



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
"Spiritually Unclean"

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 11th FEBRUARY, 2024 - 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 4th February, 2024

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$4,673.54	\$ 953.64
Sunday 7:00 am	\$2,206.78	\$ 369.34
9:00 am	\$2,868.52	\$ 499.31
Potters	\$ 630.00	\$ 20.34
Parham	\$ 251.01	\$ 85.00
Villa	\$1,079.34	\$ 368.17
Donovans	\$ 301.45	\$ 124.00
Diocesan Schools	\$ 155.00	

Thank you for your generosity

Please support the 4th Antigua Scout Group Pre-Valentines cake sale TODAY (Sunday 11th February) immediately after the 7:00 am and the 9:00 am Masses.

BANNS

There is a promise of marriage between Andrew Salomon Doumith and Christina Mary Bitar. Anyone knowing of any reason why this couple should not be married in the Catholic Church should contact one of the priests.

Parishioners are encouraged to attend Masses during the week in the Lenten season. There are more Masses made available in the parish weekly, and the attendance in Villa and Potters have not been encouraged. Please make the effort to attend weekday Masses as your Lenten sacrifice.

St. Lucia's 45th Independence Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 18th February at 9:00 am. The preacher is Rev. Deacon David Popo Director of the Cardinal Kelvin Felix Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre. All are invited to attend.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

Couples for Christ Ministries invite you to a Christian Life Program. It will be held on the 24th and 25th February from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Pastoral Centre. To register please call Mrs. Margaret Louisor at 7702285 or Ms Clemie Toulon at 723-9000.

Attention All Groups

Please take note that plans for ALL events within the Parish for the 2024 Calendar must be submitted in writing before February 16th, 2024. Even if the event is tentative, please indicate so that your date may be secured and clashes may be averted. Please send your information to hfc.antigua@gmail.com. Please be guided accordingly.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Family Cathedral
6:00 am
7:00 pm

VILLA - 6:00pm

SCHOOLS - 8:00 am

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

The next Marriage Preparation Classes will begin on February 24th, 2024. Interested couples can collect a registration form at the Pastoral Centre. They can call 560-2693 or 461-1127 for further details.

Couples for Christ Ministries will host a Post-Valentine's Take Away Lunch on Saturday February 17th at Holy Family Cathedral Grounds from 12:30pm to 2:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00. Proceeds in aid of conference and outreach projects.

On behalf of the parishioners, Fr. George Williams would like to extend condolences to Sr. Anita on the death of her brother Frank. May he Rest In Peace. Continue to pray for her family as they go through this challenging moment



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.

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, Victor Charles.

All active groups in the parish including the outstations are invited to a lecture on Tuesday 20th February at 5:30 pm at the Pastoral Centre. The topic is "Towards a Missionary Synodality Church: a betterment towards parish life." The guest speaker is Rev. Deacon David Popo Director of the Archdiocese Pastoral Centre Castries, St. Lucia. All groups are invited.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is pleased to announce that, in keeping with its pledge to use the proceeds of its Gala dinner held in September 2023, fifteen students attending various institutions of higher learning, namely the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, the University of the West Indies Open Campus and the University of the Southern Caribbean were granted financial assistance for the January 2024 semester. The Society believes in empowering young minds through education and takes this opportunity to wish them success in their chosen career paths.

LENTEN BIBLE SESSION with Fr. Jean Paul and Fr. Wacuma - February 21, 28, March 6 & 13 - 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Centre. Learn more about the Scriptures and achieve a fulfilling relationship with God through these sessions this Lent. Bring a friend with you!

All Group Leaders are invited to a very important planning meeting with the Parish Council on Tuesday 20th February, 2024 at the Pastoral Centre. The meeting will commence at 6:00 pm. Please be on time.

PENTECOST SONG CONTEST

Are you a singer or do you know how to turn a tune very well? Can you bring down the Holy Spirit with your vocal abilities and stage performance? Holy Family Cathedral Parish invites you to be a part of its Pentecost Song Contest 2024. You may select any genre, Christian song or your original composition but your presentation must have an upbeat rhythm indicative of Pentecost Sunday. Register before 29th February, 2024. Call Gilbert Laudat at 720-2431 for more information.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated soon. Parents with children to be Baptized are asked to bring the child's birth certificate and the name of two confirmed Catholics to register at the Pastoral Centre.

CATECETICAL NOTICE

LENTEN RETREAT: All Catechists on the island (from both parishes) will be on Retreat on Saturday 17th February at Mount Tabor Retreat Centre. This year 2024, is dedicated as the Year of Prayer, rediscovering, as Pope Francis underlined, "the great value and absolute need of prayer, in personal life, in the life of the Church, and prayer in the world". Please pray for our Catechists.

ANTILLES EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE YOUTH ASSEMBLY (AECYA) will be held in the Archdiocese of Castries, in St. Lucia from July 17 - 28 2025. The main theme for the Youth Assembly is "Pilgrims of Hope". Youth and young adults 16 - 35 years will soon be invited to register to start the preparatory stages of prayer, special activities and fundraising events. In preparation for the Jubilee Year, 2025, Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as the Year of Prayer. Youth and young adults are invited to participate.

LENTEN FOOD PANTRY DRIVE for vulnerable and needy families. Join the children and young people in the Catechetical programme, the Youth to Youth Ministry team with the Pontifical Mission Societies, as we continue to embark on helping those who suffer silently. Following the successful Can Concert held in December where your contribution of non-perishable items helped many families and shut-ins, parishioners are welcomed to join us this Lent. Bring your items to the Pastoral Centre where our Pantry Box awaits your Lenten offerings (Almsgiving). The young people will package and distribute the items during the Easter Break.

This Sunday's Readings
11th February, 2024

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Responsorial Psalm: I turn to you,
Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill
me with the joy of salvation
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31—
11:1
Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 12th James 1: 1-11

Psalm 119: 67,68, 71,72, 75,76
Mark 8: 11-13

Tuesday 13th James 1:12-18

Psalm 94: 12-15, 18,19
Mark 8: 14-21

Wednesday 14th Joel 2: 12-18

2 Corinthians 5: 20—6:2
Psalm 51: 3-6, 12-14, 17
Mathew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 15th Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Psalm 1: 1-4, 6
Luke 9: 22-25

Friday 16th Isaiah 58: 1-9

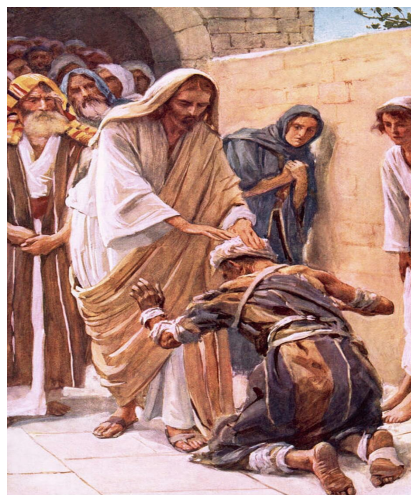
Psalm 51: 3-6, 18,19
Matthew 9: 14-15

Saturday 17th Isaiah 58: 9-14

Psalm 86: 1-6
Luke 5: 27-32

*The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite
Order*

***"... at once he was made
clean"***



WHAT THE FIRST READING SAYS TO ME. In ancient times, there was no scientific diagnosis of leprosy, and many other curable skin diseases were included in this designation. These diseases were considered dangerous and detestable not only because they were contagious but also because they made a person religiously unclean and unworthy to take part in community worship. Notice that disease, and certainly this kind of disease, was thought to be caused by sin! These sick people had to present themselves to the priest who decided how long they had to stay in quarantine. Avoided by fellow citizens, these outcasts lived in miserable, poor, and squalid quarters. Scientific health care is a luxury of recent times in affluent societies! When the sick thought that they were cleansed of their disease, they had to go and see the priest again (Gospel) and could return to normal life in the community. Sinners are spiritually unclean. They should confess their faults to the Lord! (Responsorial Psalm).

WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME Paul encourages us to imitate the Lord Jesus who was considerate and thoughtful. The problem in the congregation of Corinth was that of eating meat sacrificed to the pagan gods that was available at the market. Informed Christians knew that such gods did not exist and thus could eat this meat without thinking anything more about it. Paul himself sees no harm in eating sacrificed meat, but he knows that such an action might well scandalize less instructed fellow Christians (perhaps those of Jewish background). Hence, Paul's advice, "Avoid giving offense, whether to Jews or Greeks"; in other words, do not eat sacrificed meat for that reason.

God's message is: Be considerate! Do not hurt others' feelings! Both "progressives" and "conservatives" in the matter of Church renewal should heed this message.

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

The healing of a leper and sending him to the priest (see comment on First Reading) should not be seen as just a proof of Jesus' power. Saint John calls Jesus' miracles "signs." They are signs that indicate the breakthrough of God's kingdom of love, justice, concern, peace, and happiness into human history. Jesus shows why he has come, namely, to share our helpless and miserable human condition and to redeem us from evil. The Responsorial Psalm invites us to pray: "I turn to you, Lord." Do you take part in any of your parish penitential services? Confession of guilt is part of Christian life!

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

Feb. 7, 2024, 10:11 AM
AST / Source: Reuters By Reuters

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said he sees “hypocrisy” in criticism of his decision to allow priests to bless same-sex couples, possibly his most strongly worded defense of the move. LGBTQ blessings were authorized last month by a Vatican document called *Fiducia Supplicans* (Supplicating Trust), but that has met with significant resistance in the Catholic Church, particularly from African bishops. “Nobody gets scandalized if I give my blessings to a businessman who perhaps exploits people, and this is a very grave sin. But they get scandalized if I give them to a homosexual,” Francis told Italian Catholic magazine *Credere*. “This is hypocrisy,” he said. *Credere* released extracts of the interview on Wednesday, a day ahead of publication. Francis, who famously said “Who am I to judge?” when asked about homosexuality at the beginning of his papacy, has made it one of his missions to promote a more welcoming and less judgmental Catholic Church. Conservatives say this risks undermining the Church’s moral teachings. Francis has defended *Fiducia Supplicans* on several occasions, but acknowledged the pushback against it, saying for example that blessings do not amount to formal Church approval for same-sex. “When a couple comes forward spontaneously to ask for them, one does not bless the union, but simply the people who together have requested it. Not the union, but the persons,” he said on Jan. 26. The Catholic Church teaches that gay sex is sinful and disordered, and that people with same-sex attractions, which are not considered sinful, should try to be chaste. In another interview published last week, Francis said he hoped critics of LGBTQ blessings would eventually understand them, but that Africans were a “special case” in their opposition to homosexuality. Bishops in Africa have effectively rejected the *Fiducia Supplicans*. In some African countries, homosexuality is severely punished, with prison sentences or even the death penalty.



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BETTER EVERYDAY