



Holy Family Cathedral Parish

Holy Family Cathedral
Michael's Mount

St. Martin de Porres
Parham

St. Anthony's
Potters

St. Francis of Assisi
Villa

Good Samaritan
Donovans



P.O. Box 16, St. John's Antigua ♦ email hfc.antigua@gmail.com ♦ Phone 268 560 2693 ♦ 461-1127

"My Spirit Finds Joy in God My Savior"

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT- 17th DECEMBER, 2023 - B

THE CATHEDRAL BOOK STORE IS LOCATED IN THE PASTORAL CENTRE.



PASTORAL PROGRAM AT HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL PARISH

FEEDING PROGRAM - for the Shut-Ins and the Elderly, is ongoing-

Donations to support these programs are welcome. Please write to the Administrator, Holy Family Cathedral P. O. Box 16 or Michael's Mount, St. John's, Antigua.

Please note that the Christmas Novena began on December 16th and will end on December 24th. Novena in the Cathedral will begin at 5:00 am and in Villa at 5:30 am.

Please support the Can Concert entitled THE STAR OF THE SHOW this afternoon at 5:00pm. Admission to the Can Concert is one or more non-perishable items. The items collected at this concert will assist with making food hampers to be distributed to less fortunate families.

The 2024 Bible Diaries are here! Get your Bible Diary early. Only 22 diaries are available for sale at a cost of **\$80.00**.

Lectio Divina

Read: Isaiah rejoices over a year of jubilee when God heals and restores his people, reestablishing justice, fruitfulness and peace. The final section from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians gives the people instructions about how to prepare for the coming of the Lord with joy and faithfulness. The Gospel of John sings the praises of John the Baptist who humbly witnessed to Christ.

Reflect: Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning, "rejoice." The readings reflect the joy we feel as we enter the final part of Advent, growing ever closer to the great celebration of the Lord's birth. In the secular world, it seems as though the celebration of Christmas starts earlier every year. (I regularly see the first Christmas displays in July) By the time we reach this point in Advent, we can be growing tired of the celebrations as if we are on joy overload. Today's celebration renews our joy, reminding

us that Jesus is the source of our joy. We rejoice not because of tinsel and trees, lights and presents, but because God has come into our world to destroy death and open the gates of heaven.

Pray: Lord, may I always rejoice in your love.

Act: Gather with family and friends to do something fun.

Parishioners are reminded that there will be no Masses in the morning at Villa, Donovans, Parham, and Potters on Sunday December 24th. Masses will be only at the Cathedral 6:00 pm, 7:00 am and 9:00 am. Then Christmas Eve Masses at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm at the Cathedral. Please take note.

Masses for the Christmas and New Year.

Saturday 23rd December, 2023 - 6 p.m.
Sunday 24th December, 2023 - 7 am and 9 am
No other Masses on Sunday 24th due to time.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Masses - 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Christmas Day 9 a.m. (HFC) - Other stations - 11 am.

Saturday 30th December, 2023 - 6 pm.
Sunday 31st December, 2023 - Feast of the Holy Family - 9 am. (One Mass for the Parish) Sunday 31st December, 2023 (Old Year's Mass) 11 pm.

New Year's Day Mass - HFC 9 am. Other Stations 11 am.

On the Feast of Holy Innocents (Thursday 28th December) there will be the blessings of toys at 5:00 pm with refreshments after. Please bring the children and their toys.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 10th December, 2023

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$1,641.63	\$ 692.55
Sunday		
7:00 am	\$2,345.50	\$ 567.95
9:00 am	\$2,658.47	\$ 617.80
Potters	\$ 340.00	\$ 257.67
Parham	\$ 655.15	\$ 268.35
Villa	\$1,024.80	\$ 498.50
Donovans	\$ 150.00	\$ 123.75
Diocesan Schools	\$ 155.00	

Thank you for your generosity



The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

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selected items

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Prayers of Power

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The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John. The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine. The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & SHUT-INS :

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. **We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again.** Amen.

Gillian Howie, Nelister Sebastian, Catherine Durand, Dion Thomas, Georgina-Glave-Toussaint, Catherine DeTouche, Edward Lewis, David Morris, Gweneth Bryan, Shanla Carr, Arnold Gomes, Auchland Jarvis, Jean James, Conrad Looby, Cecelia John, Justin Joseph, Carmen Ambrose, Tyler Lockhart., Joan Underwood, Cosmas Rowe, Andrea Brown, Latoya Edmun-Joseph, Rose Margetson, Niethia Dyier, Patrick Skerritt, Aaron Ryner,

MINISTRY FAIR: After Mass on the Feast of Holy Family there will be a Ministry Fair where all the Ministries in the Church will be inviting new persons to join the various groups. All of us by the virtue of our Baptism are invited to share in the life of the Parish. We look forward to new people bringing new life to the groups.

BRING AND SHARE AGAPE: Parishioners are invited to participate in the bring and share fellowship after Mass on Feast of the Holy Family. Bring your snack/drink and place on the Agape Table and let's fellowship after Mass. This is a great opportunity as we end 2023 on our Feast Day that we renew friendship, meet new people, and register for a ministry in your community.

CATHOLIC RADIO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Businesses and individuals are invited to send Christmas and New Year's greetings to your valued customers and friends for a small contribution of \$250.00. Your Advert will run from December 20th to January 12th. Please send your audio to catholicradio89.7@gmail.com. Your support will certainly help to keep Catholic Radio afloat! We at Catholic Radio take this opportunity to thank the few businesses who have committed to helping Catholic Radio pay its bills.

This Sunday's Readings
17th December, 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 18th Jeremiah 23: 5-8

Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Matthew 1: 18-25

Tuesday 19th Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25

Psalm 71: 3-6, 16,17

Luke 1: 5-25

Wednesday 20th Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalm 24: 1-6

Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday 21st Songs of Songs 2: 8 -14

Psalm 33: 2-3,11,12,20,21

Luke 1:39-45

St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor

Friday 22nd 1 Samuel 1: 24-28

1 Samuel 2: 1,4 - 8

Luke 1: 46-56

Saturday 23rd Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24

Psalm 25: 4,5,8,9,10,14

Luke 1: 57-66

St. John of Kanty, priest

WHAT THE 1ST READING SAYS TO ME.

The prophet describes his mission as service to his people. He announces glad tidings to the captives back from exile in Babylon. The second part of this poem is the joyful reaction of Jerusalem (God's people). She is overwhelmed by the abundant goodness of the Lord, who has bedecked her with a robe of salvation and precious jewelry. This poem greatly influenced our Lord's understanding of his mission of service. In describing his mission, he refers twice to it. God's word through this tradition could be that there is joy in service and that the riches that we possess through faith and baptism are a great source of joy as well. The Responsorial Psalm is the well-known song that Luke put into the mouth of Mary when she visited Elizabeth. We should pray it with her: "His servant" is Israel, God's people, you and I. "My soul (that is, I) rejoices in my God": this is not instant joy. It is a kind of happiness that must be obtained and safeguarded time and again with faith and patience.

WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME

Paul explains what kind of people we should be while waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas, and in that perspective for his final coming to judge the living and the dead. Waiting with hope for the final and complete happiness. Christians have reason for joy. "(Lord,) prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his (the Savior's) presence will bestow".

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

The question that no intelligent person can ignore is "Who is this Man, Jesus Christ, who started that worldwide movement called Christianity?" It has existed for some 2,000 years.

Apparently, it has satisfied the aspirations of millions. It has given a kind of joy and happiness for which martyrs have laid down their lives. John the Baptist explains it to us. Jesus is Light and Lord. Many do not recognize him yet but he is great. Notice the unselfishness of John. He himself is a preacher, but he bears witness to him, whose sandal he is not worthy to unfasten. John is the pattern of the Church's ministry today. There are many in every community who are searching. It should be our joy by word and example to point to the Lord Jesus as an answer to their search.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

By Courtney Mares

Rome Newsroom, Dec 14, 2023 / 13:50 pm

The Vatican's doctrine office published a letter on Thursday confirming that single mothers can receive Communion after going to confession and urging the need for further "pastoral work" in parts of the world where single mothers might still face harsh judgment. In the letter signed on Dec. 13, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández underlined that women who chose life and face difficulties because of this choice should be "encouraged to have access to the healing and consoling power of the sacraments." Pastoral work should be done in the local Church to make people understand that being a single mother does not prevent that person from accessing the Eucharist," Fernández wrote. "As for all other Christians, sacramental confession of sins allows the person to approach Communion. The ecclesial community should, furthermore, value the fact that single mothers welcomed and defended the gift of life they carried in their wombs and struggle, every day, to raise their children." The prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith wrote the letter in response to an email he received from a Latin American bishop, noting that Pope Francis had also received several letters from laypeople on the same topic. Bishop Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera expressed concern in the email to the prefect that some single mothers in his diocese in the Dominican Republic abstained from Communion "out of fear of the rigorism of the clergy and community leaders."

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord!"





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Exotic Antigua December Christmas Schedule

17h Opening	9am to 5p,	Annual Extravaganza		
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
9am to 6pm	9am to 6 pm	9am to 6pm	9am to 7pm	9am to 7pm
23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th
OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN
9am to 7pm	9am to 7pm		9am to 5pm	9am to 5pm
28th	29th	30th	31st	1st
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED
9am to 5pm	9am to 6 pm	9am to 6pm	10am to 4pm	

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