



# 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



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*"Wisdom and the Demands of Discipleship"*

**23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - 7th September, 2025 - C**

## 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 next **Marriage Preparation** course will be held from **September 20th at 10:00 am** and every Tuesday and Thursday after that date at 6:30pm in the Pastoral Centre. Interested couples can register at the Parish Office.

The Marriage Enrichment Weekend will take place on October 3-5, 2025.

Venue: Jolly Beach Resorts & Spa

The total cost for the All Inclusive weekend per couple will be around US\$350. Call the Pastoral Centre or Parish Office to register or register with any member of the Marriage Ministry.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A vacancy exists for a Parking Lot Attendant for the Diocesan Car Park on Church Street, St. John's. Interested applicants can apply in writing to the Chancery's email at [dsjbchancery@gmail.com](mailto:dsjbchancery@gmail.com).

Transportation is an asset. Further details are published on the Diocesan website - [diocesesjb.org](http://diocesesjb.org).

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## REGISTRATION FOR CATECHETICAL GROUPS:

New Groups: Sunday/Monday Pre-Communion Group - children born in 2018

First Communion Group - children born in 2017 (attending Catholic School or those in the non-Catholic schools who completed the required pre-communion sessions)

Confirmation Group - young people born in 2012.

Registration will be held at the end of two mandatory parents sessions to be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Pastoral Centre. This is for all Catechetical groups. **Parents, please take note.**

**A Thanksgiving Mass for the Celebration** of the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word, SVD will take place on Monday, 8th September 2025 at Holy Family Cathedral at 6pm. Let us give thanks with the Society of the Divine Word as they continue to "witness to the Light, from Everywhere, for Everyone."

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**Thursday 11th September, 2025 has been declared a Public Holiday - National Day of Prayer.** There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00 am to 8:00 am. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 am. Parishioners are kindly asked to participate in the other activities during the day. There will be a March of Witness Procession from the Multi-Purpose Centre to Antigua Recreation Ground from 1:00pm. The Official Service ends at 6:00pm.

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**On Sunday, 7th September, 2025, Mr. Paul Anthony Hewlett** will be ordained to the Order of the Permanent Diaconate at St. William's Catholic Church in Tortola BVI at 10:00 a.m. We pray for Mr. Hewlett as he serves God and the church in his capacity as Permanent Deacon.

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**CATECHETICAL SUNDAY:** Sunday 21st September, we join with catechists celebrating Catechetical Sunday. Please remember the catechists in your prayers. Also, we look forward to your financial support in the ministry.

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**DIOCESAN JUBILEE GATHERING OF CATECHISTS:** The Jubilee of Catechists will be celebrated in St. Kitts where the Catechists of the Diocese will meet from September 25 to 29.

## **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION**

*31st August, 2025*

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday 6:00 pm	\$2,253.61	\$743.10
Sunday 7:00 am	\$2,378.11	\$452.05
9:00 am	\$1,957.98	\$569.75
Hispanic	-	-
Out Stations		
Potters	\$470.00	\$181.55
Parham	\$762.50	\$185.25
Villa	\$972.37	\$300.00
Diocesan Schools	\$170.00	-

**Thanks 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, 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, Colette Simon, Brenda Frederick, Elma Skerritt, Yvonne Watkins, Anthony Mathurin, Derrick Louisor.*

### 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.

### 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

### *"Wisdom and the Demands of Discipleship"*

In a computerized society, we stress the value of planning and calculation. The computer helps the human mind to make quick and prudent decisions. Does calculations have a place in interhuman relationships, or, on a higher level, in the way human beings decide to style their lives as related to God and religion?

Biblical persons did not know the computer, but they did know about wisdom and prudence. Even if we speak of love, dedication, and faith, the element of prudence must be there! Intuitive and emotional decisions are sometimes feasible and even heroic. But, as a rule, we must sit down, apply wisdom and prudence, and even calculate our resources. The First Reading and Gospel deal with prudence and even calculation.

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### **"Charity is the root of all other virtues." - 11th September**

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love." These beautiful words of Saint Paul remind us that love binds everything together, just as hatred pulls them apart. We live disjointed lives when we are lacking in love, since our thoughts and emotions pull us in different directions as we seek to please ourselves first before considering the needs of others. Even truth or justice without love become blunt instruments and can end up hurting rather than helping another person. Without love we are separated from others and disjointed in ourselves. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that charity is the root of all other virtues, as all our virtuous acts draw strength and sustenance from the root that is charity. Thus, without charity our good actions wither. His image reminds us that the root must also be connected to a source of nourishment. And so, our love is sustained by our connection to God's love, just as a tree by a stream will flourish and bear fruit in due season. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us that without a constant connection to God's love we will become cynical, and our charitable activities will be done merely out of selfish or ambitious motives.

## LECTIO DIVINA



### *"The Cost of Love is Sacrifice."*

**Read:** The Book of Wisdom reflects on the limits of human reasoning in contrast to the mind of God. Saint Paul's letter to Philemon discusses forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus teaches us that following him involves the cost of self-sacrifice.

**Reflect:** When I was ordained, my parents each wrote their own message on a greeting card. My Dad wrote, "We are very proud of you, but only you will know the cost." They understood that accepting God's call to be a priest had its many joys but also its share of sacrifices, as one lays aside one's own plans, and accepts being sent to different locations. Underneath our individual vocations lies the general call to be the Lord's disciple. We all have sacrifices to make in following Christ, as the sincerity of our discipleship is expressed through acts of love and dedication for others in all sorts of circumstances. The cost of love is sacrifice, of offering oneself for the good of another. This is the way of the Lord. The cost of this self-giving love is also counted in being willing to forgive, as this opens the door to new possibilities rather than simply rehearsing old grudges.

**Pray:** Pray for reconciliation with someone who is at odds with you.

**Act:** Do something for another that you have been putting off.

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday 7th September**

#### ***First Reading***

*Wisdom of Solomon 9: 13-18*

#### ***Responsorial Psalm***

*Psalm 90: 3-6, 12-14 & 17*

#### ***Second Reading***

*Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

#### ***Gospel***

*Luke 14: 25-33*



*"And When The King Wages War Against Another King..."*

### **Monday 8th September**

*Micah 5: 1-4 / Romans 8: 28-30*

*Psalm 13: 6*

*Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23*

#### ***Feast of The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary***

### **Tuesday 9th September**

*Colossians 2: 6-15*

*Psalm 145: 1-2, 8-11*

*Luke 6: 12-19*

***St. Peter Claver, priest***

### **Wednesday 10th September**

*Colossians 3: 1-11*

*Psalm 145: 2-3, 10-13*

*Luke 6: 20-26*

### **Thursday 11th September**

*Colossians 3: 12-17*

*Psalm 150: 1-6*

*Luke 6: 27-38*

### **Friday 12th September**

*1 Timothy 1: 1-2, 12-14*

*Psalm 16: 1-2 & 5, 7-8, 11*

*Luke 6: 39-42*

#### ***The Most Holy Name of Mary***

### **Saturday 13th September**

*1 Timothy 1: 15-17*

*Psalm 113: 1-7*

*Luke 6: 43-49*

***St. John Chrysostom, bishop & doctor***

## **WHAT THE 1ST READING SAYS TO ME**

The Book of Wisdom addresses Jews living in Egypt (1st century B.C.). As a minority group, they were exposed to the Greek culture and philosophy of their time. Greek wisdom, which survives even in modern universities, endangered the Biblical wisdom Jews were supposed to follow.

The author is convinced that we need wisdom and prudence, and as such this reading refers to today's Gospel. But he also stresses that real wisdom is a gift of God. It cannot be obtained by professional philosophers. We must beg God to give it. Do we pray for guidance when we are about to make an important decision? "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart".

## **WHAT THE 2ND READING SAYS TO ME**

In this letter, Paul, though himself in jail, intercedes for a runaway slave. Was this slave, Onesimus, a young teenager? Paul calls him "my child." Apparently, he had stolen something from his master. In any case, existence would be hard for this young man; if caught, he would receive the most severe punishment. Under the circumstances, in Paul's opinion, it was best to send him back.

At the same time, Paul wrote this letter in which he pleads that Philemon, the master, will take him back, "no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord." God's word in this tradition could be that we should practice clemency!

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

The first part of this passage consists of Jesus' statement on the demands of discipleship. It is followed by two parables that relate to these demands. "Hating his father and mother" is a Semitic way of saying "giving his father and mother second place in his affection"; Matthew's version has: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me...." Jesus requires detachment from family ties and the willingness to carry a cross.

If our Lord suggests giving up marriage and possessions, he does so for the reason of following him. Celibacy is not a value in itself, neither is it the same as bachelorhood! Hence, we speak of "celibacy for the kingdom of God." Those who feel called should calculate their resources, as the parables of the tower-builder and the king going to war indicate.

## **Saint of the Day - September 9, 2025**

### ***Saint Peter Claver's Story***

A native of Spain, young Jesuit Saint Peter Claver left his homeland forever in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of the New World. He sailed into Cartagena, a rich port city washed by the Caribbean. He was ordained there in 1615.

By this time the slave trade had been established in the Americas for nearly 100 years, and Cartagena was a chief center for it. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Although the practice of slave-trading was condemned by Pope Paul III and later labeled "supreme villainy" by Pope Pius IX, it continued to flourish.

Saint Peter Claver's predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval, had devoted himself to the service of the slaves for 40 years before Claver arrived to continue his work, declaring himself "the slave of the Negroes forever."

As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and exhausted passengers. After the slaves were herded out of the ship like chained animals and shut up in nearby yards to be gazed at by the crowds, Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons, and tobacco. With the help of interpreters he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's love. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

Saint Peter Claver's apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, indeed, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions, during which he avoided, when possible, the hospitality of the planters and owners and lodged in the slave quarters instead.

After four years of sickness, which forced the saint to remain inactive and largely neglected, Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. The city magistrates, who had previously frowned at his solicitude for the black outcasts, ordered that he should be buried at public expense and with great pomp.





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