

**The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Agnes & St. Anthony
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B
December 20, 2020**



St. Anthony
10661-82 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 2A6
Ph: 780- 432-0611
Fax: 780-434-4969

St. Agnes
10826-62 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6H 1N1
Ph: 780- 432-0611

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 12 Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
E-Mail: stanthony.edm@caedm.ca
Parish website: twinparishes.caedm.ca

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Joint Mission Statement

As sharers in the mission of Jesus Christ, we are committed to spreading the Gospel and building up the kingdom of God in our homes, in our parishes, and in the communities in which we live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The parish office is closed on Wednesday, December 23rd to January 3rd inclusive.**
- 2021 Church donation envelopes are available at the parish office to pick up.
- All participants for the mass must wear a face covering or mask inside the church.
- Christmas masses schedules are still available at the parish website. Those who wish to attend please register online and **no walk-ins** for Christmas masses. Deadline for registration online is Tuesday, December 22 at noon.
- St. Agnes Christmas Eve 5 PM mass will be live streaming on Thursday, Dec. 24, please check the parish website for the address under the Parish News

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8hvaDr4rcRHqX_sRTW90_g

- New Year's Eve masses schedules will be available at the parish website this Wednesday, Dec. 23. Those who wish to attend please register online and **no walk-ins** for New Year's masses. Deadline for registration online is Wednesday, December 30th at noon.

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Parish Staff:

Pastor	Rev. Varghese Munduvelil
Deacon	Guy Germain
Deacon	Michael Pucylo
Deacon	Ramon Morales
Business Manager	Don Wong
Administrative Assistant	Florentina Suce
Custodian (St. Anthony)	Ray Wagner
Custodian (St. Agnes)	Bruce Huynh

Twin Parishes Financial Pulse

		Full Year	
Dec 05 & 06	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Sunday, Holy Day</u>	\$ 17,565	\$329,183	\$460,000
<u>Building Maint. Fund</u>	\$ 50	\$ 26,645	\$ 30,000
<u>Together We Serve</u>	\$ 440	\$ 26,821	\$ 51,600

“Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.”
2 Corinthians 8:12

God bless you in your response to His love.

Twin Parishes Masses for the Week

Tuesday, December 22 Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 23 Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 pm
Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
Friday, December 25 Christmas Day Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon
Saturday, December 26 Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 27 Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon

Attendees for weekend masses are by registration online at the parish website twinparishes.caedm.ca including all volunteers. Only at this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Parishioners that have no access to the website call the parish office to register during office hours Monday to Friday 9 am-12 noon 1 pm-4pm. There is a cut-off of online registration at the website every Saturday at 12 Noon. **Click under Mass Registration**

The Mystery Kept Secret

December 20, 2020- Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

First Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16

Psalm 80:2-5, 27,29

Second Reading – Psalm 16:25-27

Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9)

Mary the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" – an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob – the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to formed.org/signup; click the 3rd button: I belong to a parish organization.
2. Select your parish: Enter Postal Code T6E 2A6 and select St. Anthony from the dropdown menu.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

Pope Francis Corner



And the Joy of Family Life Daily Reflections

He Became Poor

God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself "became poor" (2 Cor 8:9). The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor.

Salvation came to us from the "yes" uttered by a lowly maiden from a small town on the fringes of a great empire. The Savior was born in a manger, in the midst of animals, like children of poor families; he was presented at the Temple along with two turtledoves, the offering made by those who could not afford a lamb (cf. Lk 2:24; Lv 5:7); he was raised in a home of ordinary workers and worked with his own hands to earn his bread.

- *Evangelii Gaudium*

Reflection: *God became one of us in a very particular way – as a child of a poor family of ordinary workers. We may or may not be materially poor, but we can imitate his poverty in the humility with which we meet our family members where they are, accepting them in simplicity of heart. How can you say yes to your family members, showing them that you truly want to be with them and love them?*

DONATE BUTTON

Parish website: twinparishes.caedm.ca

Here are three ways to give:

St. Agnes and St. Anthony would prefer if you use:

[Pre-Authorized Giving Agreement Form](#)

Envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office at:

St. Anthony,
10661-82 Avenue NW Edmonton,
AB T6E 2A6

My Offering

Donate online:

Thank you for being a good steward of

St. Agnes/St. Anthony Parish.

Every gift is truly appreciated.

Grace with lines inspired by the Readings for December 20, 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Leader: *Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You are called the Son of the Most High. (Luke 1:32)*

All: *Lord, open our hearts to sing your praises. Or*

Leader: *Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You are given the throne of David, and your kingdom will be without end. (Luke 1:32a-33)*

All: *Lord, may we proclaim your praise and glory before all the nations.*

SACRAMENTS

MARRIAGE – Because the church is deeply concerned about each marriage, couples are asked to give a minimum of **six months’ notice prior to the intended date of their wedding**. Normally the parish boundaries determine in which parish marriage planning should take place. St. Agnes & St. Anthony parishes offer a Marriage Preparation Course please contact the parish office.

**For Funerals contact the parish office
@ 780-432-0611**

NO Adoration at St. Anthony until further notice.

NO Meeting, and other activities in the church & meeting rooms until further notice.

POPE FRANCIS’ REFLECTION ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Peter's Square

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 24 December 2017

This Sunday just before Christmas, we listen to the Gospel of the Annunciation (cf. Lk 1:26-38).

In this Gospel passage, we notice a contrast between the promises of the angel and Mary’s response. This contrast is manifested in the *dimension* and *content* of the expressions of the two protagonists. The angel says to Mary: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever” (vv. 30-33). It is a *long* revelation which opens unprecedented possibilities. The Child that will be born to this humble girl from Nazareth will be called Son of the Most High. It is not possible to conceive of a higher dignity than this. And after Mary’s question in which she asks for an explanation, the angel’s revelation becomes even more detailed and surprising.

On the other hand, Mary’s reply is a *short* sentence that does not speak of glory. It does not speak of privilege but only of willingness and service: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (v. 38). The *content* is also different. Mary does not exalt herself before the prospect of becoming the mother of the

Messiah, but rather remains modest and expresses her acceptance of the Lord’s plan. Mary does not boast. She is humble and modest. She always remains the same.

This contrast is meaningful. It makes us understand that Mary is truly humble and does not try to be noticed. She recognizes that she is small before God and she is happy to be so. At the same time, she is aware that the fulfilment of God’s plan depends on her response, and that therefore she is called to accept it with her whole being.

In this circumstance, Mary’s behaviour corresponds perfectly to that of the Son of God when he comes into the world. He wants to become the Servant of the Lord, to put himself at the service of humanity to fulfil the Father’s plan. Mary says: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord”; and the Son of God upon entering the world says: “Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God” (Heb 10:7). Mary’s attitude fully mirrors this statement by the Son of God who also becomes the son of Mary. Thus Our Lady shows that she is in perfect accord with God’s plan. Furthermore she reveals herself as a disciple of his Son, and in the *Magnificat*, she will be able to proclaim that God has “exalted those of low degree” (Lk 1:52) because with her humble and generous response, she has obtained great joy and also great glory.

As we admire our Mother for this response to God’s call to mission, we ask her to help each of us to welcome God’s plan into our lives with sincere humility and brave generosity.

