



December 13, 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 8:30-9:45AM

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

My dear parishioners:

It is painful that due to the public health orders, Mass with a public congregation is now being suspended in the Archdiocese of Vancouver until at least January 8. Let us pray and pray insistently for an end to the plague.

Live-streaming of Mass

The live-streaming of Mass will continue with the regular schedule: Saturday at 4:00 p.m. (in Cantonese) and 6 p.m. (in English). Try to take advantage of this opportunity to be in communion with the rest of the parishioners, to be nurtured by the Word of God, and to join in prayer for ourselves and for humanity. Please watch the live-streaming of Mass at our YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/SJAParishVancouver>

Holy Communion on Sunday

Beginning this Sunday (December 13), there is an additional live-streaming of Mass on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (in English), followed by Holy Communion in the church from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Those who want to receive Holy Communion on Sunday are invited to prepare themselves at home by participating in the live-streaming of Mass at 10 a.m. Our Archbishop gave the following guidelines for distributing Holy Communion in the church after participating in a live-streamed Mass:

- a few at a time
- sign in for the purpose of contact tracing
- sanitize their hands
- receive Holy Communion
- exit through another door, without remaining in the church

A prayer sheet for thanksgiving after Holy Communion will be available at the end of the Communion rail. After Holy Communion, please exit the church through one of the backdoors, and make your thanksgiving in the car.

Private Prayer and Confession

During these days the church and grotto will remain open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 12 noon to 7 p.m. so that you may come in and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The church will be closed on Saturday evening and Sunday morning because of live-streaming.

Confessions are being heard on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the church basement. Confession can also be scheduled by appointment. Please contact me at fatheranthonyho@gmail.com

Christmas and New Year Schedule

Here is the schedule of our live-streaming of Mass on Christmas and New Year (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God):

- December 24 at 6 p.m. (in English)
- December 24 at 8 p.m. (in Cantonese)
- December 25 at 10 a.m. (in English), followed by Holy Communion in the church (11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)
- December 31 at 4 p.m. (in Cantonese)
- December 31 at 6 p.m. (in English)
- January 1 at 10 a.m. (in English), followed by Holy Communion in the church (11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)

Please visit our parish website <https://sjaparish.ca/> for information regarding our online activities and for the latest updates. Let's continue to be united in prayers during this challenging time, and hopefully, we can worship together in-person soon. I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

In Christ,

Father Anthony Ho
Pastor

Christ accepted the will of God

The first Sorrowful Mystery is the Agony in the Garden (Luke 22:39-46). St Josemaría Escrivá wrote, "Do you want to accompany Jesus closely, very closely?... Open the Holy Gospel and read the Passion of our Lord. But don't just read it: live it. There is a big difference. To read is to recall something that happened in the past; to live is to find oneself present at an event that is happening here and now, to be someone taking part in those scenes. Then, allow your heart to open wide; let it place itself next to our Lord. And when you notice it trying to slip away—when you see that you are a coward, like the others—ask forgiveness for your cowardice and mine."

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen wrote, "What Our Blessed Lord contemplated in this agony was not just the buffeting of soldiers, and the pinioning of His hands and feet to a bar of contradiction, but rather the awful burden of the world's sin, and the fact that the world was about to spurn His Father by rejecting Him, His Divine Son."

Christ prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:42). Fulton J. Sheen wrote, "His two natures, the Divine and the human, were both involved in this prayer. He and the Father were One; it was not 'Our Father,' but 'My Father.' Unbroken was the consciousness of His Father's love. But on the other hand, His human nature recoiled from death as a penalty for sin. The natural shrinking of the human soul from the punishment which sin deserves was overborne by Divine submission to the Father's will. The 'No' to the cup of the Passion was human; the 'Yes' to the Divine will was the overcoming of human reluctance to suffering for the sake of Redemption."

St. John Damascene wrote, "Consequently, while He had naturally the power of willing both as God and as man, the human will followed after and was subordinated to His will, not being motivated by its own opinion, but willing what His divine will willed. Thus, it was with the permission of the divine will that He suffered what was naturally proper to Him. And when He begged to be spared death, He did so naturally, with His divine will willing and permitting, and He was in agony and afraid. Then, when His divine will willed that His human will choose death, the passion was freely accepted by it, because it was not as God alone that He freely delivered Himself over to death, but as man, also. Whence, He also gave us the grace of courage in the face of death."

The prayer of Christ in the Garden is a perfect example of abandonment into and union with the will of God. St Josemaría Escrivá wrote, "Are things going against you? Are you going through a rough time? Say very slowly, as if relishing it, this powerful and manly prayer: 'May the most just and most lovable will of God be done, be fulfilled, be praised and eternally exalted above all things. Amen, Amen.' I assure you that you will find peace."

St. Ephrem wrote, "'His sweat became like drops of blood,' the Evangelist said. He sweated to heal Adam who was sick. 'It is by the sweat of your brow,' said God, 'that you will eat your bread.' He remained in prayer in this garden to bring Adam back into his own garden again."

Jesus told St. Faustina the following regarding people who are lukewarm: "These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.' For them, the last hope of salvation is to flee to My mercy."

Let us "watch and pray" so to overcome spiritual slothfulness and lukewarmness.

