



# 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 ♦ 461-1127

*"All Mankind shall see the Salvation of God"*

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT- 10th DECEMBER, 2023 - B**

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**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 3rd December, 2023

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$1,579.25	\$ 799.01
Sunday		
7:00 am	\$2,059.63	\$ 633.72
9:00 am	\$1,769.02	\$ 440.00
Potters	\$ 730.04	\$ 305.25
Parham	\$1,085.34	\$ 307.67
Villa	\$ 676.55	\$ 151.40
Donovans	\$ 399.35	\$ 169.00
Diocesan Schools	\$ 85.00	

**Thank you for your generosity**

**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.

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**The 2024 Bible Diaries are here!**  
Get your Bible Diary early. Only 22  
diaries are available for sale at a cost  
o f \$ 8 0 . 0 0 .  
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**All members of the Liturgy  
Committee** are kindly asked to  
attend a meeting on Tuesday 12th  
December, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the  
Pastoral Centre. This meeting is to  
discuss Christmas and New Years  
Masses.

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**All members of the Parish Council**  
are kindly asked to attend a meeting  
on Tuesday 12th December, 2023 at  
6:00pm in Room 2 in the Pastoral  
Centre.

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The Organizers of the Paediatric Health  
Fair - held on Saturday, November 25,  
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 OLPH parishes, priests, the parents  
and children who participated in the  
fair. May God bless you all.

**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.

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**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.

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**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.



## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 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:** Isaiah prophesies to the people of Israel that God will send a messenger who will announce their return from exile. God will gently lead his people home. The Second Letter of Peter reminds us that God does not work on our schedule. The day of the Lord will come when God wishes. We gave only to prepare in hope and peace. John the Baptist makes his appearance in the Gospel, calling the people to repent of their sins to be ready for the one who is to come.

**Reflect:** Being a messenger can be a difficult task. It's easy to share good news and tell people what they want to hear. But being the bearer of bad tidings is far less pleasant. It can even be dangerous. In some ancient societies, messengers who brought bad news were killed! Still, we are called to follow the example of John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord by calling people to conversion through a personal encounter with Jesus. Even more, we need to show the way by forgiving others, repenting of our sins and living a simple life.

**Pray:** Lord, come quickly. Do not delay!

**Act::** Offer comfort and assistance to someone facing difficulties.

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## Second Sunday of Advent Prayer: Grace

As we continue down the Advent path on Advent II, we are constantly reminded of Christ's first coming while we watch and wait for his second coming. The prayer for the second Sunday of Advent puts it this way:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The second Sunday in Advent (Advent II) continues on the path started in the first week by looking forward to Christ's first and second coming. Advent II focuses on John the Baptist, the Gentiles being included in God's family, Christ's coming in judgment and peace, and the church's hopeful expectation of the completion of his promises.

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**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 Edmun-Joseph, Rose Margetson, Niethia Dyier, Patrick Skerritt, Aaron Ryner, Anothy

**This Sunday's Readings**  
**10th December, 2023**

**First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8 -14**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8**

**Readings for Monday to Saturday**

**Monday 11th Isaiah 35: 1-10**

**Psalm 85: 9-14**

**Luke 5: 17-26**

*St. Damasus I, pope*

**Tuesday 12th Zechariah 2: 14-17**

**Judith 13: 18,19**

**Luke 1: 26-38**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**Wednesday 13th Isaiah 40: 25-31**

**Psalm 103: 1-4, 8,10**

**Matthew 11: 28-30**

*St. Lucy, virgin & martyr*

**Thursday 14th Isaiah 41: 13-20**

**Psalm 145: 1,9, 10-13**

**Matthew 11: 11-15**

*St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor*

**Friday 15th Isaiah 48: 17-19**

**Psalm 1: 1-4, 6**

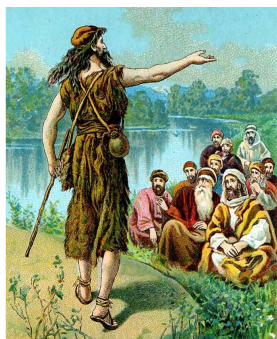
**Matthew 11: 16-19**

**Saturday 16th Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11**

**Psalm 80: 2,3,15,16,18,19**

**Matthew 17: 9,10-13**

***“After me comes one who is more powerful than I am: I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”***



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

In beautiful poetic language, the prophet tells the exiles in Babylon who were desperately waiting for freedom. Have hope! God will step in and lead you out of this hopeless situation back home! Notice God's tender love: "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock." What do we learn as God's word from this ancient piece of poetry? It could be : God cares! Your guilt is expiated. "Here comes with power the Lord God." Whatever your problems in life may be, you can have a happy Christmas and celebrate "Emmanuel—God with us." Make the Responsorial Psalm your prayer of today: "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."

**WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME**

The author uses the familiar imagery of the Bible (a roar, fire, flames a meltdown) to describe the awesome event of Christ's coming in judgment. Remember, God's timetable is not ours. God can call you at any moment, and this should be a motivation to preserve holiness. While waiting, "be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him (God), at peace."

**WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME**

Mark announces his Gospel as the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of God. But before he actually tells us about Jesus Christ and his good news, he introduces John the Baptist as our Lord's forerunner. Mark quotes Isaiah of the First Reading. Just as in ancient times messengers went ahead of the king to announce his coming to town, so John announced the coming of the Messiah, God's anointed vicegerent on earth, Jesus Christ. The mission of Jesus was prepared for by John. His mission was the same as that of Jesus, though he stressed a judgment whereas Jesus emphasized salvation. Notice the two aspects of John's message: (1) repentance, baptism,

f forgiveness, and (2) the coming of the more powerful, who will baptize the people in the Holy Spirit (i.e. immerse them in ... John thought of baptism by immersion !). If we are waiting for "salvation," a way out of a dim and unexciting existence, we should pay attention to these two aspects and apply them to ourselves.

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**KNOW YOUR CHURCH**

By Courtney Mares

Rome Newsroom, Dec 6, 2023 / 12:00 pm

The new head of the Vatican's doctrine office gave a homily in the suburbs of Rome this week in which he encouraged Catholics not to be like "hard stones" unwilling to change but to be like clay, ready to be transformed by the Lord.

Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez the prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, took possession of his titular church on Dec. 3 on the northern outskirts of Rome, the parish church of Sts. Urban and Lawrence at Prima Porta. In his homily, the Argentine cardinal, known as Pope Francis' longtime personal theologian and ghostwriter, reflected on the prophet Isaiah's words, "O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands," on the first Sunday of Advent. "When these words are spoken with the heart, it means that we let ourselves be shaped by the Lord, that we let ourselves be led by him, that we let ourselves be transformed by his grace," Fernández said. "There are people who don't let themselves be transformed, and they say: 'I'm like this, I'm fine like this, what need do I have to change anything?' Others say: 'I don't commit serious sins, I'm not vicious like others, what do I need to change?' These people are not clay, they are hard stones that will not even be touched by the Holy Spirit. And then they die despite being alive because they no longer grow and improve, much less offer something new to the Lord." Fernández noted that the Buddhists invite us to be adaptable and able to take many shapes, like water, and that the Chinese Daoist philosopher Laozi said that we must be "like the flexible branches of trees."





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**Exotic Antigua December Christmas Schedule**

17h Opening	9am to 5p, Annual Extravaganza			
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
9am to 6pm	9am to 6 pm	9am to 6pm	9am to 7pm	9am to 7pm
23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th
OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN
9am to 7pm	9am to 7pm		9am to 5pm	9am to 5pm
28th	29th	30th	31st	1st
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED
9am to 5pm	9am to 6 pm	9am to 6pm	10am to 4pm	

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BETTER EVERYDAY**