



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

"Faith and Obedience of Mary To Be Followed"

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 22nd 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

Bible diaries are being sold at a cost \$90.00 and the large daily Gospels at a cost of \$65.00 and the small daily Gospel at a cost of \$55.00. These are available from Mr. Gilbert Laudat and at the Pastoral Centre.

The 2025 Diocesan Liturgical Calendars are available for sale at the weekend Masses. The cost of the calendars is \$20.00.

Parishioners are kindly asked to return the Advent Stewardship Drive envelopes on Sunday 22nd December.

Masses for Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass

Holy Family Cathedral Vigil - 7 pm

Mass at 11 pm. Carol Service begins at 10:30pm.

Christmas Day Mass

Holy Family Cathedral - 9 am

Donovans & Parham - 9 am

Villa and Potters - 11 am.

The Feast of Holy Innocents will be celebrated on Saturday 28th December, 2024 at 8:00 AM. Children are invited for the blessing of the 'toys' during this Mass.

*The Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Sunday 29th December. We shall have **ONE MASS** as a parish at 9:00 AM. There will be sharing and fun activities after Mass. NB.. There will be no Saturday night Mass.*

Old and New Years Masses

Holy Family Cathedral - Vigil ..11:00 PM

1st January -

9:00 AM - HFC, Parham and Donovan's

11:00 AM - Potters and Villa

Fr Lawrence Malama (Administrator) and the Christmas Dinner Team would like to thank all those who **DONATED** to make the Christmas Dinner successful. We collected **\$52,564.38** in donations, ticket sales, the dinner night Bar, Bingo, Pork Station and Deserts. The expenses so far total **\$17,028.35**. A full summary of the Christmas Dinner Fundraiser will be provided subsequently.

Couples for Christ Ministries takes this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our CFC Christmas Raffle in aid of our Boxing Day Meal & Gift Outreach. May God Bless you all as together we once again celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The winners of the consolation prizes are: Alexia Warrington, Deacon Bernard Duplessis, Ashley Joshua, Joanna Esprit, Dion Anthony, Lucaso Brumant, Tenisia Harris, Joshua Shirley, Angelica Aflak, John Joseph.

The winners of the 5 main prizes are: Leroy Allen ... Spa Basket
Maria GuirguisFood Hamper
Phigwe Goodwin ...Microwave Oven
Shawnelle Walsh ... Ipad
Natalie James ... Smart Television

The Pastoral Centre will be closed from Monday 23rd December, 2024 to Friday 3rd January, 2025. We will reopen on Monday 6th January, 2025 at 9:00 am. We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a bright and Prosperous New Year with all God's blessings.

BINGO! BINGO! - BINGO will be held on Friday 10th January, 2025 at St. Lwanga Youth Centre, Stapleton Lane starting at 7 pm. Food and Drinks will also be on sale.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 15th December, 2024

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday	\$4,140.01	\$ 546.50
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,329.32	\$ 326.34
9:00 am	\$1,302.40	\$ 351.11
Out Stations		
Potters	\$ 313.60	\$ 167.00
Parham	\$ 518.04	\$ 164.00
Villa	\$ 561.00	\$ 236.75
Diocesan Schools	\$ 42.00	

Thank you for your generosity

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 Dyier, 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
 - (e) **Bank:** ECAB

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.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - Pilgrim of Hope

"Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5)

What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is **Pilgrims of Hope**. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the worlds.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

What do Catholics do during a Jubilee Year?

The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice. The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

(Stay tuned for more information on how the Diocese will be celebrating the Jubilee Year)



What are the key first steps to enter into Advent?

We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, "Come, Lord, Jesus." We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, "Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don't fear you can't find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give." Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, "Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us joy again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now." And, before a single decoration goes up, we have prepared for Christmas' message with the foundation of faith, with the mystery of Advent's gift. God wants to be with us. Advent is letting God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives.

Getting in Touch with Myself

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Micah 5: 1-4

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80: 2-3, 15,16,18,19

Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Gospel

Luke 1: 39-45

*"You are most blessed among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb"*



Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 23rd December

Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24

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

Luke 1: 57-66

St John of Kanty, priest

Tuesday 24th December

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14,16

Psalm 89: 2-5, 27,29

Luke 1: 67-79

Wednesday 25th December

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98: 1-6

Hebrews 1: 1-6

John 1: 1-18

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Thursday 26th December

Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

Psalm 31: 3,4,6,8,16,17

Matthew 10: 17-22

Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr

Friday 27th December

1 John 1: 1-4

Psalm 97: 1,2,5,6,11,12

John 20: 1,2-8

Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday 28th December

1 John 1: 5—2:2

Psalm 124: 2-5, 7,8

Matthew 2: 13-18

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyr

WHAT THE FIRST READING SAYS TO ME

Because of the great traditions of the Golden Age of Israel with David as its fabulous and astounding king, expectations for freedom and new self determination in Jewish thought were always connected with a restoration of David's dynasty-house-throne. The Messiah, God's vicegerent, who will bring salvation to Israel, must be a descendant of David. "You, Bethlehem- Ephrathah ..." King David came from Bethlehem. Israel is waiting for the birth of the Messiah. Hence, she is likened to a woman in labor. But "until the time when she who is to give birth has borne," Israel will be ruled by other nations: "The Lord will give them up." Christians see this oracle fulfilled in the birth of Jesus who brought final salvation. Waiting for the coming Messiah, we make the Responsorial Psalm our own prayer.

WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME

Christ took a body in order to be able to sacrifice himself in total obedience to God. This reminds us of the reason for the incarnation, which is closely related to our Lord's sacrifice of atonement on Golgotha. Bethlehem and Calvary cannot be separated. We learn what is most characteristic about Jesus: "I come to do your will."

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed," because of her faith and the obedience with which she bore her child. The Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church states: "Mary devoted herself totally as a handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son." By her faith and obedience to God's design, Mary was the great woman behind Jesus.

GIVE HOPE PROJECT: During the Pandemic, the Catechetical and Youth Ministry introduced the Give Hope project where we provided food packages and breakfast to over 50 families in the nearby community. We have continued the distribution of food packages during the Food pantry drives from your contribution of food items. Needed: gifts/toys for children 6 months to 12 years. Thank you for assisting us in Giving Hope to those in need.

The Story of the Nativity of the Lord

On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

Reflection

The precise dating in the Scripture readings for today sounds like a textbook on creationism. If we focus on the time frame, however, we miss the point. It lays out the story of a love affair: creation, the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, the rise of Israel under David. It climaxes with the birth of Jesus. Some scholars insist that from the beginning God intended to enter the world as one of us, the beloved people. Praise God!



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EXOTIC ANTIGUA -2024 December Christmas Schedule

9th—(9am to 6pm) | 15th, 22nd & 29th—(9am to 4pm)
19th, 20th & 21st—(9am-6pm)
23rd, 24th—(9am-7pm) | 30th & 31st—(9am-6pm)
Days Closed—25th, 26th & JAN 1st

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