



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN

5457 Trafalgar Street, Vancouver, BC V6N 1C1 T 604.266.8800 parish.sjoh@rcav.org www.sjaparish.ca

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time November 08, 2020

Pastor

Fr. Anthony Ho 何庭耀神父
fatheranthonyho@gmail.com

Emergency sick call only:
604-729-7638

In Residence

Fr. Nick Meisl

Office Administrator

Melita Soriano

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:30AM-4PM

Weekend Masses

廣東話主日提前彌撒:
星期六 下午四時

Sat 4 PM (Cantonese),
6:00 PM
Sun 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

Weekday Masses

Mon-Sat 8 AM
Public Holidays 9 AM

Confession

20 minutes before all
weekend Masses and
15 minutes before all
weekday Masses

Morning Prayer

Mon-Sat 7:30 AM

Adoration

Fri 8:30-9:30 AM
1st Fri 8:30-9:45 AM

Holy Rosary

Mon-Sat after morning Mass
Divine Mercy Chaplet
10 minutes before all weekend
Masses

Visit to the Sick

Please call Parish Office or
Emergency number
604-729-7638

Baptisms

by appointment

Marriages

at least 6 months notice

Activities @ SJA during pandemic

It is important to stay spiritually healthy during the pandemic. Here are our activities at SJA during the pandemic:

- Mass with a limited number of people (must sign up with parish office by phone 604-266-8800 or by email stjohnapostle@shaw.ca during weekdays the latest before 2pm of Fridays)
- Confessions will be heard 20 minutes before weekend Masses and 15 minutes before weekday Masses in the church basement with a special confessional screen to ensure proper social distancing.
- Confession, Holy Communion, and other spiritual needs by appointment (one person or one household at a time). Please contact Father Anthony at fatheranthonyho@gmail.com or 604-729-7638 (call or text)
- Watch Live Streaming Holy Mass at home on Saturday at 4:00 pm (in Cantonese) and at 6:00 pm (in English). Youtube Channel: <https://bit.ly/SJAParishVancouver>
- Online or in-person Catechism classes for adults (RCIA) in English on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8 pm, in Cantonese on Saturday from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, and in Mandarin on Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Online or in-person Catechism classes for children (PREP) on Tuesday from 4:15 pm to 5 pm. Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.com) to sign up.
- Father Anthony's prayer groups are meeting online in English on Monday from 7 pm to 8:45 pm, and in Cantonese on Sunday from 7:15 pm to 9 pm (Night Prayer, Rosary, Bible Study, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy). Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.com) to sign up.
- JP2 Circle----youth & young adults group----meets online via Zoom on the First Wednesday of the month from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Rosary, Devotion to St. Joseph, learn about young saints, and discussion). Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.com) to sign up.
- Parishioners are encouraged to access online Catholic resources while staying at home at [Formed.Org](https://formed.org). Access Code for SJA Parishioners is: **TWNH4F**
- Resources from Father Anthony are being uploaded weekly to websites. These include [articles for the BC Catholic](#), [Chinese radio talks](#), and [Sunday homilies & Bible studies](#).
- Please kindly consider supporting the parish financially online during the pandemic at <https://rcav.org/sunday-offering/>

Jesus receives baptism to sanctify the waters

St. John Paul II in his apostolic letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae (October 2002), added the five Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in order to "bring out fully the Christological depth of the Rosary".

The First Luminous Mystery of the Holy Rosary is the Baptism of Jesus. John Paul II wrote, "The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the innocent one who became 'sin' for our sake, the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son, while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out."

A Bible commentary states: "The wonderful events which followed the baptism of Jesus directly foreshadowed the wonderful effects of Christian Baptism which our Lord then instituted. In the Sacrament of Baptism the Holy Spirit comes down on man, gives him sanctifying grace, and implants in him the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity. By the grace of Baptism God adopts man to be His beloved child, and opens for him the way to heaven."

Regarding the descending of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, Origen said, "Christ was baptized for our sake, in order to sanctify the waters. The Spirit descended in the form of a dove, since wherever there is reconciliation with God there is a dove, as in the case of Noah's ark ... announcing God's mercy to the world and at the same time making clear that what is spiritual should be meek and without wickedness, simple and without guile."

"A voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17)
St. Augustine said, "Here then we have the Trinity presented in a clear way: the Father in the voice, the Son in the man, the Holy Spirit in the dove."

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen wrote, "In the waters of the Jordan He was identified with sinners; in the baptism of His Death, He would bear the full burden of their guilt.... The Cross must have been looming up in His thoughts now with increasing vividness. It was no afterthought in His mind. He was temporarily immersed in the waters of the Jordan only to emerge again. So would He be immersed by the death on the Cross and the burial in the tomb, only to emerge triumphantly in the Resurrection.... The baptism in the Jordan closed Our Lord's private life and began His public ministry. He had gone down into the water known to most men only as the son of Mary; He came out ready to reveal Himself as what He had been from all eternity, the Son of God."

Dr. Pius Parsch explained that Christ's baptism helps us to understand more clearly the basic structure of the spiritual life: "At my baptism I was immersed with Christ, and with Him I died and was buried. Then I emerged, and for the first time heaven opened to me as the Holy Spirit made His entrance into my soul; and my Father in heaven glanced down upon me, now 'His son, His child.'

In each holy Mass, Christ's baptism is again operative. Through the holy Sacrifice I am immersed in His sacrificial death; heaven then opens and the Holy Spirit descends in holy Communion, while through the pledge of the sacrificial Banquet the Father assures me of renewed and enriched sonship in Himself.

The baptism of Christ takes place within me a third time at death, for death is indeed a sort of baptism. Death is like immersion into the dark depths, and when I emerge, it is into heaven above. Then I will see the Blessed Trinity, no longer through the darkened sun-glass of faith, but in immediate vision, face to face.....

Christ's death is the foundation. Upon this foundation the edifice rises through baptism and the Eucharist; while the Lord's return at death spells completion to the work."