



# 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](mailto:hfc.antigua@gmail.com) ♦ Phone 268 560-2693 ♦ 268 461-1127

*"Open-Minded Respect & Love For All"*

**26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—29th SEPTEMBER, 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 22nd September, 2024

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$1,791.01	\$1,050.28
Sunday		
7:00 am	\$1,728.35	\$ 433.37
9:00 am	\$2,454.11	\$ 560.88
Potters	\$ 248.55	\$ 147.75
Parham	\$487.69	\$ 86.05
Villa	\$ 919.75	\$ 282.29
Donovans	\$ 518. 50	\$ 315.00
Diocesan Schools	\$ 125.00	

Thank you for your generosity

## MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

The **Marriage Enrichment Weekend**  
with Bishop Robert Llanos will take  
place from **October 4-6, 2024** at the  
Verandah Resort & Spa. The cost is  
USD \$468.00 per couple for the entire  
weekend. Call your Parish office to  
register. Registration ends on  
September 30th, 2024.

The **HFC Steel Orchestra** has resumed  
both its beginners and senior section  
practices. This is a call for experienced  
players, who are willing to share their  
talents in Ministry. You are invited to  
join the senior section at practices on  
**Saturdays from 1pm to 3pm**. Contact  
**770-6719** for more information.

## Lectio Divina

**READ:** John told Jesus that they saw  
someone driving out demons in Jesus'  
name. The disciples tried to forbid the  
man because he did not belong to their  
group. Jesus told them that whoever was  
not against them was for them. Jesus  
also told them that anyone who would  
give his disciples a drink of water  
because they belonged to Christ would  
surely be rewarded. Jesus also taught  
them about the fate of the one who  
would cause the little ones believing in  
him to stumble and sin - that such  
individual be thrown into the sea. Jesus  
also said that if the hand of the disciple  
would cause him to sin, it would be  
better to cut it off in order to enter into  
life than with two hands to go to hell.

**REFLECT:** Even the disciples of Jesus  
at that time were tempted to see their  
ministry in a very narrow and myopic  
manner. In today's Gospel, John reported  
to Jesus that they tried to stop someone  
who was driving out demons in Jesus'  
name. They tried to prevent this person  
because he did not belong to their group.  
John even seemed to take pride in what  
they did. Jesus corrected their myopic  
way of understanding their ministry.

## CATECHETICAL SESSIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

**BAPTISM REGISTRATION:** Parents  
are invited to register their babies for  
Baptism. Please bring the child's birth  
certificate and the name of the Catholic  
god-parents.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of  
Adults)** is how non-baptized people or  
those who have never been confirmed  
are brought into full communion with the  
Catholic Church. The process offers  
several benefits for adults considering  
joining the Catholic Church. The inquirer  
deepens his/her understanding of the  
Catholic faith and develops a closer  
relationship with God and the  
community. The process covers the core  
beliefs, practices, and traditions of the  
Catholic Church, reception of the  
sacraments of Initiation (Baptism,  
Confirmation, and Eucharist) for those un-  
baptized; personal transformation  
leading to personal growth and a renewed  
sense of purpose. Registration is still  
open for persons 18 years and over  
wishing to be part of this process.  
Sessions will commence in October.

The **newly registered Confirmation**  
Group will have their orientation in  
October. Date and time will be  
announced. Parents, please take note.  
We look forward to our faith journey  
together.

## October is the Month of the Rosary

All are welcome to join the Legion of  
Mary group to recite the Rosary every  
**Wednesday in October at 5:15pm** at  
the Lady of Fatima Shrine.

**St. Francis of Assisi - Villa conference**  
will host our quarterly cake sale on  
October 6th. Please continue to support  
our fundraising efforts as we endeavor to  
assist the less fortunate among us.



## 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, 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, Latoya Edmun-Joseph, Rose Margetson, Niethia Dyier, Victor Charles, Junie Browne, Cheralyn Beazer, Jean Mathurin, Natalia Telemaque.

**Do you have a Boy or Girl that is aged 8 to 10 1/2 years old.** Would you like them to be a part of an organization that would teach them life skills while having fun and enjoying life. The Antigua and Barbuda Scouts movement is presently recruiting this age group.

**The 4th Antigua Group meets every Saturday at 4:00pm on the grounds of Holy Family Cathedral.** Come and register and let your child be a part of a dynamic team. Call **723-8163** for further details.

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**The 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Congress of the Americas (CAM6) - Puerto Rico**  
**\*Dates:** November 19-24 this year.  
**\*Overall theme:** *"America, with the power of the Spirit, witnesses for Christ!"*  
**\*Venue:** Catholic Pontifical University of Puerto Rico in the city of Ponce.  
**\*Board, lodging, and congress fee:** USD 150 per congress participant; all-in. Please see the Diocese's website for further information – [diocesesjb.org](http://diocesesjb.org)

**Mission Month Activities – "Go Invite Everyone to the Banquet"**  
**Study Sessions - Formation and Deepening of Insight on Evangelization and Mission –** Thursday October 10,17,24 & 31, 2024 at 7 p.m. each night. Meeting ID: 848 1157 1177 Passcode 907102  
Reactivation of the Pontifical Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)  
**Prayer Breakfast – October 26th, 2024**  
Glow Living Rosary – October 31, 2024  
Prayer Day for the Priests of the Diocese Outreach/Food Drive during Mission Month.

**MISSION Month CAN FOOD DRIVE:** "Go and invite everyone to the Banquet" is this year's theme for Mission Sunday. Join us as we help the vulnerable families in our community share in the Banquet. Donate canned and non perishable food items at the Pastoral Centre or after Mass in the Box provided. This is a Pontifical Mission Society (PMS), Youth and Catechetical Ministry Outreach Programme.

**October 4: Saint Francis of Assisi—  
Memorial - 1182–1226**  
Patron Saint of animals, ecologists, families, lacemakers, merchants, needleworkers, peace, and zoos Invoked against dying alone and fire - Canonized by Pope Gregory IX on July 16, 1228

One of the Church's beloved saints, Francis of Assisi, was likely born in 1181 in Assisi, about 100 miles north of Rome. Born into the merchant class, the lively youth enjoyed parties, singing, and being the center of attention. He showed only disinterest in joining his father as a silk merchant.

Francis dreamed of doing great things, chiefly to become a knight. In 1202—fitted with fine armor, a sword, and a horse—Francis was sent into battle against the town of Perugia. Success would prepare him to become a Crusader in the pope's army, but the short battle ended with his capture and imprisonment. Francis suffered captivity for a year until his father paid the ransom for his release; when freed, he spent months battling a serious illness. Francis' imprisonment and illness led him to reevaluate his life. Even so, outfitted for another battle in the Count of Brienne's army in 1205, Francis had a vision that caused him to turn around, return to Assisi, and seek God's will for his life.

For a year, Francis prayed and sought God's will, while his father insisted that he become a knight or work in the family business. During that time, Francis grew in his love for the poor and served the lepers at a nearby hospital. While praying one day in the dilapidated Church of San Damiano, Francis heard a voice from Heaven say to him, "Go, repair my house which, as you see, is falling completely to ruin." With that, he began to physically repair that church, live in solitude, and pray continually.

In 1206, when Francis was twenty-five, he and his father formally parted ways in the presence of the Bishop of Assisi. Francis renounced his inheritance and began to live a life of poverty, prayer, and service of God. Most of the townspeople ridiculed Francis, believing he was out of his mind. But as time passed, Francis attracted followers. He and his followers spent much time praying, listening to the voice of God, serving the poor and lepers, and repairing abandoned churches.

### **This Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading:** Numbers 11: 25-29  
**Responsorial Psalm:** 19: 8, 9, 10, 12-14  
**Second Reading:** James 5: 1-6  
**Gospel:** Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

*"If anyone gives you a drink of water because you belong to Christ.... He will not go without reward."*



### **Readings for Monday to Saturday**

#### **Monday 30th September**

Job 1: 6-22  
Psalm 17: 1-3, 6-7  
Luke 9: 46-50

**St. Jerome, priest & doctor**

#### **Tuesday 1st October**

Job 3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23  
Psalm 88: 2-8  
Luke 9: 51-56

**St. Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin & doctor**

#### **Wednesday 2nd October**

Job 9: 1-12, 14-16  
Psalm 88: 10-15  
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10  
**The Holy Guardian Angels**

#### **Thursday 3rd October**

Job 19: 21-27  
Psalm 27: 7-9, 13-14  
Luke 10: 1-12

#### **Friday 4th October**

Job 38: 1, 12-21; 40: 3-5  
Psalm 139: 1-3, 7-10, 13-14  
Luke 10: 13-16

**St. Francis of Assisi, religious**

#### **Saturday 5th October**

Job 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17  
Psalm 119: 66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130  
Luke 10: 17-24

**Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Faustina Kowalska, virgin**

### **WHAT THE FIRST READING SAYS TO ME**

The "spirit" in this passage is not the Holy Spirit. It is a charism to prophesy, which is somehow related to God. Moses enjoyed this charism and shared it with the seventy elders. But this spirit was directly given to some others also. Joshua did not take it, which made Moses ask: "Are you jealous?"

As God's word to us, this tradition teaches that God's gifts are not limited to certain people only. It introduces the theme of the Gospel, which deals with the same issue.

### **WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME**

In this reading James has severe words of warning for the rich who exploit the poor. A generous Church contributor who sins against social justice in any form is a hypocrite. Underpaying domestics and soothing our consciences by giving them the leftovers of our food and some old clothes is a crime against justice. Since this sin too can be "hidden," pray with the psalmist of today: "Cleanse me from my unknown faults!"

### **WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME**

The spirit (charism) to expel demons was given to Jesus and his disciples first, but also to others. John did not like it and tried to stop one who had it from using it. Jesus said in reply: "Do not prevent him." We should learn to see God's Spirit at work wherever we meet good people. "For or against Jesus" does not necessarily follow Church-denomination lines, but acting honestly according to one's conscience. "Whoever is not against us is for us," be it often anonymously!

This does not blur the truth as we see it in the Catholic tradition; it simply recognizes that a ray of truth and much goodness are found everywhere. We should respect and love every conscientious person no matter how different he or she may be!

### **Open-Minded Respect and Love for All**

It seems to be an inborn instinct to mistreat and disqualify people who are different from us. Let a bearded and long-haired youngster or a lady whose dress code is not ours appear and immediately eyebrows are raised! The more isolated life is, be it geographically in rural areas or socially by self-imposed isolation (the railroad dividing black and white sections of little towns in the South or the inner city versus the suburbs of the North), the more narrow-minded and biased people are, even to the extent of expelling the "outside agitator" and violently ostracizing him socially. This very thing happened to our Lord, who came to his own "but his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:11).

He was different. In his home-town of Nazareth the people even became hostile. "They took offense at him" (Mk 6:3). Being a Jew, our Lord would be refused membership today in many a country club! Over the centuries, Christian denominations have isolated themselves socially. Small wonder then that they mistrust one another. An imprudent proselytism may have contributed to religious bias as it still exists in our country, though the ecumenical movement has done much good by trying to eliminate a "ghetto mentality" that has been with the Churches for a long time.

Today's Bible readings deal with this topic. Since bias (whether social, racial, or religious) is so subtle, we should check ourselves honestly and pray: "Cleanse me from my unknown faults!"







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