



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

"Jesus Christ Will Reign Forever"

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT- 24th 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION 17th December, 2023

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$1,729.04	\$ 673.09
Sunday		
7:00 am	\$2,088.10	\$ 724.00
9:00 am	\$1,443.88	\$ 733.09
Potters	\$ 567.34	\$ 161.50
Parham	\$ 306.75	\$ 105.34
Villa	\$ 771.80	\$ 131.80
Donovans	\$ 140.00	\$ 80.00
Diocesan Schools	\$ 265.00	

Thank you for your generosity

Get your Bible Diary early. Only 20 diaries are available for sale at a cost of \$80.00.

On the Feast of Holy Innocents (Thursday 28th December) there will be the blessing of toys at 5:00 pm with refreshments after. Please bring the children and their toys.

MINISTRY FAIR: After Mass on the Feast of The Holy Family there will be a Ministry Fair where all the Ministries in the Church will be inviting new persons to join the various groups. All of us by the virtue of our Baptism are invited to share in the life of the Parish. We look forward to new people bringing new life to the groups.

BRING AND SHARE AGAPE: Parishioners are invited to participate in the bring and share fellowship after Mass on Feast of the Holy Family. Bring your snack/drink and place on the Agape Table and let's fellowship after Mass. This is a great opportunity as we end 2023 on our Feast Day that we renew friendship, meet new people, and register for a ministry in your community.

CATHOLIC RADIO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Businesses and individuals are invited to send Christmas and New Year's greetings to valued customers and friends for a small contribution of \$250.00. Your Advert will run from December 20th to January 12th. Please send your audio to catholicradio89.7@gmail.com. Your support will certainly help to keep Catholic Radio afloat! We at Catholic Radio take this opportunity to thank the few businesses who have committed to helping Catholic Radio pay its bills.

Parishioners are reminded that there will be no Masses in the morning at Villa, Donovans, Parham, and Potters on Sunday December 24th. Masses will be only at the Cathedral 6:00 pm, 7:00 am and 9:00 am. Then Christmas Eve Masses at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm at the Cathedral. Please take note.

Masses for the Christmas and New Year.

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

No other Masses on Sunday 24th due to time.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Masses - 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

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

Saturday 30th December, 2023 - 6 pm.

Sunday 31st December, 2023 - Feast of the Holy Family - 9 am. (One Mass for the Parish) Sunday 31st December, 2023 (Old Year's Mass) 11 pm.

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

The organizers of the Can Concert - The Star of the Show - express sincere appreciation to all who made this outreach activity memorable. Through your support we were able to distribute over twenty bags to families in our community. Special mention to all the children, youth, parents and catechists who shared their talents and assisted with this production to make it a memorable event. Highlights from the concert can be viewed on our diocesan website diocesesjb.org. We wish you a blessed and holy Christmas season.



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

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The Chancery Office will be closed until January 2nd, 2024.

NOVENA PRAYER (at the end of the intercessions) Almighty eternal God, as we contemplate the birth of your Son according to the flesh, may the word grant us His love in spite of our sins. Listen to us. **PAUSE—here to call to mind our own intention for this Novena...** He humbled himself to become flesh from the Virgin Mary and to dwell among us, and now lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Lectio Divina

Read: In the first reading, God promises David that he will establish his kingdom and his royal line forever. This promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, a birth announced by the angel Gabriel in today's Gospel. In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that Jesus' birth is part of God's plan for our salvation and the cause of our joy.

Reflect: Our time of preparation and anticipation is almost over. The Lord is near. For what are we waiting? David waits for confirmation that his royal line would be secure and long lasting. Many of the people of Mary's time waited for a military leader who would overthrow the Roman occupation and bring a return to Israel's glory days. We may be waiting for our family celebrations and the present exchange. But the true gift, the gift of inestimable value, is the gift of eternal life that Christ brings to those who believe in him. Though our Advent is almost over, our wait continues. We will continue to wait, to prepare and to long for the day when our earthly journey will be completed and we will see God face to face.

Pray: Lord, make us ready to receive you. **Act:** Take a moment of silence in the midst of the bustle to give thanks to God.

The 2024 Calendar are here! The cost is \$20.00. They can be purchased from Mr. Gilbert Laudat, Rosie Aska at Villa, Margaret Louisor at Donovans, Jennifer Warrington at Ssaturday night and Daisybelle Riley at Potters.

The season of CHRISTMAS begins on December 25th and concludes with the feast of Christ's Baptism. It celebrates the extraordinary and joyful event when the Son of God was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary and dwelt among us, becoming like us in all things except sin. Christmas is the story of God's humility, of Christ's descent among us, so that on Easter day we could ascend with him to his heavenly kingdom. Several other feasts during the Christmas season relate to the celebration of Christ's birth. These are the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. In the Philippines the national feast of Sto. Nino is celebrated on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. It extends in some special way the joy of Christmas.

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, 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,

This Sunday's Readings
24th December, 2023

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12,14-16

Responsorial Psalm: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 25th Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98: 1-6

John 1: 1-18

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday 26th Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

Psalm 31: 3,4,6,8,16,17

Matthew 10: 17-22

Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday 27th 1 John 1: 1-4

Psalm 97: 1,2,5,6,11,12

John 20: 1, 2-8

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday 28th 1 John 1: 5— 2:2

Psalm 124: 2-5, 7,8

Matthew 2: 13-18

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday 29th 1 John 2: 3-11

Psalm 96: 1-3, 5,6

Luke 2: 22-35

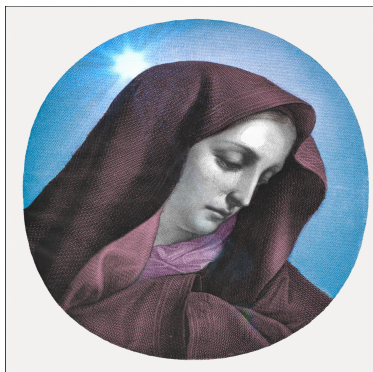
St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

Saturday 30th 1 John 2: 12-17

Psalm 96: 7-10

Luke 2: 36-40

***“ Rejoice, full of grace,
the Lord is with you!”***



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

David, full of goodwill, wants to build a temple for God. But instead of David building a temple (house) for God, God will build a “house” an everlasting dynasty, for David: “Your house ... shall endure forever.” In today’s Gospel, Luke see this promise ultimately fulfilled in the universal kingship of the Lord Jesus. With this in mind, we should make the Responsorial Psalm our prayer of praise and thanksgiving for what God gave us in Jesus Christ.

**WHAT THE SECOND READING
SAYS TO ME**

Only with the coming of Jesus Christ do we attain the right understanding of Israel’s expectations. The mystery, hidden for many ages, is now revealed and made known to all the Gentiles. Salvation, coming to us through Jesus Christ, is for all. We should pray that all may see the real light of Christmas.

**WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO
ME**

Here we concentrate on what Luke wants to teach us concerning this child about to be born. First, he wants our affirmation in faith that Jesus’ origin is a transcendental one, that he is born from God. Secondly, Luke brings out what role this child is to play in Salvation History. He finds the clue for understanding this in the Old Testament. God had promised David that his dynasty (throne) would stand firm forever. Hence, the expectation that a descendant of David once again would rule the house of Jacob. Jacob, the Hebrew patriarch, stands for God’s people), and that his reign would have no end. Luke sees this political expectation, which was very much alive in his day, fulfilled on a higher level in Jesus Christ, who will reign over God’s people forever. “The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.” Let us admire God’s way every year again during Advent and Christmas time, and accept Jesus Christ as Luke wants us to do.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

By Jonathan Liedl

Rome Newsroom, Dec 18, 2023 / 15:22 pm

The Vatican has issued new guidance on the topic of blessings of same-sex attracted people, stating that Catholic priests can bless same-sex couples as an expression of pastoral closeness without condoning their sexual relations. The ruling, which also applies to Catholics civilly remarried without having received an annulment as well as to couples in other “irregular situations,” underscored that such blessings cannot be offered in a way that would cause any confusion about the nature of marriage, which the document affirms is the only “context that sexual relations find their natural, proper, and fully human meaning.” “The Church’s doctrine on this point remains firm,” the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) said in its Dec. 18 declaration. The declaration emphasizes that blessings may only be given “spontaneously” and not in the context of a formal liturgical rite. The guidance is the latest — and most authoritative — intervention by the Vatican on an issue that has embroiled the universal Church in recent years.

In September 2022, the bishops of the Flemish-speaking part of Belgium published a blessing ceremony for same-sex couples in their dioceses. The move appeared to be in stark contrast to the DDF’s February 2021 affirmation that the Church did not have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex. This past March, the controversial German Synodal Way approved a resolution to establish a formal liturgical blessing of same-sex unions as well as divorced and remarried Catholics. In August, the archbishop of Berlin said that he would not discipline priests who provided such blessings and published a roster of clergy willing to offer them. A group of cardinals wrote to the pope in July requesting clarification on the Church’s stance on same-sex blessings, among other issues. Today’s DDF guidance builds upon many of the themes Pope Francis laid out in his response to the cardinals, which was published by the Vatican in October.



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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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