



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 ♦ 268 461-1127

"By Your Perseverance You Will Secure Your Lives"

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 1st DECEMBER, 2024 - C

**THE CATHEDRAL BOOK STORE IS
LOCATED IN THE PASTORAL
CENTRE.**



Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00pm

Tuesday

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00 am

St. Anthony's Potters 6:00pm

Wednesday

St. Francis of Assisi, Villa 6:00pm

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00pm

Thursday

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00 am

St. Francis of Assisi, Villa 6:00pm

Friday

Holy Family Cathedral 12:15 noon

Saturday

Holy Family Cathedral 8:00am

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 24th November, 2024

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday	\$ 763.75	\$ 450.59
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,342.60	\$ 211.30
9:00 am	\$2,747.66	\$ 655.29
Out Stations		
Potters	\$ 255.10	\$ 70.00
Parham	\$ 490.00	\$ 210.34
Villa	\$ 765.30	\$ 179.83
Diocesan Schools	\$ 70.00	

Thank you for your generosity

FRIDAY YOUTH NIGHT - will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. Lwanga Youth Centre. All youth and young adults are invited! Come and enjoy an evening with your peers.

On Monday 9th December we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a day of obligation for all Catholics. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 am.

On Thursday 12th December, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On this day there will be an ordination Mass for Mr. Churchill Norbert. He will be ordained to the Order of Permanent Diaconate at 6:00 pm. All are invited.

St. Joseph's Academy's Christmas Carol Service will be held on **Friday 13th December, 2024** at Holy Family Cathedral, Michael's Mount from **5:00 pm**. There will be readings, carols, Caribbean Christmas songs, dancing and steelpan music. Keep Jesus in Your Heart this Yuletide Season!

The Advent Novena will begin on Monday 16th December at 5:00 am at Holy Family Cathedral and at 5:30 am at St Francis of Assisi, Villa.

Masses for Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass

Holy Family Cathedral Vigil - **7 pm** and Mass at **11 pm**. Carol Service begins at **10:30pm**.

Christmas Day Mass

Holy Family Cathedral, Donovans & Parham **9 am**
Villa and Potters **11 am**.

The annual **CHRISTMAS DINNER** will be held on **Saturday 14th December 2024** on Holy Family Cathedral grounds from 6:30 pm to 9:30pm. It will be an evening with a difference: **BINGO, ENTERTAINMENT**, lots to eat and drink. For the success of this parish fundraiser, all parishioners are invited to be part of this event through your monetary contribution which will assist with the pre-planning. For ease and convenience, contributions can be sent via the following:

- 1. CHRISTMAS DINNER ENVELOPES**
- 2. For ACB Customers that wish to do Peer to Peer (ACB TO ACB)**
Account # 972-103-142-6
- 3. For Customers that wish to do EFT Electronic Funds Transfer (from another bank to ACB)**
Name of Account: Bishop of St John's Basseterre
Type of Account: Chequing
Account # 972-103-142-6
Routing # 001320695
- 4. Cheques or cash can be brought to the Pastoral Centre.**

Cheques are to be made payable to Holy Family Cathedral.

TICKETS COST \$50.00 and can be purchased from Mr. Gilbert Laudat at HFC, from Shyka Hannays & Jennifer Warrington on Saturday night, from Deacon Pershing Waldron Jr, from Efiah Norbert and Bella (Joanna Esprit) at Villa, Beverly Bedneau at Potters, Helen Ragguette at Parham, Roxanne Joseph, Patricia Collins and at the Pastoral Centre.

Please return your Christmas Dinner Envelopes NOW. If you did not receive an envelope, check with the hospitality team at the door entrances.

St Anthony's - Potters would like to thank all those who contributed, donated and supported the Annual Tea Party. May God continue to bless you.

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, Catherine Durand, Georgina-Glave-Toussaint, Catherine DeTouche, Edward Lewis, Gweneth Bryan, Shanla Carr, Arnold Gomes, Jean James, Conrad Looby, Cecelia John, Justin Joseph, Carmen Ambrose, Tyler Lockhart, Joan Underwood, Cosmas Rowe, Andrea Brown, Rose Margetson, Niethia Dyer, Victor Charles, Junie Browne, Cheralyn Beazer, Jean Mathurin, Yvonne Watkins.

Catholic Radio 89.7 FM is a listener-supported, non-profit radio ministry. With your support, we are able to broadcast the Gospel message over the airwaves and change people's lives, while also serving as a source of comfort and encouragement for many more. We need your help in keeping this vital ministry going. Please consider giving a regular financial gift to keep Catholic Radio on the airwaves. Gifts of any amount are critical to Catholic Radio's future.

How can you give?

- 1) Place your gift in an envelope marked "Catholic Radio" and drop it in your offering basket
- 2) Donations may be dropped off at Holy Family Cathedral Pastoral Centre or the Chancery Office.
- 3) Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):
Account Name: Bishop of St. John's-Basseterre
 - (a) **Account Name:** Bishop of St. John's-Basseterre
 - (b) **Account Type:** Chequing
 - (c) **Account Number:** 311 213
 - (d) **EFT Routing Number:** 000000712
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You may also contact Mr. Ashworth Azille - at 268-782-2438 or Mrs. Morvette Thomas - at 268-464-6833.

May God continue to bless your generosity.

Theme: "By Your Perseverance (Patient Endurance) You Will Secure Your Lives"

The virtue of patience is not as a rule one of the strong points of people today. They want things to be done quickly and efficiently. Promises and appointments should be kept as accurately as they were made; otherwise an outburst of impatience may follow. We have all experienced the impatient and compulsive driver behind us who takes unreasonable chances and causes disaster quite often. Patients in a hospital or nursery obviously must practice the virtue of patience. They have to wait for recovery patiently and when they are old or sick for a long time they often have to wait for company or friends with even more patience.

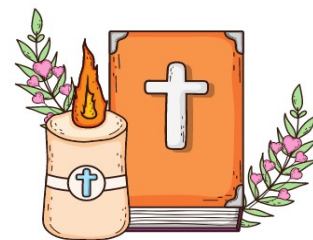
A classic example of impatience is that of the Jews at Mount Sinai. In waiting for Moses' return from the mountain, they lost patience and constructed the golden calf. They said to Aaron: "Come, make us a god who will be our leader."

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ. Promises have been made to us about a way out of our distress. Salvation will come, but when? We pray, but does God listen? The Advent Bible readings deal with this problem. Waiting for somebody to come, i.e., Jesus Christ, supposes patience. We must accept the human condition of "not yet" with the patient hope for better things to come.

"Pray that you have the strength to escape ... and to stand before the Son of Man."



LECTIO DIVINA



READ: Jesus taught his listeners. There would be signs in the sun, moon and stars. There would be the roaring of the sea and waves. People would faint out of fear as the forces of the universe would be shaken. Jesus told them that at that time they would see the Son of Man with power and great glory. Then Jesus cautioned them to be on guard. He warned them not to immerse themselves in worldly pleasure and cares lest the day would catch them unprepared. The day of the Son of Man would be like a trap to come upon all the inhabitants of the earth. Jesus strongly exhorted them to always be watchful and to pray, that they may be able to endure everything and stand before the Son of Man.

REFLECT: Today is the first day of December, the last month in this faith journey we have embarked ourselves on. Today is also the First Sunday of Advent. The Gospel passage for today appears to re-echo the Gospel readings from the Lucan "little apocalypse," which we reflected on during the past few days. We ended our reflections on Luke 21, during the last days of the previous liturgical year, with the lesson of the fig tree - a lesson that teaches us vigilance. Now, as we begin our Advent journey, the call to be on guard becomes our basic disposition needed in our preparation to commemorate the Lord's Nativity.

PRAY: Let us pray for the gift of vigilance.

ACT: Let us remind all our family members that we are now in the season of Advent and that we need to be on guard for the Lord's coming into our lives.

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25: 4-10, 14

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3: 12—4:2

Gospel

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

"They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."



Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 2nd December

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalm 122: 1-9

Matthew 8: 5-11

Tuesday 3rd December

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm 72: 1,2,7,8,12,13,17

Luke 10: 21-24

St. Francis Xavier, priest

Wednesday 4th December

Isaiah 25: 6-10

Psalm 23: 1-6

Matthew 15: 29-37

St. John of Damascus, priest

Thursday 5th December

Isaiah 26: 1-6

Psalm 118: 1,8, 9, 19-21, 25-27

Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Friday 6th December

Isaiah 29: 17-24

Psalm 27: 1,4, 13,14

Matthew 9: 27-31

St. Nicholas, bishop

Saturday 7th November

Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26

Psalm 147: 1-6

Matthew 9: 35—10:1, 5-8

St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor

WHAT THE FIRST READING

SAYS TO ME

"I will raise up for David a just shoot." King David's dynasty came to a fall with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. It was like a stump. But from that stump God will let grow a shoot. A new Davidic king will be on the throne of Israel. Meanwhile, the Hebrews were in exile in Babylon. They knew God's promises, but were tempted to lose patience when time dragged on. Christians see this promise fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ. Then Judah, Jerusalem, God's people, received lasting salvation. But this salvation is only initiated in all of us. Full salvation from all evil and perfect bliss with God will be ours with Christ's final coming for you and me. When, depressed by life's tribulations, you are tempted to lose patience, make the Responsorial Psalm your prayer! "God,... for you I wait all the day."

WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME

The Christians of Thessalonica were waiting for Christ's return during their lifetime. Many lost patience and did not live blamelessly. Paul prays that God may strengthen their hearts, so that they may be holy at the coming of our Lord Jesus. Advent is a time of repentance, a change of attitude, if necessary. We wait for Christ's renewed coming at Christmas and in one perspective his final coming which will be final for you or me at the moment God calls! "All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming".

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

The core of this tradition comes from Jesus, but it has been embellished extensively by oral tradition and the editing by Luke, who adapted it to the needs of his congregations. As mentioned before, signs in the sun, moon, and stars, gathering clouds, and the shaking of powers in the heavens constitute the familiar imagery utilized by Biblical writers to describe the awe-inspiring event of manifestation of the divine. The early Christians expected the return of Christ to take place in their own life-time. They were waiting, ran out of patience, and gave in to laxity (characterized by Luke as indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly cares).

What is God's word to us in this passage? It is true that we do not expect Christ's second coming right now. However, it is equally true that God can call you and me the moment we least expect it. That moment represents the great day for each of us. "Be vigilant."

Saint of the Day - 3rd December 2024

Saint Francis Xavier's Story

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?". The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Reflection

All of us are called to "go and preach to all nations" —see Matthew 28:19. Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis Xavier gave his to others.



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