



Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

Aug 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

There are lots of political turmoil all over the world due to CoVid-19 and its economic repercussions. There are also opinion polls about the government response and performance in combatting Corona Virus and our Premiere stands tall among all premieres of Canada. This Sunday, Jesus asks His Apostles *“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” - Mt. 16:13.* Theirs response was, *“Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” - Mt. 16:14.* Then Jesus wants to know their experience regarding himself and Peter as usual takes the role of a leader and responds, *“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” - Mt. 16:16.* Having received right response, Jesus concludes, *“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood* has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah. - Mt. 16:17-20.*

The question we should ask oneself is, “who Jesus is to me?” Answer will be according to your personal relationship and experience with Jesus. I don’t expect same response with everyone. What is our purpose of being here? The old Baltimore catechism would say, “...to love Him, serve Him and be with Him eternally.” In order to have deeper relationship with Jesus, we should know Him, and then we will be able to love Him in an intimate way. Then on earth we will be able to acclaim with *Psalm 138 – “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth.”*

Please pray for our two (2) candidates, Izabel Gomes Thomazini and Nate Santos Conwi, who will be receiving Jesus for the first time this Friday, August 28 at 6 pm. We invite our parishioners to join the Eucharistic Celebration for this occasion at 6 pm. Please call the parish office to register if you wish to attend.

While CoVid situation continues, we will not be having Saturday morning Mass since we already have two Masses in the evening.

Though many of you have already contributed to Project Advance, our diocesan target is \$12,000 and to date we have collected \$10,115.

Our Parish RCIA Coordinator, Tom Weaver, is starting RCIA sessions from September 8 amidst our current situations. If you know anyone who is keen in exploring Catholic faith or interested of becoming a Catholic, please contact Tom Weaver or the Parish Office. Please make it your priority.

As CoVid cases is still rising, please keep yourself, your families, and your friends safe by being vigilant, caring for each other and most of all by following provincial and diocesan guidelines in combatting this virus.

Prayers and blessings,

Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD - Pastor

Ten ways to deepen our relationship with God

By Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. (*CatholicPhilly.com*)

Over the years I've heard from many good people who want a closer relationship with God. But they're stymied by what they perceive as God's silence. What they often mean, without knowing it, is that they'd like God to do something dramatic in their lives; something with a hint of Mt. Sinai that proves his credentials.

But God typically doesn't work that way. He's not in the theater business. God wants to be loved and even in a sense "courted" – which means that we can't be passive partners in the relationship. We need to pursue God as we would the persons we love.

So as we make our way through these last weeks of ordinary time before Lent, here a few steps – in no particular order – that can [help us draw closer to God](#).

First, start by listening to him. Faith isn't a 12-step action program. Nor is it an algebra problem that needs to be "solved." It's a love affair. As with a spouse, the most important thing we can do is to be present and listen. This requires the investment of time and focus. If a spirit of impatience or pretending to listen doesn't work with your spouse, why would it work with God?

Second, cultivate silence. We can't listen when our world is filled with noise and toys. C.S. Lewis often said that noise is the music of hell. Our toys – those things we choose to distract us – keep us diverted from focusing on the main questions of life: *Why are we here? What does my life mean? Is there a God, and if so, who is he, and what does he ask of me?*

Third, seek humility. Humility is to the spirit what material poverty is to the senses: the great purifier. Humility is the beginning of sanity. We can't really see – much less love – anyone or anything else when the self is in the way. When we finally, *really* believe in our own sinfulness and unimportance, many other things become possible: repentance; mercy, patience, forgiveness of others. These virtues are the foundation stones of that other great Christian virtue: *justice*. No justice is ever possible in a spider's web of mutual anger, recrimination and hurt pride.

Fourth, cultivate honesty. Complete honesty is only by the way, if you do nothing else in 2014, read Tolkien's wonderful short story, *Leaf by Niggle*. It will take you less than an hour, but it will stay with you for a lifetime. And then read C.S. Lewis' great religious science-fiction trilogy – *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra* and *That Hideous Strength*. You'll never look at our world in quite the same way again.

Eighth, believe and act. Nobody "earns" faith. It's a free gift from God. But we do need to be willing and ready to receive it. We can discipline ourselves to be prepared. If we sincerely seek truth; if we desire things greater than this life has to offer; and if we leave our hearts open to the possibility of God — then one day we *will* believe, just as when we choose to love someone

more deeply, and turn our hearts sincerely to the task, then sooner or later we usually will.

Feelings are fickle. They're often misleading. They're not the substance of our faith. We need to be grateful for our emotions as God's gifts, but we also need to judge them in the light of common sense. *Falling* in love is only the first taste of love. Real love is both more beautiful and more demanding than the early days of a romance.

In like manner, a dramatic "road to Damascus" style conversion doesn't happen to most people, and not even St. Paul stayed on the road very long. Why? Because in revealing himself to Paul, Jesus immediately gave him something to do. We know and more deeply love Jesus Christ *by doing what he tells us to do*.

In the real world, feelings that endure follow actions that have substance. The more sincere we are in our discipleship, the closer we will come to Jesus Christ. This is why the Emmaus disciples only recognized Jesus in "the breaking of the bread." *Only in acting in and on our faith, does our faith become fully real*.

Ninth, nobody makes it to heaven alone. *We all need friendship and community*. A friend of mine who's been married more than 40 years likes to say that the heart of a good marriage is *friendship*. Every successful marriage is finally about a deep and particular kind of friendship that involves honesty, intimacy, fidelity, mutual sacrifice, hope and shared beliefs.

Every successful marriage is also a form of *community*. Even Jesus needed these two things: friendship and community. The Apostles were not simply Christ's followers; they were also his brothers and friends, people who knew and supported him in an intimate way. All of us as Christians need the same two things. It doesn't matter whether we're a religious, layperson, deacon or priest, single or married. *Friends* are vital. *Community* is vital. Our friends both express and shape who we are. Good friends sustain us. Bad friends undermine us. And that's why they're so decisive to the success or failure of a Christian life.

Tenth and finally, *nothing is more powerful than the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist in leading us to the God we seek*. God makes himself available to us every week in the confessional, and every day in the sacrifice of the Mass. It makes little sense to talk about the "silence of God" when our churches are made silent by our own absence and indifference. *We're* the ones with the cold hearts – not God.

He's never outdone in his generosity. He waits for us in the quiet of the tabernacle. And he loves us and wants to be loved wholeheartedly in return.

If we're willing to give that love, these steps will lead us to him.

Stewardship Reflection - August 23, 2020
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?”

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything - God already owns it all. God made everything. All we can do is return a portion of God’s many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity! Through your generous sharing, you just may be the answer to someone’s prayer.

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Mass Intentions

			Day	Intention
Saturday	Aug 22	4pm	Sp. Int. of Donovan Frencher	
		6pm	Sp. Int. of Parishioners	
Sunday	Aug 23	9am	+Ardan Man Kam Fong+	
		11am	+Audrey Skurhan+	
		12:30pm	Sp. Int. of Paul & Angela	
Monday	Aug 24	8am	Thanksgiving by Alma Somido	
Tuesday	Aug 25	8am	+Augustine & Marina Somido+	
Wednesday	Aug 26	8am	+Prenee Umlast+	
Thursday	Aug 27	8am	Sp. Int. of Marc & Jason Du Perron	
Friday	Aug 28	8am	Sp. Int. of Jessica Salvani Sp. Int. of Agustin Gramajo	
		6 pm	Sp. Int. of Jimmy & Karen Seranilla	

Please pray for our Candidates for the Sacraments of First Communion month of August

August 28, Friday, 6 PM:

Sacrament of First Communion

- **Jzabel Gomes Thomazini**
- **Nate Santos Conwi**



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aug 24: Feast: Saint Bartholomew

Aug 27: Memorial: Saint Monica

Aug 28: Memorial: Saint Augustine

Aug 28: 6 pm Mass; First Holy Communion

For those intending to attend the Mass, please email or call the parish office to register.

TEMPORARY Cancellation of the 9 am Saturday morning Mass:

As there is not much people coming to the 9 am Saturday Mass compared to the 4 pm & 6 pm Anticipated Mass, *we are TEMPORARILY cancelling the 9 am Saturday Mass until further notice.*

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in our attempt to normalize operations in our Parish amidst this uncertain time.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS :



For those preparing their child to get baptize in the Catholic church, we are conducting Baptism Prep Class upon request. Please call or email the parish office for details.



The Knights of Columbus (KoC) is a Catholic service organization that has had an active affiliation to our Guardian Angels Parish and they do a lot more than pancake breakfasts. KoC Council 14723 are currently welcoming new members who are practicing Catholics and interested in making our community stronger. For information regarding the Knights call John Jane at 604-558-2749, Barry Wingo at 604-767-6496 or visit kofc.org. If you just happen to have shoe-boxes full of old postage stamps, consider donating to our Parish council of KoC. The stamps would be put up for auction and all proceeds will go to the KoC Vocation Fund. There is a stamp box in the vestibule at the back of the church or pass them along to Guardian Angels Sacristy steward Terry O’Neil.

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ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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.

Upper Room Conference 2020

At the Upper Room Conference, you will hear from incredible speakers, be able to connect with other disciples and gain insight and resources on how to live out your missional call in your homes and communities. We'll have times of worship, prayer, community, and hear from amazing speakers like Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. John Riccardo, Pete Burak, Matt Maher, and Archbishop J. Michael Miller.

This year's conference marks one year since the launch of the Proclaim movement in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Led by the vision of Archbishop Michael to see the Gospel shared, the heart of the Upper Room comes back to the prodding of the Holy Spirit in our city.

The Upper Room Conference will be streamed live on Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. You can join from the comfort of your home or gather safely with other intentional disciples at a host parish near you. Registration coming soon to upperroomvancouver.com

Join us as we listen to the Holy Spirit and respond to God's call in our Archdiocese. This is your invitation to see God move.

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration - Intensive Prayer

The Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade invites all to pray with us during the live stream on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at beholdvancouver.org/events/monthly-eucharistic-adoration-intensive-prayer

We pray especially for relief from COVID-19, plus all our other needs in the community. If you have any special prayer intentions, please send them to filipinoministry@rcav.org and we will make sure they will be included

Santa Maria House

If you, a loved one, or someone you know, wants to be free from an addiction to drugs or alcohol, consider Sancta Maria House. Located in a beautiful part of Vancouver, we offer a structured and supportive Catholic Christian 12-Step recovery program, in a pleasant, loving, family-like setting. We accept women of all faith backgrounds. For more information, visit: agapestreetministry.org/healing-homes/sancta-maria-house-1st-stage-recovery-