



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

"Be Watchful!"

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 30TH NOVEMBER, 2025 - A

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00pm

Tuesday

Holy Family Cathedral 6:00 am

St. Anthony's Potters 6:00pm

Wednesday

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

The funeral Service of Mr. Keithley Roberts will be held on Wednesday 3rd December, 2025 at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Parham. Tributes begin at 2:00pm followed by a Thanksgiving Service. May his soul Rest In Peace.

The funeral Mass of Mrs. Colette Simon will be held on Thursday 11th December, 2025 at Holy Family Cathedral at 2:00 pm. May her soul Rest In Peace.

The funeral Service of Mr. Donald Looby will be held on Monday 22nd December, 2025 at Holy Family Cathedral at 2:00 pm. May his soul Rest In Peace.

Holy Family Cathedral - The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on **Friday 5th** December, 2025 from **7:00 pm**. Come and share in a delicious meal with Live Entertainment, Bingo, a well-stocked Bar, Door Prizes and lots more.

St Joseph's Academy continues its Adult Choir practice at the school every Wednesday beginning at 7:00 pm. The annual SJA Carol Service will be held on Friday, 12th December, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

Couples for Christ Ministries Annual Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 18th December, 2025.

TICKETS COST \$10.00 EACH

1st prize	(1) Smart Television
2nd prize	(1) IPAD
3rd prize	(1) Microwave Oven
4th prize	(1) Food Hamper
5th prize	(1) Resort Day Pass

Plus TEN Consolation Prizes
Proceeds are in aid of Christmas Meal and Gift Outreach.

The word "Advent" means precisely "the coming," the arrival, that special time in which we are invited to prepare to celebrate, with all enthusiasm of heart, the first coming of Jesus Christ. A new liturgical year prepares us for Christmas, inviting us to lift our gaze and open our hearts to welcome Jesus. During Advent, we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ—when he will return at the end of time—preparing ourselves with consistent and courageous choices for the final encounter with Him. I want to ask how many of you think about this. "There will be a day in which I meet the Lord face to face." And this is our goal: the encounter. We do not await a time or a place, but we will encounter a person: Jesus. Am I prepared enough for the coming of Christ through my familiarity with an obedience to the Word of God?

Limited Advent Candles are on sale at the Pastoral Centre for only \$20.00. Start the Advent season by being watchful.

The Advent Novena begins on Tuesday 16th December, 2025 at 5:00 am at Holy Family Cathedral and at St Francis of Assisi, Villa at 5:30 am. The Novena to the Child Jesus this year will focus on the humility and love of the infant Jesus.

The 2026 Calendars are here. Please get your copy early. The cost is \$25.00.

The 2026 Bible diaries and Daily Gospel Large Edition Books are here. Further details will be given in a subsequent announcement.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION *23rd November, 2025*

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday 6:00 pm	\$1,836.70	\$401.00
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,878.43	\$339.82
9:00 am	\$3,247.45	\$812.54
Out Stations		
Potters	\$532.10	\$137.75
Parham	\$282.67	\$118.00
Villa	\$363.50	\$161.70
Diocesan Schools	\$170.00	-

Thanks for your Generosity

Theme: Be Watchful!

With God revealing himself in the Lord Jesus, we Christians believe that there is a future for human beings. Life is not an absurdity. Death is not “a transition from being into nothingness,” as some contemporary “sages” allege. Life has meaning.

In the confusion of daily life, the Lord Jesus comes to save us from apparent absurdity, from dangerous inertia and the numbness that the sedatives of modern life can bring about. The only prerequisite is that we be watchful and open up to him and his message found in the Scriptures. “When he (the Lord Jesus) comes may he find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

THANK YOU: Holy Family Cathedral Youth Ministry Team extends heartfelt thanks to our parishioners who attended the Charity Can Concert and generously supported our talented young people as they shared their gifts. Your presence and encouragement made the evening truly special.

Through your thoughtful donation of food items, several families in our community will now receive food packages. Your kindness is a living witness of faith in action, bringing hope, nourishment, and joy to their homes. We are deeply grateful for your continued support.

Advent Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, as we begin this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to walk in faith and hope, to be watchful in prayer, and to live in joyful expectation of His coming. Through Christ our Lord. 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, Arnold Gomes, Jean James, Conrad Looby, Cecelia John, Justin Joseph, Carmen Ambrose, Tyler Lockhart, Joan Underwood, Cosmas Rowe, Andrea Brown, Niethia Dyier, Victor Charles, Junie Browne, Cheralyn Beazer, Brenda Frederick, Yvonne Watkins, Anthony Mathurin, Shirley Dyer.

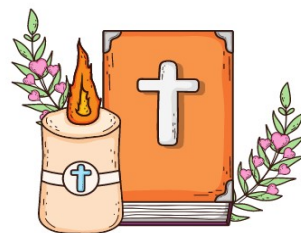
The Jubilee Prayer (Amended)

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Prayer for Protection during the Hurricane Season.

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control. During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

LECTIO DIVINA



"Stay Awake."

Read: Isaiah has a vision of the end times in which the nation converge on Sion in peace. Saint Paul urges the Christians to await the Lord by walking in the ways of light. Jesus preaches about his glorious return and tells the people to stay awake.

Reflect: Advent is a very short season, and it's probably mentally shortened even further by the commercial anticipation of Christmas. Therefore, we often jump straight to the second focus of Advent, namely the first coming of Christ at the incarnation. However, the Church calls us at the beginning of the new liturgical year to look forward to Christ's glorious return, and to the end of time. Jesus warned his disciples to "stay awake," to be prepared for his return, so that they would not be spiritually asleep like many in Noah's day. Our hearts are to be prepared to welcome Christ. This is the purpose of Advent: a preparation for Christ's coming to us, so that we truly long for him. This welcoming starts now, and not just at the end of time, since Christ also comes to us silently in prayer and in the Eucharist.

Pray: Meditate upon the phrase Come, Lord Jesus or the Aramaic Maranatha.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 30th November

First Reading

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm

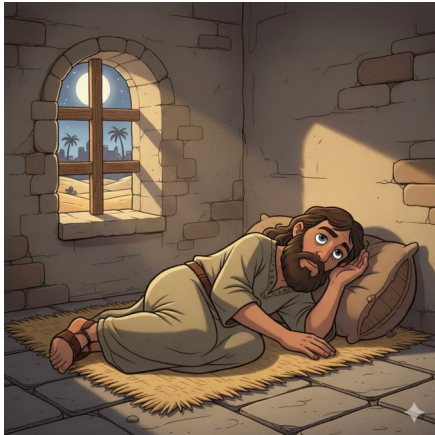
Psalm 122: 1-9

Second Reading

Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel

Matthew 24: 37-44



"Stay awake then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Monday 1st December

Isaiah 4: 2-6

Psalm 122: 1-9

Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday 2nd December

Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday 3rd December

Isaiah 25: 6-10

Psalm 23: 1-6

Matthew 15: 29-37

St. Francis Xavier, priest

Thursday 4th December

Isaiah 26: 1-6

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

Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

St. John of Damascus, priest, doctor

Friday 5th December

Isaiah 29: 17-24

Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13-14

Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday 6th December

Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26

Psalm 147: 1-6

Matthew 9: 35—10: 1, 5, 6-8

St. Nicholas, bishop

WHAT THE 1ST READING SAYS TO ME

Inspired by God, the prophet Isaiah sees a bright future in the Messianic era—the time when God will appear in his Messiah, his anointed vicegerent on earth. The setting is Zion, the holy mountain of Jerusalem with the temple, God's dwelling place.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares.., nor shall they ever train for war again." Wishful thinking? We Christians see Isaiah's vision fulfilled in Jesus, God's anointed one, the Christ. Therefore, "O house of Jacob [God's people], come, let us walk in the light of the LORD."

With God, present in Christ Jesus, we should keep working for this seemingly impossible dream. Start in your family, in your school, at your job, making them places of Shalom-peace.

WHAT THE 2ND READING SAYS TO ME

Be watchful! Wake up! Orgies, drunkenness, promiscuity, lust, rivalry, and jealousy are part of the human condition. The deeds of darkness can make us numb and insensitive to the beauty of life.

"Put on the Lord Jesus," i.e., be ever more intimately united to him and what he stands for, and a bright future of Shalom-peace-will be yours.

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

The coming of the Lord requires a decision. It is "either-or"! Matthew the evangelist is quite serious about this. It should be a decision of "conversion" to Jesus right now, as you are preparing for his coming on Christmas.

Again, be watchful! The moment you least expect it could be the final coming of the Lord to you. Do not become so engrossed in the daily routine of life that you forget that the Day of the Son of Man may come at any time.

SAINT OF THE DAY

Thursday 4th December, 2025

Saint John Damascene's Story

John Damascene spent most of his life in the Monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, and all of his life under Muslim rule, indeed protected by it.

He was born in Damascus, received a classical and theological education, and followed his father in a government position under the Arabs. After a few years, he resigned and went to the Monastery of Saint Sabas.

He is famous in three areas:

First, he is known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. Paradoxically, it was the Eastern Christian emperor Leo who forbade the practice, and it was because John lived in Muslim territory that his enemies could not silence him.

Second, he is famous for his treatise, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers, of which he became the last. It is said that this book is for Eastern schools what the Summa of Aquinas became for the West.

Third, he is known as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church, the other being Romanus the Melodist. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

Saint John Damascene's liturgical feast is celebrated on April 30.

Reflection

John Damascene defended the Church's understanding of the veneration of images and explained the faith of the Church in several other controversies. For over 30 years, he combined a life of prayer with these defenses and his other writings. His holiness expressed itself in putting his literary and preaching talents at the service of the Lord.



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