

VOL. 1 | FALL 2023

VISION

Parish Life at
St. Anthony of Padua

**ISSUE
NUMBER 1!**

Welcome to St. Anthony of
Padua Vancouver

**MESSAGE FROM THE
PASTOR**

Fr. Justin getting ready for a
busy fall season

MINISTRY UPDATES

Alpha, CWL, Faith Studies
and more!



Adoration Hours

Please enter at
1365 West 73rd Ave.

The Adoration Chapel and
Main Church are open daily,
6:00 AM - Midnight.

Please sign-up at stanthonyvan.weadorehim.com.

Mass Times

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Anticipatory Mass 5:00 PM

Sunday Masses 8:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Friday* 6:00 PM

St. Anthony's Novena prayers are on Tuesdays, following Mass.

Saturday* 9:30 AM

Confession Times

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays
5:20 PM - 6:00 PM

1st & 4th Saturdays

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

6:05 PM - 7:00 PM

Regular Saturdays

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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- Parish Office phone: 604.266.6131 email: office@stanthonyvan.com
 - Parish Office hours: Tuesday - Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 - For sacramental emergencies (those in danger of death), please call the Parish Office.
 - For more information: stanthonyvan.com

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
VANCOUVER, BC

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Message from Father Justin

I am as excited as you are to see the contents of this newsletter!

I love seeing what's happening in our parish family through stories and pictures!

The Holy Spirit is so powerful and our community is so big that none of us has the full knowledge of what He is doing in our hearts and lives. This first newsletter is the beginning of a helpful instrument in spreading His work and showing us all how He is moving us towards becoming "An overflowing community in Christ, sent that all may have life to the full!"

Please give our Magazine Team feedback about what strengthens your faith, what informs you, and what could be improved! Please also submit stories and pictures of true conversions. While we cannot tell every story, perhaps it may be one worth sharing!

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for making St. Anthony's who we are and helping us reach God's vision for us!

In Christ,
Fr. Justin



Fr. Justin, with Blain Spencer, who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation on August 27, 2023

From the Editor



What a great joy it is to be able to present to you the first edition of our parish newsletter!

Under the inspired leadership of Father Justin, our beloved pastor, we have, thanks be to God, an active and thriving parish, with many ministries that take care of and serving the temporal and spiritual needs of our parish and parishioners. This newsletter would be an ideal forum for ministry leaders to share news of their activities and programmes with the rest of the parish.

When we read the Acts of the Apostles, we get, among many other things, a glimpse into the life of the early Church. We hope that Vision, St. Anthony's parish newsletter, would similarly serve as a conduit for us to look at the many scenes of our parish life. In addition, parishioners have been generous in coming forward and sharing stories of their faith journey, and their journey toward the Catholic faith.

We have tried to make this newsletter as beautiful as possible. After all, our Catholic faith is about goodness, truth as well as beauty. We hope that this publication will serve not only as a tool for information dissemination, but for evangelization. Ultimately, we hope that readers of this newsletter would be inspired to delve more deeply into the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith.

Please enjoy this first issue of Vision – Parish Life at St. Anthony of Padua.

St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us!

Patrick May

About the editor – trained in both science and music, Patrick has had extensive experience in writing and publishing. His articles have been published in journals such as Neuroscience Letters, Synapse, Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology, and Chopin In the World (Journal of the International Federation of Chopin Societies). Patrick's letters and political commentaries have been published by Catholic Insight, the B.C. Catholic, Clavier, Convivium, TIME Magazine, The Economist, and Taipei Times (the only English language newspaper in the nation). He is a translator of books and articles from Chinese to English, as well as writer of the blog on music, books and films – www.musicnarts.blogspot.com.

EVER WONDER

Alpha

A

Alpha is an interactive series where you can explore questions of faith and connect with others who are on the same search. In Alpha, you will have the opportunity to hear different perspectives and contribute your own in an honest, friendly and open environment.

To date, our Alpha programme, including Chinese Alpha and Parent Alpha has borne much fruit. Many of our new parishioners, newly baptized Catholics, have been brought into the faith through their participation in ALPHA. They all credit joining ALPHA as the first steps toward their eventual reception into the Catholic Church.

St. Anthony of Padua's ALPHA programme is held at the Marpole Neighbourhood House, while our School Parent ALPHA, geared toward parents of children at St. Anthony of Padua School, is held at the beautiful lounge in our parish basement. Drop-ins are welcome. Curious? Intrigued? interested? Visit the ALPHA page on our parish website and find out more about this incredible programme. You never know where it might lead!

For more information, please contact Mara Pastrana:
mara@stanthonyvan.com or alpha@stanthonyvan.com



11:02 Prayer Campaign

Who in your life could you pray for?

a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbour

Write down the names of three people you would like to come to 11:02 am.

Set an alarm at 11:02 am as a reminder to pray daily for them, and be open and expectant to see how God might use you.

11:02
LUKE

1

2

3

Heavenly Father, I pray for my friends, my community, and for Alpha, Canada, let these Kingdom come and Your will be done. Holy Spirit, come fill us today, and I invite you to share the love and Good News of Jesus to those around me. Amen.



WRITE DOWN THE NAMES OF THE THREE PEOPLE YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRAY FOR AND INVITE TO EXPLORE FAITH ON ALPHA.



SET AN ALARM AS A REMINDER TO PRAY DAILY FOR THEM.



BE OPEN AND EXPECTANT TO SEE HOW GOD MIGHT USE YOU.

Community events

Padua P

Psalm
“ How very good
when kindred live

At St. Anthony of Padua, we view community events as a way to bring people together, to get to know one another more deeply, and to evangelize – to extend the Gospel. So far this year, we have had three major community events involving thousands of people in June, and an outdoor Sunday brunch in August. Plans are in the works for the future.

“Scenes from Parish

According to Ricky Fernandez, our pastor, it is such a blessing to be able to gather around a meal, and to listen to each other's stories. We have experienced more and more the joy of our parish events. Without your dedicated giving of yourselves, none of these events would be possible. Thank you for all that you do for our parish.

Indeed, to gather “to share a meal and to gather old friends, and to make new ones, organizing such events involves a lot of dedicated volunteers, but seeing everyone they gather and enjoy each other's company made it all worthwhile.

Please stay tuned, and join us for our next event. Invite a friend, a neighbour, a colleague – come meal with us. You may be sowing the seeds of someone's heart!



June 25, 2023 (Hello Summer)



August 13 (Sunday Brunch)

at St. Anthony of Parish

n 133
and pleasant it is
together in unity!"

people together in Christ, for parishioners to meet outside of Mass, to
invitation to those who do not belong to the parish, or to the Church.
the entire parish – a Sunday brunch in January, a "Hello Summer" event
s for another community event on October 15.

ish Life"

ur Director of Community, "It is
er as a community, to share a
s stories. This year we have
gift of community through
ication, support, and generous
se would have been possible.
our community."

" is always a wonderful way to
ew ones. Needless to say,
great effort on the part of our
the joy on people's faces as
's friendship and community,

our next community event.
worker, to come and share a
the seeds of evangelization in



January 8, 2023 (Sunday Brunch)



(Sunday Brunch)

Hospitality Ministry

Many visitors to St. Anthony of Padua have commented upon the “friendliness” of our parish.

Much of the credit goes to our dedicated team of greeters and ushers who so faithfully serve as the face of Jesus in our parish, to make sure that everyone who walks through our doors feels welcomed and loved.

To be truly hospitable is to deny our own ego, and to think of the needs of others first. Every weekend, at all the Masses, we aim to live out our mission in being a truly hospitable church. We also work with our Name Tag Committee in their monthly and seasonally themed events such as Name Tag Weekends and Halo Halo Weekends.

If you are new to the parish, or would like to find out more about our ministry, please do write to us at hospitality@stanthonyvan.com.



What is the Bible, where does it come from, and what is its purpose?

How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible, and what story does it tell? These are, or should be, ever-important questions. Genesis to Jesus takes you on a 12-week long journey through the entire Bible to answer these questions. Delving deep into each period of the salvation history, HIS-story, and revealing the remarkable story of our faith.

For those of you who missed the first round of this excellent Bible Study, we have good news for you! The second instalment of Genesis to Jesus video series will start on September 14th, and will continue until November 30th, every Thursday evening. Please keep your eyes out for more detailed information. However, should you have any general question regarding this bible study, please email discipleship@stanthonyvan.com and we would be happy to answer them.

Faith Studies

St. Anthony of Padua offers CCO's excellent Faith Studies series, both online and in-person, a discipleship tool where facilitator and participants journey together to know, love, and serve God in a small, friendly group setting. There are five levels of study, from the introductory “Discovery” to “Commission”. Participants are invited to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, to receive the Holy Spirit, to cultivate fundamental Catholic practices, to deepen trust in God, and to proclaim the Good News.



We are now in the middle of Round 27 of Faith Studies! The longevity of the series shows not only its popularity with parishioners, but the effectiveness of it. Looking at the moving testimonials so generously shared by past and current Faith Studies participants, we can see how so many lives, marriages, and faith journeys have been strengthened and positively changed by the programme.

If you would like to find out more about St. Anthony of Padua's Faith Studies programme, please visit the Faith Studies page on the parish website, and embark upon the journey of a lifetime – a journey of faith, with Jesus Christ walking with you every step of the way.



2023 PARISH CENTRE FUNDRAISING DINNER & DANCE



This popular annual parish event will be held on Saturday December 2nd, 2023 at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will commence at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from the Parish Office or from the Dinner & Dance Committee members after each weekend Mass. This event typically sells out, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FUNDRAISING DINNER & DANCE 2023

Rejoice!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2
Doors Open at 6pm Dinner starts at 7pm

Continental Seafood Restaurant
Richmond, BC

\$90
Age 16 +

Love, Peace, Joy, Hope

Community. Centred.
The St. Anthony of Padua Parish Centre Project

As in previous years, we will have a silent auction. In the past you have been very generous in donating brand-new items to be bid on. We will be accepting small electrical items, food baskets, liquor, gift certificates, event tickets, etc. These items can be dropped off at the parish office beginning October.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this wonderful event!





Catholic Women's League

The CWL is a national organization of Catholic women committed to faith development, upholding Christian values and education, an understanding of religious freedom, social justice, peace, harmony, as well as recognition of the human dignity of all people, and the sanctity of life from conception to natural end.

During the year, our popular Fellowship and Bake Sale continues with many delectable goodies. This event, which always brings out parishioners young and old, takes place following the 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses on the first Sunday of the month. Parishioners who attend Mass at other times are invited to join us for fellowship and sharing between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon. Our dedicated group of ladies would be more than happy to see you!

We invite all the ladies in our parish to join us in supporting each other to live out our Catholic faith.



The Tech Team

Our parish tech team is responsible for creating and operating the slides you see on screen at all weekend Masses, as well as broadcasting live-streams of our Saturday 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 Masses, as well as Praise and Worship Wednesdays.

From the feedback we receive, we know that our live-stream Masses have a viewership far beyond the confines of our Archdiocese. This is made possible by the hard work and dedication of every member of our tech team. The tech team is always looking for dedicated tech savvy individuals who have an appreciation for the Mass. The work of members of the tech team includes slide operation, stream/camera operation, and sound mixing. If you would like to find out more about our team of dedicated volunteers, or are interested in joining us, please write to Dennis at techteam@stanthonnyvan.com



Our Faith Journey – Bryan Cusic and Carolyn Tan

Two of our newest parishioners, Bryan Cusic and his fiancée, Carolyn Tan, generously shared

with us their respective faith journeys. In our future issues, we hope to bring you, our readers, many more such moving and personal stories. Thank you, Bryan and Carolyn!

So here, in their own words, are Bryan and Carolyn's stories...



Can you share with us a little bit about your families, your upbringing?

Bryan:

I grew up attending a Presbyterian Church until I was about 7 or 8. Later on, we got caught up in the business of life, and gradually drifted away. Growing up, my brother and I played sports, which became the center of our lives. My life was about school, sports, and having fun. I don't remember learning much about Jesus or our Christian Faith. I didn't find out until just recently that both my parents attended Catholic School, and that I had been baptized Catholic as a baby. My grandfather insisted that it be done. Praise God for that!

Carolyn:

I did not grow up going to church, nor did I receive a Christian or Catholic education! Both sides of my family are Buddhist, to varying degrees, but my upbringing was overall pretty secular and worldly.

I grew up in Singapore, a country comprised of a variety of races, faiths, and cultures, where everyone comes together in a harmonious and integrated melting pot. I attended international schools that catered to expat families from around the world, so culture and faith were always presented in a very subjective manner.

I would say that, from a young age, I loved to visit cathedrals and basilicas. I guess I have always been Catholic at heart! The only missing piece was Jesus.

What was your journey to, or back to, the Catholic Church?

Bryan:

After High School, I pursued a life of pleasure and indulgence. I thought of myself as a good and kind person, but I often let my actions be guided by what felt good to me in the moment. When I moved to Vancouver about 6 years ago, I wanted to change and better myself, and got involved in various self-development courses and seminars. I met my beautiful fiancée Carolyn at around this time. Unfortunately, I eventually fell back into bad habits and vices again, and this brought us to the brink of ending our relationship. This was when Carolyn came to find

Jesus. It took me about 6 months to see the change in her, seeing how God worked in her life, before my eyes were opened to the truth, and for me to decide to give my life to Jesus. I know that God sent her to save me, and to bring us both home.

Carolyn:

Looking back at my life, I can now see all the times God has tried to reach me - or rather, all the times my soul has sought to know Him.

It has been a long journey home. I stumbled on, foolishly thinking I knew best, and believing it was enough to be a good person. It took a great deal of personal suffering for my pride to finally be broken down enough to meekly and humbly seek God. It took being brought to my knees for me to have the humility to know that I knew nothing, I was wrong about everything and, if there truly was a saviour, I needed AND wanted Him.

The scales fell from my eyes, and slowly He began to soften my heart. It took a lot of back and forth to wrestle with whether or not God was real, to discern which "religion" was most viable, then which "denomination" I felt held the truth.

Once I realized that the Catholic Church IS Jesus' church, and fell in love with the faith, I began to fervently pray for Bryan's conversion. With a lot of prayer, and fasting during Lent, Bryan's heart unexpectedly changed on the evening one Good Friday. Once Bryan was on board, things accelerated pretty quickly!

I prayed for the Holy Spirit to help us find a parish in Vancouver that was "right" for us. That evening, I stumbled upon St. Anthony of Padua, and the rest is history! Now the parish feels like our second home. Praise God.

What was it that compelled you to find out more about the Catholic faith?

Bryan:

I had never even looked into the Bible in my lifetime. But the more I learn about the Catholic faith and its tradition, the more compelled I am to continue to learn about and to serve Christ to the best of my ability. I now see the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of the Catholic Church very clearly, and I love it!

Carolyn:

Truth, goodness, and beauty! History and tradition! The desire to seek out these things will always, always, and always eventually lead you to God. I also believe that if you look long enough, patiently enough, earnestly enough, and be humble enough to die to your own pride and arrogance, it will always eventually lead you to the Catholic faith, which is goodness, truth, and beauty itself.

What brought you to St. Anthony of Padua?

Bryan:

My beautiful fiancée Carolyn has a knack for research, and went on a deep dive to find the perfect church for us. In our initial search for a Church that felt like home, we tried a few in our area. While they all had great things about them, we were looking for a deep reverence, adherence to tradition, and community that we could connect with. We have found that and so much more in our Home at St. Anthony of Padua!

Carolyn:

I hope people recognize just how unique and special St. Anthony's is. What great reverence, sanctity, and grace presides within the walls of our parish, and what a gift it is to be the home of our beautiful chapel - it is all too good to be true! To me, St. Anthony's and the parish community we have is what every Novus Ordo Catholic parish around the world should be modelled after, and the perfect balance of relatable modernity and reverent tradition

Tell us a little bit about your excitement as new Catholics!

Bryan:

Every day, I wake up and feel a tremendous gratitude to the Lord. I certainly don't deserve any of this. God loves me and has forgiven me unconditionally. He has given me a way of life that is rooted in Him, and I absolutely love it. I know I can speak for Carolyn as well when I say that we are beyond excited to find ways to serve Christ and build a family that glorifies God!

Carolyn:

I also think that part of the blessing of being an adult convert to the faith is being able to have a fully consenting conversion of mind, heart, body, and soul.

When you have known how much darkness, emptiness, and despair there is when you're without Truth. When you know how deceptive is worldly joy, and how shallow is worldly beauty.

We are also super excited about the ministries we plan to join, and hopefully start. I humbly pray that we may all become as holy as we should, and transform the Church for the better, together. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen!





St. Anthony of Padua School

PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

St. Anthony of Padua School is a vital part of St. Anthony of Padua Parish. The school is one of 45 schools within the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). Each local school has a Parish Education Committee (PEC) comprising seven members, along with the pastor. The PEC promotes Catholic Education as well as its values and benefits to the community. The PEC helps the pastor to ensure that the policies and procedures of the CISVA Board of Directors are followed.

PEC meetings are held once a month. If you have any concerns, please contact the PEC Chairperson at pecchair@stanthonypaduaschool.ca.

Parish Education Committee Members 2023/24 include:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Chair: | Kacia Yu |
| Vice-Chair: | Ivy Chan |
| Treasurer: | Jane Ma |
| Secretary: | Kim Lobo |
| Parent Participation: | Caroline Chan |
| Fundraising: | Janet Sze |
| Maintenance: | Jacob Hogge |







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