

**The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Agnes & St. Anthony**
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B
MARCH 7, 2021



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

- 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. Starting April 1, 2021 the cut-off mass online registration will be Friday at 3:00 PM. Mass registration list will be printed by the end of Friday afternoon.
- 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
- Lent confession is available half hour before the weekday masses or call the parish office to book your appointment.

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Parish Staff:

Pastor	Rev. Varghese Munduvil CFIC
Deacon	Guy Germain
Deacon	Michael Pucyo
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

		Actual	YTD	Full Year Budget
<u>February 27 & 28 Sunday, Holy Day</u>	\$	3,655	\$44,563	\$400,000
<u>Building Maint. Fund</u>	\$	140	\$ 2,610	\$ 30,000
<u>Together We Serve</u>	\$	290	\$ 3,190	\$ 51,600

"Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you."

1Chronicles 29:17

God bless you in your response to His love.

Twin Parishes Masses for the Week

Tuesday, March 09 Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 10 Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 PM
Thursday, March 11 Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
Friday, March 12 Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
Saturday, March 13 Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 14 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.

Spiritual Sacrifice

March 07, 2021- Scott Hahn Reflects on the
Third Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading – Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19:8-11

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel – John 2:13-25

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it (see Matthew 5:17)-to reveal its true purpose in God's saving plan.

He is the Lord the prophets said would come-to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples (see Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1-5; Isaiah 56:7).

The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell inn sanctuaries made by human hands (see Acts 7:48; 2 Samuel 7:5).

Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see Psalm 50:7-13).

Notice in today's First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices-only that Israel heed His commandments (see Jeremiah 7:21-23; Amos 5:25).

His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today's Psalm. It was a law of love (see Matthew 22:36-40), perfectly expressed in Christ's self-offering on the Cross (see John 15:13).

This is the "sign" Jesus offers in the Gospel today-the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus' body-destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later-is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16) and together builds us into a dwelling place of God (see Ephesians 2:22).

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires (see John 4:23-24)

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see Psalm 50:14, 23). This means imitating Christ-offering our bodies-all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and love of others (see Hebrews 10:5-7; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).

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**

Rend Your Hearts

The words of the prophet Joel are strong and challenging: Rend your hearts, and not your garments, and return to the Lord your God. These words are an invitation to all people; they exclude no one.

Rend your hearts and your garments of a penance that is not sincere and that does not guarantee an eternal future. Rend your hearts and not your garments of any fast that is merely a formality or an observance which only serves to make us feel satisfied. Rend your hearts and not your garments of superficial and self-centered prayer that does not reach the innermost being of your life so that God may touch it. Rend your hearts so that you may say long with Psalmist, "We have sinned."

- *Only Love Can Save Us, Lenten Message, February 13, 2013*

Reflection: *In the depth of your hearts, mask God for forgiveness. Ask him what you can do to center your life more on him.*

He Gave Himself Up "for Me"

Jesus gave himself up to death voluntarily in order to reciprocate the love of God the Father, in perfect union with his will, to demonstrate his love for us. On the cross Jesus "loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Each one of us can say: "He loved me and gave himself for me." Each one can say this "for me."



40 days for Life started Feb 17 and runs until Mar 28, 2021. You are invited to join other Christians for prayer and fasting to end abortion. You are also invited to stand and pray peacefully, within covid guidelines, in the public right of way outside the abortion clinic named "Women's Health Options" at 12409 109 A Ave in Edmonton. For more information see website: [40days for life.com/Edmonton](http://40daysforlife.com/Edmonton) or contact Edmonton Pro Life at 780 425 1637. You may also call Barbara, of St Agnes parish, at 780 462 8285. Thank you for considering this effort to help end abortion.

Third Sunday of Lent Reflection Year B

Ex. 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:18, 22-25; Jn. 2:13-25

Pastor Reflection

Today's readings teach us that Lent is the ideal time to clean out the Temple of our own hearts and it is the time to offer to God proper Divine worship by obeying the Ten Commandments. They also teach us that our *New Covenant* with God demands that we should keep our parish Church holy and our Divine worship vibrant by our active participation in the liturgy with hearts made pure by repentance.

In today's Gospel we see Jesus exercising his power to abolish some evil practices that existed around the temple of Jerusalem.

The Passover was the greatest feast of the Jews. The law laid it that every adult male Jew who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem was bound to attend it. By this time Jews were scattered all over the world and it was the dream of every Jew to celebrate at least one Passover in Jerusalem.

There was a tax that every Jew over nineteen years of age must pay to the temple. As pilgrims arrived from all over the world with all kinds of coins money changers sat in the Temple courts.

The temple consisted of a series of courts leading into the Temple proper. The first one was the Court of Gentiles, then the Court of women, then the Court of the Israelites, then the Court of the Priests. The Court of the Gentiles was reserved for the Gentiles to pray. But all the buying and selling took place in this Court. The Temple authorities and the Jewish Traders were making the Court into uproar and a rabble where no one could pray.

There are two reasons why Jesus acted as he did. First of all, Jesus found that God's house was being desecrated. In the temple there was worship without reverence. Worship without reverence can be a terrible thing. Of the many problems that plague the church, a lack of reverence in worship is a particularly irritating one to those who desire to worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24). In worship that reverence is to be directed towards God. Acting in an irreverent manner puts these people in the same dilemma in which Ananias and Sapphira found themselves (Acts 5:1-11). Even though they thought they were only lying to men, the apostle Peter told them that, in reality, they were lying to God. When people act up in or disrupt worship today, they are not just being disrespectful to those

people around them, they are being disrespectful to God, an act just as evil as that of Ananias and Sapphira.

From the very beginning every civilization has considered the dwelling place of God holy, and any disrespect was meted out with divine punishment. Ovid - Tells the story of Medusa from Greek mythology. Medusa was one of the Gorgon sisters. She wasn't always hideous, but had once been so beautiful. Once she desecrated temple of Athena. Athena was furious that her temple had been desecrated. She punished Medusa by turning her hair into snakes and making her so horrible men were turned to stone by just looking at her.

Today it is quite common to use the churches for anything and everything. We forget the fact that it is the House of Prayer. Secondly, giving concentration to external perfection of the ceremonies causes a lot of distraction. A non-believer may see our services as occasions to showcase the technical perfection and talents. The action of Jesus in the temple, reminds us that it is high time we reacted against such tendencies. Our primary responsibility is to abstain from anything that goes against the holiness of the Place of God. Then we have the moral obligation to point out the mistakes.

Let us remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, body and soul, because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, or jealousy. During this Holy Season of Lent, We have to be cleansed by asking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Let us love & treat our parish Church as our "*Father's house*" and use it as a holier place by keeping the sense of sanctity & by our active participation in the liturgy, by offering our time and talents in the various ministries and by our support for its maintenance and development.

"How do we learn to pray? By praying. It is very hard to pray if one does not know how. We must help ourselves to learn. Pray with absolute trust in God's loving care for you and let Him fill you with joy that you may preach without preaching."

"Prayer is a joy. Prayer is the sunshine of God's love, prayer is hope of eternal happiness, prayer is the burning flame of god's love for you and for me. Let us pray for each other, for this is the best way to love one another." Blessed Mother Teresa