

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2020

Why We Shouldn't Be Late for Mass

Today, let's see if we can pull together as a parish family and start arriving on time for Mass and staying until the end. I know how hard it is to be on time. [...] The reality is: We're always on time for things that are important: an interview, exam, or an important appointment. As I said before, the Church teaches that the Mass is a wedding banquet. When we look at today's Gospel of the Samaritan Woman, we see, from four ideas, how God wants to marry us.

1) **The Well.** The text says, "Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'" (Jn 4:5-7). Dr. Brant Pitre points out that wells in the Bible are where men meet their future wives. When I heard this, I immediately thought of Moses meeting Zipporah at a well (Ex 2:15-21), but I didn't know that Isaac's relationship with Rebekah started at a well, and Jacob met Rachel at a well too. Young Jewish men didn't go to bars looking for future brides, but to the local well (Brant Pitre, *Jesus the Bridegroom*).

2) **Living Water.** After Jesus asks for a drink, "The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans. Jesus said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water'" (Jn 4:9-10). Just as a single man today giving a gift to a single woman might imply that he's interested in her, and just as an engagement ring symbolizes that the man is serious, so, Jewish men gave bridal gifts (Cf. Gen 24:22-27). Living water first refers to a fountain of water, a spring, but brides also washed themselves in preparation for their weddings with what's called 'living water.' And 'living water' referred to water that purified from sins and made someone clean for worship (Cf. Num 19:20) (Pitre).

3) **Husband Language.** Right after the dialogue about living water, Jesus says, "'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'" (Jn 4:16-18). Scripture scholars state that the woman is a symbol of her entire people, the Samaritans, and Jesus, as God, wants to marry the Samaritans—how do we know this? 700 years before this event, the prophet Hosea married a prostitute as a sign that God was married to unfaithful people. Just as the prostitute was unfaithful to Hosea, so were this Samaritan woman and her whole people (Pitre). This woman had five husbands, just as the Samaritan people worshipped five false male gods (2 Kgs 17:28-31), while still trying to worship the true God, the Lord (2 Kgs 17:32-34-41), which is why Jesus says, "And the one you have now is not your husband" (Jn 4:18).



4) **Where to Worship.** "The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a Prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth'" (Jn 4:19-24). She thinks worship is to happen on Mt. Gerizim while the Jewish people think it's in Jerusalem, but Jesus indicates "the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem." When does this happen? It happens when Jesus gives us the living water He's spoken of, and that happens on the Cross, when blood and water pour out from His side (Pitre, p. 74-79). This is when the bridegroom gives His gift to the bride.

In this season *Loving the Liturgy*, today Jesus is clearly reminding us that He the bridegroom wants to marry His people. He gave us living water while on the Cross, and the Mass, as we've said many times, is the re-presentation of His death and Resurrection. When we come to Mass, He offers us living water, spiritual nourishment, when He gives us His body.

This marriage symbolism is so important in Catholic theology that the priest has to be male. Is marriage that important? After everything we've said, as well as everything else in the Bible written about God's marriage with His people, when we go to Mass, we're supposed to look at the priest and see a bridegroom. [...] But every human soul, men and women, is feminine in relationship to God, meaning we receive Him, which is why we both men and women sit where you are in the nave of the Church. [...]

...continued inside

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 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
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St. Anthony of Padua School

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 School Email: office@stanthonypaduaschool.ca

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 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, March 16	Ferial	Julieta Saclayan
Tuesday, March 17	Ferial	Agnes Chiang †
Wednesday, March 18	Ferial	Lilliana Taylor †
Thursday, March 19	<i>Solemnity</i> St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church	Fr. Pierre Leblond
Friday, March 20	Ferial	Battista & Eleonora Piazzon †
Saturday, March 21	Ferial	Frank Kim Sing †

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including:
 Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen
 Francis, Feli Hempl, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Philomina Mayer, Susan
 Panlican, Huguette Piché, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.

Policy for booking Mass Intentions

In order to give more people a chance to book Masses for loved ones and
 deceased individuals, Mass intentions are now booked in two phases:
 1) January to June and 2) July to December. **Bookings for phase 2,
 started on Tuesday, March 3.** All bookings must be made in person at
 the Parish Office. Please call Annie at 604.266.6131 ext. 203 for more
 information.

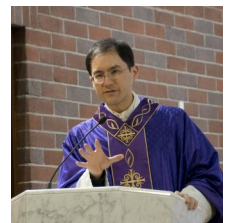
Upcoming Homily Themes

March 21 & 22

Hitting the Wall: How to Deal with Suffering

March 28 & 29

*From Fear to Hope For Our Children:
 A Request for Sacrificial Giving*



April 4 & 5

Did You Know That Jesus Sang?

April 11 & 12

Capacity to Suffer = Capacity to Love = Capacity to Rejoice

April 18 & 19

Do You Have Evidence For Your Faith?

April 25 & 26

7 Ways Jesus Acts in Our Lives

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new parishioners! Thank you for joining our parish family – we're happy to have you! If you have any questions about St. Anthony's or would simply like to meet some fellow parishioners, please come by the **Welcome Booth** after any Sunday Mass. We would love to meet you!

Join us for the Stations of the Cross, every Tuesday evening during Lent, starting at **7:00 pm**.

2019 Income Tax Receipts are now available in the church foyer throughout the weekend, or at the Parish Office during the week from Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, tel. 604.266.6131.

Retrouvaille: A lifeline for troubled marriages. Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring? Your relationship grown cold, distant? Thinking about separation or divorce? Are you already separated or divorced but both of you wish to try again? Then the Retrouvaille Program may help you. Retrouvaille (Rediscovery) - supported by the Life, Marriage and Family Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six to seven follow-up sessions. The next program is scheduled for the weekend of **April 17 –19 at Barnabas Landing Retreat Centre on Keats Island**. All inquiries are confidential. For more details please visit retrouvaillevancover.com or phone (604) 530-6710 and leave a message.

Ushers needed at Sunday Masses The Hospitality Ministry would like to invite more parishioners to become part of our team on Saturdays at 5:00 pm and Sundays at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. For more information please email Ron at rsiy2009@gmail.com.

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This is why, when the priest says, “*This is my body, which will be given up for you*,” we hear marriage symbolism all the way through. We're the bride receiving Jesus the bridegroom.

So, my question for you is: Would you be late for a wedding? Don't answer that. The point is: **We shouldn't be late or leave early**. Being on time is a sign of respect for other people, and sign of self-control. It's a critical sign to our children that this is the most important thing we do. If we're late for Mass, but on time for school and sports, our children will know which is more important, and they will lose faith in Jesus and not love Him. It's actually discouraging to see people arrive consistently late. And I'm not talking about parents with young children, but about adults like me. [...]

One of the action goals of this season is that from now on, we're all going to arrive before Mass starts, and stay until the final hymn is completed, or, during Lent, until the sacred ministers and servers leave. Part of this includes no more adults standing in the foyer when there are seats in the nave. Why? Because of the sign value. How would you feel if you loved someone, invited them to your wedding, and they stood in the back when there were seats available?

I don't think anyone does it intentionally to show disrespect, but we have to learn that certain gestures communicate certain messages. [...] Over a long period of time coming to Mass late communicates that Mass isn't important enough to improve our behaviour.

But if we arrive late for Mass, just wait until there's a moment when we can come in and sit in the pews. No one will be



Email Fraud Warning: The Archdiocese has received multiple reports from parishioners and priests who have fallen victim to a recent internet email phishing scam. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards and other forms of financial assistance. Never respond to emails requesting Google Play cards, iTunes cards or any other form of personal financial assistance, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious or parish staff. If you have any doubt, please contact the “sender” by other means to verify any requests.

annoyed; you're not a disruption. It's better to come in and celebrate rather than stand in the foyer.

This is the goal: **Starting next week and from now on, we're all going to arrive early**. And the servers, choirs, everyone, will be ready to go five minutes before Mass. And if we're late but tried our best, give yourself a pat on the back, because improvement is a huge part of sainthood [Vision]. The point is we're trying! And, if you're always here early, please pray for the rest of us! [...]

When we come in, even if we're late, we're not going to stand in the foyer unless we have young children and we're trying to be respectful for others. Once the children hit a certain age, we come closer to the wedding banquet.

And **we will not leave Mass early from now on**. If we have a legitimate reason to leave early, like getting to work at a certain time, I understand that. But, if we're leaving early like I've noticed the back three rows always clear out early and people are already outside talking, all because we don't want to get caught in a traffic jam, let me quote the words of our Blessed Lord, “Amen, amen, I say to you, too bad” (Jn 22:1). We in this parish family haven't seen each other for a week and you take off just like that? Good families desire to see each other and talk.

This is going to be wonderful! [...] Just do your best. Mass is not merely an obligation, but a joy, because it's a wedding! Jesus came to marry us all, saint and sinner alike!

- Excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, March 15, 2020

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