coming up with elaborate ideas about how to leave. At one point, I called a good high school friend and said, "I think at the end of this year, I might go to UBC so I can study secular philosophy and know what people are learning so that I can serve them better when I become a priest; and then I'll come back to the seminary." He was an atheist, so I thought he wouldn't spot my spiritual wimpiness. You know what he said? "Hmm... I thought you were committed." Argh!!!

The fundamental human problem is that sometimes we're afraid of what God will ask of us or will do in our lives. We fear He'll take away our happiness, impose limits on us, take away our freedom. Many people are called to follow God as a priest, deacon, sister but fear stops them. When God calls us to pray or serve more in the parish, it feels like a burden. When we look at the yellow examination of conscience pamphlet, some of those questions might make us uneasy, and our minds jump to conclusions that this will make our life harder.

In the Gospel, Herod fears Jesus. When the wise men come from the East asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" (Mt 2:2) it says, "When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him" (Mt 2:3). Why would he be frightened? Jesus is just a baby. It's because Jesus is a king and Herod believed Jesus would take away his power. And why is all of Jerusalem frightened too? Because they knew Herod: He had already killed two of his children and was soon to kill his oldest because he feared they would take over his kingdom (The International Bible Commentary, ed. William R. Farmer).

But one church father says, "If [Herod] would have faith in the child, he himself would reign in peace in this life and for ever in the life to come... [The child] does not come to drive you out, but to conquer the devil. You imagine that if you accomplish your desire [to



kill the child] you can prolong your own life, though you are seeking to kill Life himself" (St. Quodvultdeus, Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Innocents). If only Herod knew what Pope Benedict famously said, and this is the main point for today, "[Jesus] takes nothing away, and he gives you everything." God doesn't take away anything ultimately good for us. He's not our rival; He's not here to hurt us. He's on our side!

Now it is true that He'll take away sin in our lives. He'll take away our selfishness, narcissism, cowardice, laziness, greed, things that aren't good for us. He'll take them away so as to give us humility, courage, discipline, generosity. It's also true that He'll take away disorder in our lives. For example, most of us love our family and friends more than God. The funny thing is: We love them more than God but still don't treat them that well. In twelve years of hearing confessions and in my 20 plus years of going to confession, it just occurred to me so many of our sins are against... our families. Here's the thing: When God asks us to love Him more than our family, our guard goes up and we think He's asking us to love them less—wrong. When He asks us to love Him more than our family, He's asking us to love them more! God takes away nothing and gives us everything!

Do we have this image of God? When Adam and Eve were in the garden and God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they disobeyed because they thought God was against them. But God was just trying to prevent them from falling into the trap of trying to determine what's right and wrong. Our job is to recognize what's right and wrong, not determine it. [...]

...continued inside

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

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

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:15 am
 Tuesday 7:30 pm
 Wednesday-Friday 8:15 am
 Saturday 9:00 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 1:00 pm;
 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm;
 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration at 1365 West 73rd Avenue
 Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm in the chapel

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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Please call the parish office for more information on RCIA classes and other Sacraments.

St. Anthony of Padua School

Kindergarten to Grade 7
 1370 West 73rd Avenue,
 Vancouver, BC V6P 3E9
 Principal: Michael Perry
 Telephone: 604.261.4043
 Website: *stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca*
 School Email: *office@stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca*

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Monday, January 7	<i>Memorial</i> St. Andre Bessette	117	Ildefonso Puray Sr.
Tuesday, January 8	Ferial	119	George Chan †
Wednesday, January 9	Ferial	121	Adrian Francis
Thursday, January 10	Ferial	123	Lui Kar Koi †
Friday, January 11	Ferial	125	Pedro Arevalo
Saturday, January 12	<i>Memorial</i> St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	127	Alice Edge

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

Upcoming Homily Themes



January 12 & 13

*Why Should God Let Us into Heaven?
Here's the Answer*

January 19 & 20

God Wants to Hear Our Problems

January 26 & 27

Guest Preacher: Fr. Nick Meisl

February 2 & 3

Speaking the Truth in Love

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Experts needed! The Parish Centre Building Committee needs volunteers to assist and advise us with the Parish Centre project. We are seeking licensed individuals with any of the following expertise: **architectural, civil engineering, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, plumbing and fire protection.** Please contact **Marline Kolterhoff** at mak183@telus.net or **Severino Tan** at sthtan@shaw.ca for more information.

School Announcements

School re-opens
Monday, January 7

**Grade 2 Parent Meeting for
First Reconciliation**
Tuesday, January 15
7:00 pm

School Open House
Wednesday, January 16
12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, January 30
6:30 pm

“Encountering Jesus, the Bread of Life”



with Fr. Nick Meisl

**Sunday, January 27 &
Monday January 28**
7:00 PM

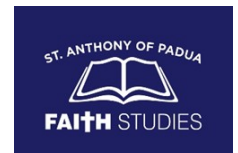
St. Anthony of Padua Church
Please bring your Bible!

Fr. Nick Meisl is a priest of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Recently, he finished his License from the Pontifical Biblical Institute. Currently, Fr. Nick teaches courses on the Bible at Corpus Christi and St. Mark's Colleges and is chaplain at St. Patrick's High School.

Faith Studies is back!

**Note: Registration deadline is
Sunday, January 20.** The 14th round
of Faith Studies will start up again,
Tuesday nights from January 29 to

March 5. All five levels of studies will be offered:
**Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience and
Commission.** NOTE: Limited spots are available in each
of the levels. For more information or to register, call Angel
José at the Parish Office, 604.266.6131 ext. 204 or email her
at stanthonyfaithstudies@gmail.com.



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The two questions, “Where are you?” (Gen 3:8), and, “Why have you done this?” (Gen 3:13) are the words of God the Father in Genesis, and they were said with concern, out of love. That’s what Jesus is reminding us today: Whenever He asks or challenges us to do something, it’s because He loves us.

We said last week that our focus for this Winter season is on the Eucharist, culminating in the opening of our chapel on March 24. After a lot of prayer and keeping in mind our vision to be centred on the Eucharist, we discerned this goal: that each of us has a Eucharistic heart. A Eucharistic heart is one that recognizes Jesus in the host, under the appearance of bread; it’s one that’s drawn to Him in its joys and sorrows; it’s one that wants to spend time with Jesus in the tabernacle, where He’s waiting for us. We want to invite everyone to express this heart in one concrete goal: that each of us spend 15 minutes a week with Jesus in the Eucharist. [...] All of us are being called to let down our guard and follow Jesus more concretely; some of us single people are being called to follow Him as a priest, deacon or sister; and some of us are being called to leave our jobs and work full time for God. But we’re afraid. The best way for us to overcome our fear is to do what the wise men did: kneel down before Jesus in

adoration, who, just as He was as a baby, is helpless in the Eucharist, and ask Him to show us that whatever He asking of us is for our good. [...]

A lot of us know New York Time’s best-selling author, Matthew Kelly. But many don’t know that he works four days a month as a business consultant, making enough money so that he can spend the rest of the month doing something more important and life-giving, running Dynamic Catholic, a huge organization dedicated to re-energizing the Church. Prioritizing God over his career started with something simple: 10 minutes a day of prayer in a church. He couldn’t be bothered doing it at first, but once he started, he wondered how he ever lived without it. Since then, he’s spent his whole adult life encouraging people to spend 10 minutes a day with Jesus in the Eucharist.

God takes nothing away, but gives everything.

Excerpt from Fr. Justin’s homily, January 6, 2018

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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
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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



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