



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 ♦ 461-1127
"Stay Awake!"

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT- 3rd DECEMBER, 2023 - 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.

The season of Advent has four weeks. During this time the Christian people recall in joyful expectation the two comings of Jesus Christ into the world. **Do you** have your Advent candles? Purchase your Advent candles at the Book Shop in the Pastoral Centre. A pack of four candles is \$25.00 dollars.

ADVENT BIBLE SESSION: Two days of Biblical Animation looking at and understanding modern day situations in relation to the historical and geographical facts. **December 5th and 6th** at Holy Family Pastoral Centre 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Looking forward to your presence!

The 2024 Bible Diaries are here! Get your Bible Diary early. Only 28 diaries are available for sale at a cost of **\$80.00**.

S. J. A. CAROL SERVICE 2023

The Administration, Staff and Students of St. Joseph's Academy invite you to our Annual Carol Service on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at Holy Family Cathedral. Please be seated by 4:50 pm.

Part One: *All Roads Lead To Bethlehem Tonight*

Part Two: *Christmas Vibes*
No Admission fee but a collection will be taken up towards our Christmas Food Hampers for the needy.

Please note that the Christmas Novena will begin on December 16th to 24th in the Cathedral at 5:00 am and Villa at 5:30 am.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, Youth and Catechetics present a **Can Concert** on Sunday, December 17, 2023. This outreach activity will feature the talents of our Catholic Youth as we celebrate the Advent season and await in joyful hope for the Christmas Season.

Admission to the Can Concert is one or more non-perishable items. The items collected at this concert will assist with making food hampers to be distributed to families.

We solicit your support in this venture. Updates on this Can Concert will be given in subsequent notices.

Masses for the Christmas and New Year.

Saturday 23rd December, 2023 - 6 p.m.
Sunday 24th December, 2023 - 7 a.m and 9 a.m

No other Masses on Sunday 24th due to time.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Mass - 11 p.m.

Christmas Day 9 a.m. (HFC) - Other stations - 11 a.m.

Saturday 30th December, 2023 - 6 p.m.
Sunday 31st December, 2023 - Feast of the Holy Family - 9 a.m. (One Mass for the Parish)

Sunday 31st December, 2023 (Old Year's Mass) 11 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass - HFC 9 a.m.
Other Stations 11 a.m.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 26th November, 2023

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$2,252.10	\$ 718.50
Sunday 7:00 am	\$2,045.30	\$ 551.25
9:00 am	\$2,977.71	\$ 580.31
Potters	\$ 435.00	\$ 172.75
Parham	\$ 256.00	\$ 103.72
Villa	\$ 623.34	\$ 229.49
Donovans	\$ 155.00	\$ 107.75
Diocesan Schools	\$ 155.00	

Thank you for your generosity



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.

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY PRE – CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Drawing 8th December, 2023

Each book is \$95.00 plus 2 free tickets
Tickets are \$5.00 each

Tickets are available from teachers, students and at the school's office.

Prizes:

1st Prize: One 82" LG UHD 4K Smart Television Ai ThinQ

2nd Prize: One Sony PlayStation 5 Spiderman Limited Edition. Bundle Console and Controller with Spiderman 2 and FIFA 23 Games.

3rd Prize: One Oculus Virtual Reality Google.

SALE! SALE! SALE@ the Book Shop
In the Pastoral Centre

20% OFF for the Christmas Season on selected items

Green Bibles

Red Bibles

Seeds of Sacrifice Book with Journal

Prayers of Power

Plaques, medals, pins and lots more ...

The Dominican/Antiguan connection would like to thank all those who came out and supported the Independence celebrations.

The Catholic Men's Fellowship will be hosting an "Advent Renewal & Games Night" on Friday 15th December at 7pm at the Pastoral Centre. The CMF invites all adult men and young men to attend this interactive session. For further information contact Ashworth at 782 -2438 or Robin at 770-4292.

Lectio Divina

Read: The prophet Isaiah begs God the Father to establish his kingdom on earth, trusting that God will care for his people. Paul reminds the Corinthians that their faith has prepared them for Jesus' return and will keep them steadfast until that day. Jesus cautions his disciples to be ready to greet the Lord when he comes again.

Reflect: On the first Sunday of Advent, the priest began his homily by asking the assembly a question: If you knew that today would be the last day of your life, what would you do differently? My plans for the day were simple. I went to Mass and spent the rest of the day writing messages in my Christmas cards. If it had been the last day of my life, I can't think of a better way to spend it than praying and telling those dear to me how much I love them. As we begin the season of Advent, reflect on what you would change about your life if you knew that Jesus was coming back soon. Since we don't know the day of his coming, start living as if the day is today.

Pray: Lord, help me to stay awake to your presence in my life.

Act: Each night, reflect on how you encountered God that day.

Do You Have A Sick or Shut-In listed below? We need to update our Sick and Shut-In Listing with Address, Telephone and Contact person details. Please call the Pastoral Centre and give us that information.

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.** Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. 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 Edmund-Joseph, Rose Margetson, Niethia Dyer, Patrick Skeritt, Aaron Ryner.

The Organizers of the Paediatric Health Fair which was held on Saturday, November 25, 2023 under the auspices of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Catechetics and Youth acknowledges the tremendous contribution of the following who were instrumental in the successful execution of the fair: Dr. Andrea Vaugahans, Staff and Students of the American University of Antigua (AUA), Ms. Sharon Brusch, Dr. Arlene Sorhaindo, Dr. Alafea Stevens, Dr. Salem Zreibi, Dr. Jillia Bird, Dr. Linda Lovell-Roberts, Dr. Edmond Mansoor, Dr. Maxwell Francis, Dr. Acheabea Dyer, Dr. Rasheda Williams, Dr. Leroy Marsh, the Youth to Youth Group of Holy Family Cathedral and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishes, priests, the parents and children who participated in the fair. May God bless you all.

This Sunday's Readings
3rd December, 2023

**First Reading: Isaiah 63: 16,17,19;
64: 2-7**

**Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us
turn to you; let us see your face and
we shall be saved..**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gospel: Matthew 13: 33-37

Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 4th Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalm 122: 1-9

Matthew 8: 5-11

St. John of Damascus, priest

Tuesday 5th Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday 6th Isaiah 25: 6-10

Psalm 23: 1-6

Matthew 15: 29-37

St. Nicholas, bishop

Thursday 7th Isaiah 26: 1-6

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

Matthew 7: 21,24-27

St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor

Friday 8th Genesis 3: 9-15, 20

Psalm 98: 1-4

Ephesians 1: 3-5, 11-12

Luke 1: 26-38

Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 9th Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26

Psalm 147: 1-6

Matthew 9: 35— 10: 1,5-8

***"Be alert and watch, for
you don't know when the
time will come."***



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

This is a prayer in time of distress. God's people who have returned from exile in Babylon are experiencing frustration. The reconstruction has not worked as they had hoped. They attribute this to their own sins. May God intervene and help! The Responsorial Psalm is a similar prayer. The "shepherd of Israel" is God, leader of his chosen people, us. "The man of your right hand" is the king, representing the people, all of us. Our planet, our community, our family, and we ourselves—all need God to come and save us from the mess we have made of life so often! Advent, the four weeks of preparation for Christmas, means "coming". May God come in his Messiah, Anointed One, Jesus Christ! But in order to receive him, we must open up. "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved".

**WHAT THE SECOND READING
SAYS TO ME**

Paul sees the community of Corinth as waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He thanks God for the favors bestowed on them in Christ Jesus, the gift of speech and knowledge. Later in the Letter, he will tell them to use these gifts well! Waiting and persevering to the end requires the strength of God, but they will succeed. "God is faithful." God's word to you could be: You are waiting for the final revelation of Christ. God has bestowed gifts on you. How are you using them? Persevering as a real Christian is not easy. Pray for it! God is faithful.

**WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO
ME**

The meaning of this parable is clear. Our Lord is "abroad". He ascended to heaven, but he will come back. Are we doing our job? Indeed, we are the "now" generation. The young want to enjoy everything they can right now. They are like high school drop-outs who lack the energy to work first so as to

enjoy a more beautiful life later! Grown-ups may get drowsy, drift away from God, as can happen to partners in marriage. God said to the Church of Ephesus. "I hold this against you, you have lost the love you had at first". "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

BY DANIEL P. HORAN

Another liturgical year is ending this week. On Sunday, we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and, with it, a new church year. This month long liturgical season tends to sneak up on many of us. It appears quickly, almost suddenly, after Thanksgiving and then passes by rapidly as days in the global north grow shorter, academic semesters wrap up, the shopping season accelerates and holiday travel schedules and seasonal stress push even the calmest people to a breaking point. Given all of this, it can be difficult to acknowledge the presence of Advent, let alone take any time to reflect on its meaning and significance. It is for this reason that I thought it worthwhile to pause and reflect on the meaning of this season just days ahead of its start.

It will come as no surprise to regular readers of my column that one of my go-to wisdom figures is the late Trappist monk, social critic, mystic and author, Fr. Thomas Merton. He wrote two essays in the 1960s that I find myself returning to almost annually to renew my understanding of and appreciation for Advent. Merton's 1963 article, "Advent: Hope or Delusion," which was later published in the book *Seasons of Celebration*, challenges Christians to think more deeply about what it is we are celebrating when we celebrate Advent and then Christmas. Do we embrace authentic Christian hope or do we reduce this liturgical time to a celebration of some kind of superficial and fleeting feeling of optimism? The latter, which is what many Christians think the season is about, can too easily be experienced as a form of escapism from the realities of life and history. On the contrary, as Merton writes: "In Advent we celebrate the coming and indeed the *presence* of Christ in our world."



Restaurant and fresh pita bread
Popeshead street
562 6885 - 562 4136

Signs AND Impressions

The QUICK Printing Specialist
(268)562-4839 EXT#81

bss
business systems & supplies
Office Equipment & Supplies

• Printers
• Copiers
• Furniture
(268)562-4839

FOOD BROKERAGE SERVICES LTD.

Visit any of our three locations
SOUTH STREET: 480-2000
FRIARS HILL ROAD: 480-2017
For the best, shop at F.B.S

Call #726-3412



"Download our App today from the Apple or Google Play Store for easy and convenient ordering.
Eat and Earn Loyalty points via our App".

EXOTIC ANTIGUA

CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND FASHION
THIS DECEMBER WITH US FROM 1st DECEMBER SPEND
OVER \$100 EC AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN \$100 GIFT
VOUCHER DRAWN EVERYDAY UNTIL
THE 17th OF DECEMBER
OPEN SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER FROM 9-5

REDCLIFFE QUAY TEL: 562-1288.

Harney
Motors Ltd.



462-1062

Ace
Enterprises Ltd.



462-1289

TOWNHOUSE
MEGA STORE

SPACE AVAILABLE

IT IS CHRISTMAS AT THE LAND SHOP
NEW ARRIVALS/DISCOUNTS
Gift Ideas/Certificates and lots more
visit us in #108 Heritage Quay
TEL: 462-0746

Lolita's Dream Home

CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD
Offering Fresh Flowers—For All Occasions
Open Monday to Saturday—9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tel: 460-4663

FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS AND GROUPS
CONTACT
CARIB WORLD TRAVEL
Tel: 480-2999 Ext 2981

BELLE VUE HEIGHTS

SERVICE STATION
P O Box 420, All Saints Road
Tel: 463-3938



SPACE AVAILABLE

SHOUL'S TOYS
GIFTS &
HOUSEWARES

ANTIGUA'S FAMILY
STORE
NEWGATES STREET

Opening Hours -
Mon to Sat 8:30am to 5:00pm

SPACE AVAILABLE

JOHN F. SHOUL

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS
& ACCESSORIES

"CLOTHING FOR THE ENTIRE
FAMILY"

Mon to Sat 8:30am - 5:00pm

SHOUL'S CHIEF STORE

Market & St. Mary's Streets

1-268-462-1139/1140

WE KEEP GETTING
BETTER EVERYDAY