



St. Anthony's Parish West Vancouver

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Wilfred Gomes

wgomes@rcav.org

Parish Deacon: Dcn. Tony Gray

Accounting: Isabella Raynard

Adm. Assistant: Cleiser Oliveira

SUNDAY MASSES

SAT 4:30 pm
(anticipated mass)
SUN 8:30 am | 10:30 am

DAILY MASSES

MON — SAT 9:00 am
1ST FRIDAY 6:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

MON — SAT
8:30 am—8:50 am
SAT 3:30 pm—4:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 25

9:00 am - *Sp. Int. of Teresa Abuan*

Tuesday, September 26

Sts. Cosmas and Damian

9:00 am - *Sp. Int. of Bishop Gary Franken & Family*

Wednesday, September 27

St. Vincent de Paul

9:00 am - † Pek-wah and Chong Po Tsui

Thursday, September 28

9:00 am - † Monica Smith

Friday, September 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

9:00 am - *Sp. Int. of Tammy Chan*

Saturday, September 30

9:00 am - *Sp. Int. of Dorell Carlson*

4:30 pm - *Sp. Int. of Sister Angela*

Sunday, October 1

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am - *Sp. Int. of Bishop Gary Franken & Family*

10:30 - Parishioners

PARISH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

TUE—SEP 26TH

6:30 pm

Mass & CWL Meeting

SAT—SEP 30TH

9:30 AM

EMHC Meeting

SUN—OCT 1ST

1:00 PM

PET BLESSING

THU—OCT 5TH

7:00 PM

Alpha

MON — SAT

8:15 am — 8:30 am

Morning prayers

MONDAYS

10:00 am

Catholic Faith in Plain

TUESDAYS

7:00 pm

Christian Meditation (started Sep 19th)

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 pm

Marian Movement Cenacle

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 PM

PREP (started Sep 20th)

THURSDAYS

1:00 pm

Craft Group (started Sep 21st)

THURSDAYS

7:00 pm

RCIA (started Sep 21st)

THURSDAYS

7:00 pm

Alpha (*Starting Oct 5th*)

FRIDAYS

9:30 am—4:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAYS

3:00 pm

Divine Mercy

3RD SATURDAYS

9:30 am

~~St. Philomena Prayer Group~~
Cancelled in September

3RD SATURDAYS

6:30 pm

Charismatic Prayer Group

**PROJECT
ADVANCE
2023**

2347 Inglewood Ave., West Van,
Tel: (604) 926-6881

Email: parish.sawv@rcav.org /
www.stanthonywestvan.com

Follow us on Instagram: @stanthonyswv

ONLINE GIVING OFFERTORY:

CLICK HERE

News in and around the Parish

THE ALPHA COURSE

Alpha

Alpha at St. Anthony's

Alpha at St Anthony's is starting on

**Thursday, October 5
at 7 pm!**

Alpha provides a space to ask all your questions about life, faith, and meaning in a friendly environment. Each

Alpha session includes a short video, time to connect over a meal, and plenty of time to discuss.

Join us and make new friends at the parish! Bring a friend!

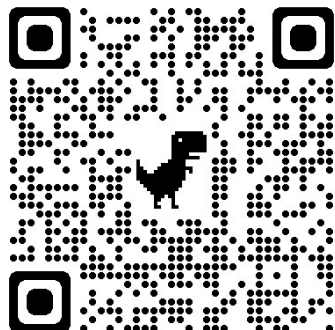
To register go

[Alpha RegistrationForm](#)

Or use the QR code below.

Watch this video to learn more!

[What is Alpha?](#)



SUNDAY REFLECTION

The trouble with being a Christian is that we imagine God thinks as we do. We imagine that God values what we value, and that God is not concerned about things that are of no concern to us. The prophet, Isaiah, in today's first reading, tries to correct this misapprehension. In that reading God says, "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my thoughts above your thoughts."

God does not think as we think. God's values and our values are not the same. We care for and love the people in our own family and those who are close to us. God cares for those people as well. God also cares for every family, regardless of race, religion, or economic worth. We care for and love our country, striving to make it just and free. God loves our country as well, blesses it and guides it. God also loves every other country and its citizens, and desires that all people share the freedom and prosperity that all too often we take for granted. We love those who treat us well, who stand by us, and offer us respect. God loves those people too. God also loves our enemies. For as wrong or misguided as they may be, they are still God's children.

To put this bluntly, God loves everyone as much as God loves us. This is the beautiful and disturbing truth that we find in today's gospel parable. When the landowner goes out to the marketplace late in the day, who does he find standing there? All the workers that no one else would hire. These would be the weakest workers, the oldest workers, the workers with minimal skills. The landowner not only hires them but gives them a wage equal to everyone else. The landowner acts this way because he represents God who loves all people equally, the weak as well as the strong, the old as well as the young.

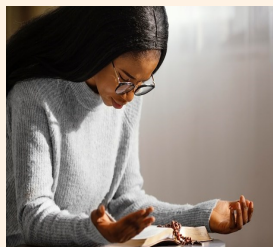
God loves everyone as much as God loves us. This is a truth that does not sit easily with us, because we can point to all kinds of things that we think should make God love us more. We go to church every weekend. We are people who are faithful to our spouse. We don't abuse alcohol or drugs. We follow our country's laws and have never been arrested. We are the ones who have been hired first, and we understand their complaint in the parable. We have worked all day long and God has raised others who have worked much less to be equal with us. It's not right. It is not in the way that we think.

God thinks differently. As those who are hired first in the parable, we must make our peace with that. Here is the good news: As soon as we accept that truth of how God loves, a durable hope emerges for us, since equal goes both ways. When we recognize that God loves everyone as much as God loves us, it invariably follows that God will never love us less than any other person.

Fr. Joseph

News in and around the Parish

Miles Christi Silent Retreat for Young Adults



The priests of Miles Christi will be in Canada to offer the Spiritual Exercises at Westminster

Abbey in Mission, BC. **Young adults age 19-30** are invited to the silent retreat on the weekend of **October 13-15**.

The retreat involves conferences and meditations necessary to make the Spiritual Exercises. There will be daily Mass, Rosary, Adoration, as well as times for one-on-one spiritual direction and Confession. The retreat will be silent, and it is important to come prepared to fully engage in the entire experience.

Cost is \$230, which includes a single room, private bathroom, and all meals (Friday dinner to Sunday lunch). Financial assistance is available for those who need it. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

PREP REGISTRATION

Registration for our **Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)**, providing religious education for children in Grades 1-7 not attending Catholic school, is open.

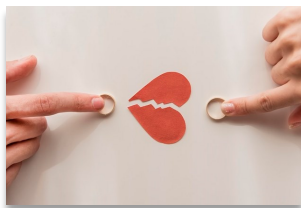
Classes, held at the parish on Wednesdays from 6-7:15 p.m., started on September 20 and will continue every Wednesday while school is in session. We look forward to welcoming you and your family!

To register please click

HERE

For more information, contact our **PREP Coordination, Nicole D. Navarrete** by email at prep.sawvv@rcav.org or by phone via the parish office at 604-926-6881, ext. 6

See attached insert for details.



Retrouvaille Weekend

Need marriage help? Retrouvaille, pronounced "retroo-vye," meaning "rediscovery", is a marriage program endorsed by Pope Francis that has helped hundreds of BC couples recover from all kinds of marriage trouble— from simple discontent to serious crises. Why live in misery? Repair and rekindle your relationship!

The program consists of one weekend retreat on Oct. 13-15 and six Sunday afternoon follow-up sessions, which can be attended remotely.

For confidential information or to register, please contact Retrouvaille Vancouver at [604-530-6710](tel:604-530-6710) or vancouverbc@helpourmarriage.org, or



St Anthony's CWL

would like to extend our sincerest

THANK YOU

to all who so generously supported our **COMMUNITY THRIFT SALE** this past weekend. We are still rolling/counting the coins but it looks like we have made about \$6,300 which will enable us to support a long list of worthy charities.

God Bless!

CWL Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 26th
Mass at 6:30 with Father Gomes, our new Spiritual Advisor!
Meeting to follow in the hall.

A simple welcome back dinner to follow. Members please RSVP to SaintAnthonysCWL@gmail.com or call/text Dorell at 604 754 4722



Little Flower Academy

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY is hosting their Annual **OPEN HOUSE** on **Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00pm** and is accepting applications from prospective Grade Eight candidates for the 2024-2025 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the **ENTRANCE EXAM** on **Saturday, December 2, 2023**. For more information and online application, please visit our website (www.lfabc.org) or contact **Kathi Wilson, Registrar** at wilsonk@lfabc.org or 604-738-9016 ext. 114.

Second Collection: Needs of the Church in Canada

This weekend's second collection will assist bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and caring for the Church in Canada. Tax-deductible gifts can be made in person at the parish or online at rcav.org/second-collection.

News in and around the Parish



SECOND SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Second Special Collection, **Sunday, October 1st** for **Healing and Reconciliation**. This special collection was originally scheduled last September 10th; but since the parish already had a collection on that date, it was moved to October 1st.

Read the attached insert from the Archbishop's Office for details.

Thank you for your generosity!

PET BLESSING



Also, bring your pets to our Pet Blessing in honour of St. Francis of Assisi and his love of animals.

Please ensure your pet is on a leash or in a cage. The blessing takes place outside on the Church lawn on

Sunday, Oct. 1st at 1:00 PM

Being the Centennial Year, we are aiming for 100 pets. Invite your pet-owning friends and neighbours to this community event!

LOVE LIFE

CHOOSE LIFE

ONE HOUR of your time could SAVE A LIFE!

JOIN US

LIFE CHAIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 pm

We will line Lonsdale
from 23rd to 25th streets with Pro-Life signs
Signs provided at 1:30 pm



Please join us as we gather here and now in 35 other B.C. communities as thousands across Canada and the U.S.A. stand in prayerful and peaceful witness on behalf of abortion's many victims.

Addiction: From Pornography to Sexual Trafficking

Pornography continues to spread worse than a pandemic, infecting more consumers—men and women of all ages, and increasingly adolescents at a younger age. To meet consumer demands, pornography moves into extreme forms, which in turn, leads to sexual trafficking.

This talk by Father David Bellusci, OP, addresses not only changing bad habits but also how pornographic consumers contribute to the sexual trafficking industry. On **Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish in Vancouver.**

No registration required. Learn more at beholdvancouver.org/events.

FUNERAL AT ST. ANTHONY'S

It's with great sadness that we inform you of the funeral to be held at St. Anthony's this week.

VICTOR THOMAS BURT

Thursday Sept 28th

Our deepest condolences and prayers for the family.

Stewardship Reflection

"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." -Matthew 20:16

You've heard the saying "It's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.





Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

September 3, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you today to invite you to join me in contributing generously to the September 10th special collection for Healing and Reconciliation. This collection helps to fulfill the commitment our local Church has made to seek a new path with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

The funds raised provide grants for local projects developed and administered by Indigenous peoples. This initiative brings healing and reconciliation to communities and families, promotes culture and language revitalization, provides opportunities for education and community building, and facilitates dialogue.

The Archdiocese of Vancouver has committed \$2.5 million to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF), a Canada-wide Catholic initiative, over a five-year period that began in 2021. In 2022, we formed a grant committee to review project applications from local First Nations and Indigenous groups before recommending them to the IRF. To date, your donations have sponsored eight projects, with many more to come.

Your support this year will allow us to continue sowing seeds of understanding and hope, thereby creating a future where reconciliation flourishes and the wounds of the past are gently healed. On September 10, please give generously to the Healing and Reconciliation collection and be part of this transformative journey.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and your families, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

✦ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

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September 15, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Praise the Lord...now and forever!

I hope and pray all of you are in good health of body, mind and spirit! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and thank you for warmly welcoming me to St. Anthony's. My name is Fr. Wilfred Gomes, and I am your new Pastor. I started my services here on July 13, and Archbishop Miller formally installed me at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, August 27.

I come originally from Goa in India and have been in this great country for a little over 28 years. I have been a priest for over 38 years, and before coming to St. Anthony's I served as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Chilliwack for 5 years.

Just as you wonderful parishioners have welcomed me so enthusiastically, I would like to welcome you wholeheartedly as your new Pastor, and invite you to take part in St. Anthony's services and activities, especially to come for Sunday Mass.

St. Anthony's Parish is very active and welcoming with many opportunities for us all to grow in faith and fellowship. At this time, I would like to highlight two great opportunities at our parish that are starting this fall.

1. PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)

Firstly, I would like to make an appeal to all parents of children in grades one to seven, who are studying in schools other than Catholic Schools, to register your children for PREP. PREP classes will be held on Wednesdays during the school year from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. The first class will be held on September 20.

Although it is the primary duty of parents to give their children faith formation, we want to be of assistance in every way possible in preparing your children to receive the sacraments. I intend to be very much present during PREP and look forward to meeting and welcoming the students and their families.

To register students for PREP, please use the registration form available from the parish office or found on the parish website at <https://stanthonywestvan.com/announcements/PREP>. For more information, please contact our PREP Coordinator, Nicole D. Navarrete, by email at prep.sawv@rcav.org or by phone via the parish office at 604-926-6881, ext. 6.

2. ALPHA

Secondly, our parish is running Alpha this fall starting on Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 pm. Alpha is a wonderful program which gives participants the opportunity to enjoy a free meal together while discussing life and faith in a casual, friendly and open environment. All are welcome, and we hope to see many of you there... plus we encourage you to invite your friends and family members to join as well!

For more information about Alpha, and to register, please go to our parish website at <https://stanthonywestvan.com>.

I look forward to meeting all of you this year as we celebrate the Centennial Year of our beautiful parish here in West Vancouver!

God bless us always, especially through the intercession of our Patron Saint, St. Anthony of Padua.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Wilfred Gomes
Pastor