

# 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8th, 2019

## Welcome Others as Christ Welcomes Us

I've preached many times about the virtue of hospitality because it's integral to being a disciple of Christ and it's a virtue our culture is subconsciously looking for. We need to repeat this message so that each of us continues to grow in hospitality and until we become a community that welcomes like Christ.

The Second Reading is about the Christian community in Rome around the year 57-58 A.D. that was divided into two groups, Jews who had become Christian, and Gentiles who had become Christian. The Jewish Christians still followed Old Testament practices in terms of food and liturgical feast days, while the Gentile Christians didn't (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: New Testament, 277). So, St. Paul asks for unity, "May... God... grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify... God" (Rom 15:5-6). Then comes the key teaching: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Rom 15:7).

How has Christ welcomed you? For me, the key moments in my life when I was new and was touched by Christ through others were: Sr. Mercy was kind to me; Fr. Doyle was gentle in Confession, Chris Montoro knew my name; and, on first day in Rome, Msgr. Chica, Fr. Yago, and Fr. Giovanni smiled so much that I thought, "Wow, these guys are really nerdy!" All these people took an interest in me, smiled, initiated a conversation, and knew my name. I felt so blessed through this because I was very vulnerable as a stranger at these points in my life. This is where I learned and was reminded to do this for others. Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!

In 1969, Malcolm Muggeridge interviewed St. Mother Teresa and one of the questions he asked was, "You've got a lot of children [in your care], haven't you?" "Yes," she answered. "Where do they come from?" "Many of those children are unwanted by their parents; some we pick up, some we get from hospitals... Some we bring from the jail, some are brought to us by the police... Up to now we have never refused a child." "Somehow you fit them in,

however many may come?" "We always have one more bed for one more child." "So you've never had to turn one down?" "No" (Malcolm Muggeridge, *Something Beautiful for God*).

Does anyone feel inspired by that kind of radical hospitality? Not all of us can do that, I know, but could we aspire to live that kind of Christ-like hospitality, where we refuse fewer and fewer people?

St. Paul then writes, "For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy." Who are the circumcised? The Jewish people. God the Son (Jesus) took on human nature as part of the Jewish people, not because they were better, but so that they could bring back other nations to God the Father. The Jewish people were supposed to be an older brother to all the nations, who are young siblings (Scott Hahn, *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*, p. 146).

In the same way, Catholics are supposed to be older brothers and sisters to bring back our lost brothers and sisters. So St. Paul is challenging those of us who are strong in faith to help those who are weak.

This week, we're thinking about how to welcome our loved ones as Jesus would. Alpha is famous for its radical hospitality, where the environment is beautiful, clean, and comfortable, the food is great, the team is punctual and takes extra care to make guests feel welcome. Jesus very often ate with people, and so Alpha does the same. Meals are a common bond, so they can connect us with people who are skeptical about Christianity. As the saying goes, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Have you heard that expression? If you're happy, tell your face. We all have things to be thankful for: We've got Jesus, His love and mercy, His plan for us, His care. He's taking care of us today!!! Right now, He's in charge of our lives! A lot of us don't realize that

...continued inside

## Christmas 2019 Parish Schedule

### Penitential Service

Sunday, December 22, 7:00 pm

### Christmas Eve

Mass: Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Carols in the Church: 11:15 pm

Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

### Christmas Day

Masses: Wednesday, December 25

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm



### New Year's Eve

Mass: Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 pm

Holy Hour & Gaudeamus: 11:00 pm

### New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Masses: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 5:00 pm

**Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang** Blog: [thejustmeasure.ca](http://thejustmeasure.ca)  
**Deacon: Andrew Kung** [deaconandrewrcav@gmail.com](mailto:deaconandrewrcav@gmail.com)  
**Priest in Residence: Fr. Pierre Leblond** [plb.op272@gmail.com](mailto:plb.op272@gmail.com)

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 9:00 am—12:00 noon  
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 In case of emergencies,  
 please call the office anytime.  
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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  
 1<sup>st</sup> 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 73<sup>rd</sup> 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, December 9	<i>Solemnity</i> Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sr. Paula †
Tuesday, December 10	Ferial	Neumann Lim
Wednesday, December 11	Ferial	D'Antonio Zopito
Thursday, December 12	<i>Feast</i> Our Lady of Guadalupe	Rolando Tolentino † Mely Tolentino † Lina Asejo †
Friday, December 13	<i>Memorial</i> St. Lucy	Ely Rodulfo Jr. † Ely Rodulfo Sr. † Nelson Tolentino †
Saturday, December 14	<i>Memorial</i> St. John of the Cross	José Carlos Laguio

**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.



*School Announcement*

All parishioners are welcome to attend the annual school **Christmas Concert on Friday, December 13 at the Scottish Cultural Centre**. The matinee performance is at 1:30 pm and evening performance is at 7:00 pm.

**Upcoming Homily Themes**

December 14 & 15  
*Guest Preacher: Fr. Francis Ching*



December 21 & 22  
*Overcoming the Fear of Rejection*

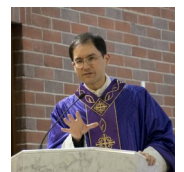
December 24 & 25  
*A Chance for Reconciliation*



December 28 & 29  
*Preacher: Fr. Pierre Leblond*

December 31 & January 1:  
*Preacher: Fr. Pierre Leblond*

January 4 & 5  
*The Best Time of Year to Grow*



January 11 & 12  
*Jesus Wants Everyone to Be Baptized*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Advent Parish Mission “Equipping for the Harvest” with Fr. Francis Ching

7:00 PM, December 15 - 17 \*

Sunday, Dec. 15: Seeking Virtues  
Monday, Dec. 16: A Listening Heart  
Tuesday, Dec. 17: Mentoring Group



\* There will be no morning Mass or Novena during the Parish Mission. Daily Mass will be at 7:00 pm on Monday & Tuesday.

The 2020 Collection Envelope Boxes are now available before and after Masses at the back of the church. If you are a registered parishioner please pick up your box as soon as possible. Non-parishioners who would like a box of envelopes are asked to please complete a parishioner registration form, which can be picked up at the Welcome Booth, or from the Parish Office during the week.



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we look unhappy—that’s how I used to be, until I realized two things: 1) it’s a virtue to be joyful for others, to bring them up; 2) deep down, I was actually not as joyful as I said, and I used the “it’s-my-face” reason as an excuse.

We’re getting ready for Christmas, the celebration of Jesus coming as man, and He’s welcomed us home. Let’s give His love to others. **That’s what we aspire to do: Love like Jesus.**

This is what Jesus is asking all of us to do: If you’re joyful about life, being a Christian, let it show. Be joyful before, during, and after Mass. If you’re having a bad day or there’s a legitimate reason why you’re down, don’t feel you have to pretend. Just do your best.

Let’s be clear also about one thing: It’s possible to be prayerful and silent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in church while still being joyful. Sometimes we think being quiet in church means being stern—wrong. If we’re in God’s presence, sometimes that leads to repentance and contrition, but it can also lead to great joy.

Every single Sunday is someone’s first time here. To love them, we need to be friendly, outgoing, and learn people’s names. Our office, school, and sacristans need to be happy to greet people. If we’re not loving like Jesus, please tell us.

On Christmas, could we park away from the church so as to let guests, the people we’re expecting have better parking spots? Also, in general, could we also sit in the centre of a pew so that people don’t have to jump over us—it’s also a way of inviting people to sit with us, and we all want that, right? Right? We need to change our hearts, and not give grouchy looks, because a brother or sister is sitting next to us. And always shake hands



### The Giving Tree is here!

This special tree is decorated with gift tags that request gifts for homeless men and women in the downtown eastside. The tree will be available in the church foyer until Sunday, December 15.

Please select your gift tag(s) and use gift bags only: no wrapping, as the Missionary Sisters of Charity would like to know the contents in order to distribute appropriately. N.B. Practical gifts are most appreciated, suggested value of \$10: socks, scarves, gloves or toiletries for adult male and female. **Last day to bring in your gifts is Sunday, December 15.**



### Baptism this weekend!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our parish family. **Luke Dee** receives the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, December 8 at the 10:00 am Mass.

**YOUTH CHOIR  
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK &  
GIFT EXCHANGE**

When: Saturday, December 21, 2019, after 5pm Mass  
Where: Church Lower Hall  
Please bring: Gift (\$10 - \$15) suitable for anyone  
Who's invited? Youth, 13 to 23 years interested in singing for the Lord  
RSVP: Rachel Djauhari, r.djauhari99@gmail.com, 778-960-2676

during the Sign of Peace—it’s a virtue in our culture, unless, of course, we’re sick.

If ever you meet someone new, especially at Christmas Masses, **if the opportunity arises, invite them to Alpha on January 9.** That could be the greatest Christmas and New Year’s gift anyone ever gets!

Our Name Tag Sunday Team is looking for more volunteers once a month in the cold months because we’ve bought six outdoor patio heaters so that we can gather outside and not freeze to death. This is a sign that we’re committed to loving like Jesus, that we’re looking forward to chatting outside and loving each other before and after Mass, and we need some strong people to help us set up and take down these heaters.

Also, our Hospitality Team is looking for people with the gift of hospitality, because we’re going to start using umbrellas to accompany from their cars to the door, and back again, on rainy days, which happens on average 169 days a year in Raincouver.

We’ve bought ten golf umbrellas so that loving people in this way will be part of our culture! Our team believes that we open doors and God opens hearts.

We’re also going to be replacing the awning in front of the church, because it’s too small and has holes in it. Anthony Lo, our project manager, is asking if anyone knows people who construct awnings. If so, please contact him at the Parish Office.

Please do your part. Every little bit makes a huge difference. Welcome others as Christ has welcomed us!


- excerpt from Fr. Justin’s homily, December 8, 2019

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