

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.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

A Call to Service



St. Paul Preaching in Athens by Raphael

The Second Reading helps us understand the Church's theology of work. In the year 50 A.D., St. Paul founded a Christian community in the Greek city of Thessalonica. But some of these new Christians struggled with the idea that Jesus was coming again for the final judgment. Believing that He was coming very soon, they stopped working, thinking there was no point. St. Paul corrected them about this in his first letter, but had to repeat his teaching in his second, which we read today.

He says, "Brothers and sisters, you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate" (2 Thess 3:7-9). We know from the Acts of the Apostles that St. Paul was a tent-maker (18:3), and would do this to earn money while at the same time preaching the Gospel! He could have said that his work was preaching, which is true, but he showed them and now us how important it is to earn our food and not burden anyone.

St. Paul was a worker like Jesus. St. John Paul II says that Jesus was "a man of work" (*Laborem Exercens*). What was His trade? Carpentry, like his foster father, St. Joseph. Think about this: God Himself belonged to the "working world, he has appreciation and respect for human work." This cuts right against our laziness, procrastination, and excuses. Jesus said, "My Father is working still, and I am working... The Son can do nothing of his own accord, but

only what he sees the Father doing" (Jn 5:17,19). Jesus' Gospel is a "gospel of work."

So St. Paul makes work a command: "For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: 'Anyone unwilling to work should not eat'" (2 Thess 3:10). The Catechism of the Catholic Church, commenting on this command, says work is a duty (2427), because we're made in the image of God who creates, and so we're called to create. [...]

I told you a year and a half ago that, when I was an older teenager, I had an experience that wrapped many lessons into one. It was around midnight, my brothers were at UBC studying, and I drove from Richmond to pick them up. While driving home, they fell asleep, and I had a sudden sense of responsibility and protection come over me: "I better drive safely so that nothing happens to my brothers."

I loved that experience: I was working, serving, and taking responsibility. And I wanted more of that. Upon deeper reflection, I realized I was becoming more human, and adult like. Work and service are beautiful! They make us more perfectly human.

This is like what we said on Oct. 20: If we are able to contribute but freely choose not to because of laziness, we're like perpetual children, and feel useless and pathetic. On the other hand, when we choose to contribute to the best of our ability, and St. Basil the Great, commenting on today's passage, says one's labour should be in proportion to one's strength (Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, in Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, 121), then there's an experience of satisfaction.

Not everyone can work, sometimes because of mental or physical limitations, and there's no sin in that; and when we can't find a job, there's no shame in that. In cases like these, we praise God in our human dignity, by our ability to receive, and by trying to find work.

Finally, St. Paul says, "For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living" (2 Thess 3:11-12).

Idleness is not the same as rest. As we talked about in the summer, rest helps us achieve our final end of praising God; it renews and allows us to enjoy the good things He's given us. Idleness means we're avoiding contributing. [...]

There are a few lessons for us here. We've been talking about *Made for Mission* these past three months because we're all made to serve, and bring people back to God the Father.

1) Everyone's called to serve. And it starts at home. In some families, work is shared unevenly between mother and father. It sometimes happens that a mother will work all day, either at home or in a professional job, and then come home and take care of the kids,

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Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang Blog: thejustmeasure.ca
Deacon: Andrew Kung deaconandrewrcav@gmail.com
Priest in Residence: Fr. Pierre Leblond plb.op272@gmail.com

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
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Email: office@stanthonyvancouver.org

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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 Saturday of each month: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm in the church during all-day confessions.

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, November 18	Ferial	Holy Souls
Tuesday, November 19	Ferial	Holy Souls
Wednesday, November 20	Ferial	Holy Souls
Thursday, November 21	<i>Memorial</i> Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Holy Souls
Friday, November 22	<i>Memorial</i> St. Cecilia	Holy Souls
Saturday, November 23	Ferial	Holy Souls

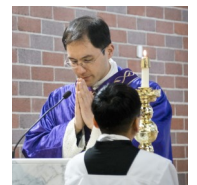
Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Nick De Vos, Tamara Dixon, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen Francis, Feli Hempl, Cecile Hernandez, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Susan Panican, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.

Spiritual Care Volunteers needed at Columbus House Can you spare a couple of hours to sit with residents indoors and/or outdoors (weather permitting)? Would you like to be a meal companion to assist someone with dementia? Training will be provided. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the Parish Office.

Upcoming Homily Themes

November 23 & 24
Explaining Christianity

November 30 & December 1
New Season: Alpha as Culture
The Urgency of Jesus' Offer



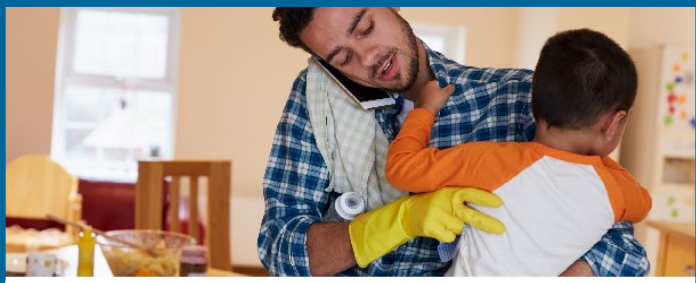
December 7 & 8
Welcoming as Christ Welcomes Us

December 14 & 15
Guest Preacher: Fr. Francis Ching



December 21 & 22
Overcoming the Fear of Rejection

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**SURVIVING AND THRIVING
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Nov. 20, 2019, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall
1345 W. 73rd Ave., Vancouver, BC

A warm welcome to our visitors! Thank you for joining us at Sunday Mass! If you have any questions about St. Anthony's or would simply like to meet some of our parishioners or our pastor Fr. Justin, please let us know or stop by the **Welcome Booth** after any Sunday Mass. We would love to meet you!

CWL Coffee Shop and Bake Sale

'Tis the season to be jolly! We invite every parishioner to join us for fellowship at our upcoming December 8th bake sale. There will be activities for children, so bring the entire family! The CWL members are also requesting donations of Christmas baked goods that can be sold at the bake sale. If you can help, kindly bring your treats downstairs in the kitchen before Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Thanks to all supporters of the CWL!



PROJECT ADVANCE UPDATE! Thank you parishioners for supporting this year's Project Advance Campaign!! As of October 31st, our generous parishioners have given **\$99,742.10**.

Deacon Keith Strohm Mission: De-brief Session

Many of us were touched by the Holy Spirit through Deacon Keith Strohm's parish mission. You're invited to come to a Debrief session led by Peter Lee to share graces and see how we can continue to live in God's healing love. When: Thursday Nov. 21st at 7pm - 8pm. Where: Parish hall conference room For more information contact: Peter Lee, 604.266.6131 ext.224 Email: peterlee.sapv@gmail.com

Parish Registration and the Use of Parish Collection

Envelopes. Fr. Justin and the Parish Office regularly receives requests for Letters of Good Standing or Reference Letters as part of Baptism, Marriage or Confirmation Sponsor documents, religious certifications, or for Catholic elementary or secondary school applications. NOTE: The only official and ordinary way to obtain these letters is to register in the parish and regularly use envelopes, so that when the need arises, it will be based on official records. This helps avoid unnecessary frustration and misunderstanding when regular Mass attendance cannot be verified through use of envelopes.

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while the father is disengaged. This continues in their sons and daughters, where the girls naturally help around the house while the boys are like a young Justin Huang, a lazy bum. We should all contribute to the best of our ability.

2) **Put kids to work.** It's important for them to realize that money comes from work and so as not to feel entitled. Of course, work should be age appropriate; don't get your 5-year-old to mow the lawn. In the real world, you only get paid when you work, and so we can pay them for certain work, and then they can learn to use money wisely, and so appreciate the value of things. That's why some parents believe giving an allowance isn't a good idea. Kids may learn to spend an allowance but won't appreciate it.

3) **Everyone's called to serve their parish family**, insofar as it's possible. This is your parish and your responsibility. While it's considered normal that we come to Mass, which is the most important, and contribute financially, which is also important, God has also given us talents and gifts that are meant for service! [...]

One of the goals we should move towards is that everyone who's able serves concretely in one way. We'll have to improve our leadership, and I'd ask everyone to think how they could serve in the future. Is there any area you could help in? Do you have any talent or interest that may help the parish achieve its vision? I'm inviting you to share in the joy of serving God and others! It's not for me, but for others and their growth,

and for yours as well. Pray about where you can serve. The right call may not come immediately but over many months.

St. John Paul II wrote so beautifully on the dignity of work! When he was 20-years old in Poland, in 1940, under Soviet communist rule, he was forced to work in a stone quarry and a water purification plant. He learned first-hand what hard work was like. And he learned about the dignity of the other workers, their families, living situations, and their human worth. Two years later, he joined the underground seminary while still working.

Here's the beautiful part for us today: When at work, he brought his books to study, to prepare to be a holy priest, and the other workers, so generous themselves, said, "We'll keep watch: you go ahead and read." This happened especially during the night shifts. They would often say: "You go and take a break, we'll keep an eye open" (St. John Paul II, *Gift and Mystery*). Because of their generosity and hard work, they allowed that young man to train and eventually become the pope. Through their service, they helped form the future pope, who, when the time came, helped bring down communism, and free millions and millions of people. That's what happens when everyone does their part.

God is calling us all to do something similar. That's how we become like Jesus Christ, a man of work.


- Excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, November 17, 2019

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