It is important for the candidates to receive a special place in their hearts for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each in his own way through the tradition of the Church should develop the devotion to Our Mother. Her fidelity to the call of God is an example to all Christians especially those who are prepared for the priesthood. “Obviously, the mystery of the Virgin cannot be lived out except in an inner climate of simplicity and abandonment, which has nothing to do with sweet sentimentality and superficial outpouring of feelings. Contact with the Blessed Virgin can only lead to greater contact with Christ and His cross.”

The faithful will make remarks that they can tell if their priest prays not, by the way he says Mass, the way he preaches, and the way he treats his parishioners. When he does not have an authentic personal relationship with Christ, it is noticeable by the people he ministers to. People and the Church want holy priests and Spiritual Formation is about forming holy priests.

Pastoral Formation

To simply put, the priesthood is the means and instrument that leads people closer to Jesus and His salvation. The priest is the sacrament or sign of the Charity of Christ in his ministry with the people he serves. Therefore it is important that “the whole formation imparted to candidates for the priesthood aims at preparing them to enter into communion with the charity of Christ the good shepherd.” Objectively, the candidates are formed after the example of Jesus the teacher, the priest, and the pastor. The formation should emphasize and include the elements of proclaiming the Word, celebrating the sacraments, reaching out as ad intra and ad extra, building the community of faith, working with the poor and the needy, having the apostolic zeal, learning to be a pastor in a parish, etc. During the years in the seminary, there should be different programs organized for the candidates to participate and learn specific pastoral skill. Some of the pastoral experiences could be: teaching Catechism to children, youth and adults; hospital and nursing home visits; Youth and young adult ministry; prison, street ministries etc. When the candidate is in the deaconate program, he can be assigned to a local parish to preach, baptize, and witness marriages. However, the pastoral formation should not “reduce to a mere apprenticeship, aiming to make the candidate familiar with some pastoral techniques...seek really and truly to initiate the candidate into the sensitivity of being a shepherd,” with the sentiments of Christ, the priest.

**FOCUS ON VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD by Fr. Hien**

The Church and vocations

Imitate Mary

It is important for the candidates to reserve a special place in their hearts for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each in his own way through the tradition of the Church should develop the devotion to Our Mother. Her fidelity to the call of God is an example to all Christians especially those who are prepared for the priesthood. “Obviously, the mystery of the Virgin cannot be lived out except in an inner climate of simplicity and abandonment, which has nothing to do with sweet sentimentality and superficial outpouring of feelings. Contact with the Blessed Virgin can only lead to greater contact with Christ and His cross.”

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**1. Pastoral Formation**

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**Welcome to St. Ann’s Parish**

Our Vision Statement: to be a Christ-centered community of missionary disciples. Our Mission Statement: to work and pray to be a welcoming, Eucharist community that spreads the good news of Christ. We each strive to share our gifts within and beyond the parish for the glory of God.

**This Week at St. Ann’s**

**SPRING FAIR & GARAGE SALE:** Please help us clean up after the Spring Fair & Garage Sale on: **Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and Monday at 9:00 a.m.** We have had a lot of fun hosting this event and will let you know how well we did financially. A heartfelt thank you to all the people that generously said “yes” with no questions asked along the way!

**Mass**

**Mass** will be celebrated, **Sunday, May 27th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sacred Space at Abbotsford Regional Hospital.**

**CWL Meeting**

Ladies, once again an awesome Bake Sale, thank you! See you **Monday night, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.** for our May General Meeting!

**Women’s Recollection**

with a priest of Opus Dei: **Monday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. All ladies are welcome to attend.**

**One Body in Christ Pray & Worship Meeting:** **Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joachim room.**

First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on **Friday, June 1st after morning Mass, ending with Prayers for Vocations at 6:30 p.m., Benediction at 6:45 p.m.** and then Mass at 7:00 p.m. Please come and spend some quiet time with our Lord in prayer and thanksgiving.

**Welcome All Kids** to our Kids for Jesus Program held on **Saturday, June 2nd from 10:00-12:00 pm.** in St. Joachim room.

**Adult Faith**

**Adult Small group starting for 33 Days to Merciful Love** Another Fr. Michael Gaitley program. We have 10 spots available for anyone who wants to do the preparation for this consecration to be done on Sunday, July 1, Feast of the Precious Blood of Jesus. Sessions start on Wednesday, May 30 at 7 pm. To register, contact Jody in the Adult Faith Formation office: Phone – 604-852-5602 ex. 7 or email adultfaith@stannsabbotsford.ca Cost is $40 for the book, workbook, and classes. We will meet weekly to listen to Fr. Gaitley and discuss this amazing book. If you already have the book, the cost is $30.

**A Cappella Vocal Sensation Belle Voci**

**Thursday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m., St. Ann’s Parish Centre**

Tickets: **$20**

The ensemble will be performing works that range from the sublime Mass for Five Voices by William Byrd, and the stunning eight voice Hear My Prayer and Lux Aeterna, to the seven voice Loquebantur, and the extraordinary five part Down to the River to Pray, and more!

Tickets available at [www.bellevoci.ca](http://www.bellevoci.ca) or at the door.

**Mass Intentions for**

**May 28th to June 3rd, 2018**

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**Feast Days & Readings**

**May 28th to June 3rd, 2018**

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**Friday-St. Justin**

1 Peter 4:7-13; Mark 11:11-25

**Saturday**

Jude 17-25++; Mark 11:27-33

**Sunday**

Solemnity of the Most Body & Blood of Christ: Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16; 22-26

**Project Advance 2018**

This year highlights the accomplishments made possible by your generosity since Project Advance’s launch in 1980. The funds donated over the decades have gone to support the construction and renovation of our regional secondary high schools and the acquisition of land for new parishes. These capital expenditures provide the necessary structures that support our mission of evangelization. We still face numerous challenges in our parishes, including the seismic upgrading of many of our facilities. You will be receiving your pledge form in the coming days and we will begin collecting them next weekend June 2nd & 3rd. We look forward to your generosity and continued support.

**Corpus Christi Holy Hour**

To celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, please join us for Adoration and Benediction from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 3rd.

**Tanzania Fundraising Pasta Dinner**

Monday, June 11th, 6:30pm

St. Ann’s Parish Centre – Tickets $15

Tickets available after All Masses or at the Parish Office. Proceeds going for children with Albimism and to help fund a new high school.

**St. James & St. Ann’s School - Regional Education Committee**


St. Ann’s School is pleased to welcome to the REC. Nicola Humphreys and Chris McKinnon for two years beginning July 2018. Fr. Hien would like to thank Annie Krouch and Claire Wilkie for their years of hard work and dedication to the REC.

**Sweeney Singers present: Alleluia!**

Friday, June 8th, 7:30 p.m.

St. James Church

Admission by Donation

All proceeds benefit Matthew’s House

Would the families using donation envelopes #367, #386 & #421 please contact the Parish Office ASAP. Thank you! Please call 604-852-5602 or email parishoffice@stannsabbotsford.ca with your name and phone number.