

**The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Agnes & St. Anthony
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B
JUNE 13, 2021**



St. Anthony
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Edmonton, AB T6E 2A6
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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

- 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. The cut-off of online registration at the website is every Friday at 3:00 PM. Click under Mass Registration.
- NO Adoration at St. Anthony until further notice.
- NO Meeting, and other activities in the church & meeting rooms until further notice.
- For Funerals contact the parish office 780-432-0611

Contact the parish office at 780-432-0611 for registration of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA. All the class sessions will start on October 2021.

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Parish Staff:

Pastor Rev. Varghese Munduvelil CFIC
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		
June 05/06		Actual	YTD	Budget
<u>Sunday, Holy Day</u>	\$	12,610	\$135,243	\$375,000
<u>Building Maint. Fund</u>	\$	985	\$8,935	\$ 30,000
<u>Together We Serve</u>	\$	755	\$11,445	\$ 51,600

“I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these offerings I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.”

Ezra 2:68, 69

May God bless you in your response to His love.

Twin Parishes Masses for the Week

Tuesday, June 15 Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 16 Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 pm
Thursday, June 17 Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
Friday, June 18 Mass St. Agnes	9:00 am
Saturday, June 19 Mass St. Agnes Mass St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 20 Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon

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.

**June 13, 2021- Scott Hahn Reflects on the
11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

First Reading – Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel – Mark 4:26-34

In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

To all the parishioners who are interested in having their church donations by automatic withdrawal from their banks please email or call the parish office @ 780-432-0611 to register.



**Pope Francis
Corner**

**And the Joy of
Family Life Daily
Reflections**

Difficulties

It takes courage to begin following Jesus Christ. And this courage comes from God. When you're being abused and insulted, you need endurance in order to withstand all the difficulties of everyday life, all the difficulties of preaching the gospel.

You need apostolic stamina to endure all the difficulties inflicted by those whom Paul himself describes as enemies of the Cross of Christ – those people who like to be flattered and who like to be told what they like to hear; those people who want to be told what they want the Gospel to say and not what the Gospel says. For this reason, Paul says: "We never used words of flattery" (see 1 Thessalonians 2:5).

- *Only Love Can Save Us, Homily, August 4, 2006*

Reflection: *Have you heard the saying, "Don't tell God how big your storm is; tell the storm how big your God is"? The Lord – who is bigger than anything you face – will give you the courage and endurance to deal with your challenges and to preach the Gospel. Ask him to help, now and throughout the day.*

Anyone who wants to become Catholics and Catholics who are 15 years old & above that have not yet received First Communion and Confirmation, and interested in learning more about RCIA please contact the parish office 780-432-0611.

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.



ST. ANTHONY FEAST DAY

St. Anthony of Padua is best known as the finder of lost objects, but his life offers many lessons for us today.

Anthony (1195-1231) began as a scholarly monk, but joined the new Franciscan Order to become a missionary friar. Chronic illness, however, kept Anthony from such an adventures and he was assigned to work in a friary kitchen. One day, he was called on to be a substitute preacher. He astonished the other friars by his humble eloquence and knowledge of the Bible.

Anthony came to the attention of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis was a charismatic and spiritual leader, and was suspicious of theological training – but Anthony changed his mind. Soon Anthony became a great preacher and a teacher. Anthony and other friars helped win back Catholics who had lapsed because of their frustration with worldly and inept priests and Church leaders. The Franciscans' mission of serving the poor also inspired other Christians to greater charity. The custom developed of celebrating the saint's feast by donating bread to the poor in gratitude to God for Anthony's intercession – the saint is often depicted with loaves. Today, instead of giving "St. Anthony's Bread" to show thanks for our many blessings, we can find other ways to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in need, near and far.

"St. Anthony of Padua, protect all our neighbours and open our hearts to their needs. Amen."

Importance of Registering with the Church Office

There are a number of parishioners who come to church regularly but are not officially registered. We need at least six months prior to requests for baptisms, marriages, other sacraments and services. It assists us in determining how to deal with the request. If you have Sunday Collection Envelopes you are registered. Please call the office at 780-432-0611 or complete the forms at the parish website twinparishes.caedm.ca

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION

Ez 17: 22-24; II Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

Today's readings focus our attention on the birth and growth of the reign or rule of God (Kingdom of God), in our human lives and on the growth of the Church from very humble beginnings. Both growths are slow and mysterious, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture lessons summarized:

The first reading, taken from Ez 17:22-24, is a Messianic prophecy. Ezekiel tells us how the Lord God of Israel will allow a descendant of King David to become the Messiah and Savior of the world. In contrast with the parable of the tiny mustard seed in today's Gospel, Ezekiel sees the Messiah originating in a royal family (lofty Cedar, David).

In the second reading, St. Paul teaches the Corinthian Christians that they are to advance the growth of God's Kingdom and His rule in their lives by doing His will so that they may be amply rewarded in the final judgment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the growth of the Kingdom of God to the germination of a wheat seed and that of a tiny mustard seed. Both have exceedingly small beginnings. The wheat seeds, by gradual but steady growth, help the farmer to get a bumper crop. In the same way, the life principle in a tiny mustard seed enables it to grow into a large bush. The reign of God in human hearts and the growth of the Church in the world also have small beginnings. But the Source of all life, God the Holy Spirit, gives to both a steady, persistent, and gigantic growth, provided we, the members of the Church, cooperate with God's grace.

Parable of the mustard seed: The tiny mustard seed, growing to be a tree, symbolizes Jesus' offer of refuge and life in God's Kingdom. The picture painted in the Parable of the Mustard Seed by Jesus is of the humble beginnings of the Church experiencing an explosive rate of growth. The mustard seed was proverbially used to describe something of minuscule proportions (see Matthew 17:20), in first century culture. Likewise, the resulting mustard plant was well known as a large, fast-growing herbaceous shrub, and one that could be quite invasive if left unchecked in the garden (see Pliny, *Natural History*, 19, 170-171). Birds are naturally attracted to the taste of the mustard

seed. Matthew identifies the birds of the air as “the wicked one” Mark connects them with “Satan” (Mk 4: 4, 15), and Luke links them to “the devil.”. They have continually tried to infiltrate the Church. Upon the unsuspecting early Church, Satan moved quickly to implant his agents in it to teach false doctrine while appearing to be true Christians.

Mysterious but steady growth of the Kingdom of God: Jesus explains that the kingdom of God grows this way in human souls. The Kingdom of God is the growth of God’s rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit Him to nurture it with tender loving care, it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But this seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the Word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments, and prayer. Finally, God’s rule in the human heart transforms individuals and communities into God’s people doing His will in His kingdom.

The message of the parable is quite simple and direct. The reign of God will grow to its fullness, despite all obstacles. In those who accept Jesus as their God and Savior, the Will of God will also be accepted in all areas of their lives with the help of the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. The Church of Jesus Christ had a tiny beginning in the work of an obscure teacher and a pitifully small group of ordinary people. But one of the proofs of the Divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from such a very humble beginning. No wonder the Church has become the greatest of all shrubs, the world-wide Church that welcomes people of all races and nations into her fold, celebrating the marvel of growth!

A parable of encouragement: The parable of the mustard seed is a word of encouragement for us. Things might not be what you and I want them to be, but there is still hope. God works in mysterious ways. God is still with us even when our efforts are frustrated, because He is the Source of growth. Growth often starts

out small like a mustard seed and then blossoms into something huge.

The second thing these words of Jesus do is to remind us that while we are called to do something, we are not called to do everything. We scatter the seed, but the growth is up to God. The same process works in the Christian life. We practice daily prayer and Bible reading. We find ways to be of service to others. We pledge money and time to the Church and charitable purposes. We join the people of God at the altar regularly. These are some of the seeds that God uses to mold and shape our lives in love, peace and hope. But the shaping happens at God’s own pace and as we are willing and able to cooperate with Him.

Life messages:

1) We need to cooperate in the growth of God’s Kingdom: The Kingdom of God is the growth of God’s rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with TLC (tender loving care), it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But the seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the Word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments and prayer. As we learn God’s will from His words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God’s Kingdom on earth, a growth which will be completed in our Heavenly life. But since we need the special anointing of the Holy Spirit to be doers of the Word of God, let us offer our lives before God every day, asking for this special anointing.

2) We need to avoid getting discouraged: Since the acceptance God’s rule by human beings is a terribly slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelizers, and believers. The conviction that growth of the Kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit and needs our humble cooperation should make us optimistic in continuing our work of witnessing. We should continue sowing tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness.

(Reflections of Antony Kadavil)