



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

"Call and Response"

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 14th JANUARY, 2024 - 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 7th January, 2024

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$1,941.95	\$ 896.84
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,710.15	\$ 250.10
9:00 am	\$2,596.75	\$ 719.42
Potters	\$ 308.69	\$ 91.16
Parham	\$ 337.00	\$ 108.35
Villa	\$ 377.30	\$ 133.00
Donovans	\$ 341.00	\$ 77.65
Diocesan Schools	\$ 115.00	

Thank you for your generosity

PASTORAL LETTER - From the Desk of Bishop of St. John's Basseterre.

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It has become necessary for the Bishop's Office to clarify the contents of a Vatican document issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith entitled "Fiducia Supplicans". This document was written to elaborate on the meaning of Pastoral Blessings in their various contexts.

In essence the document differentiates between a Ritual, Liturgical or Sacramental Blessing and a non-liturgical general blessing. In a Ritual or Sacramental Blessing, what is blessed must correspond with God's designs written in creation and fully revealed by Christ (as in the Scriptures). A non-liturgical or non Ritual blessing is simply a petition for God's help to live a better life more in keeping with the will of God. This does not require a 'prior perfection' in one's state of life.

The conclusion of the document's reflection is that members of the LGBTQ community or any couple living in an irregular union may seek an ordinary blessing from a member of the clergy as an individual only, not as a couple or as a relationship of any kind. The Church has not altered its moral doctrine in anyway and its teachings on sacramental marriage remains the same. Therefore homosexual and any other irregular unions remain illicit and cannot be blessed by the Church.

Anything said or seen contrary to this is false and ought not to be entertained by the Faithful.

Blessings,

Bishop Robert A. Llanos
Diocese of St John's Basseterre

Dated 4th January, 2024

Holy Family Cathedral Parish extends congratulations to Mr. Maurice Merchant for his accomplishments for services to Antigua & Barbuda, to be an Ordinary Officer of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order, O.B.E. We also extend heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Rudolph Sylvester Davis for his accomplishments for services to Youth and Community Development in Antigua & Barbuda, to be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order: M.B.E. These appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire were granted on the advice of His Majesty's Antigua & Barbuda Ministers.

5 WAYS TO CELEBRATE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD & BEYOND

1. **Enthroned a Bible in your home.** Give the Word of God a prime place of honor and reverence in your home.
2. **Commit to a Bible study, especially with a group.** (Join the next 4 weeks Lenten Bible Study Session with Fr. Jean Paul in February)
3. **Begin reading the daily Mass readings.** (purchase your copy of your Diocesan Calendar)
4. **Commit to learning *lectio divina*.** *Lectio divina* literally means "divine reading." This can be done in your respective groups or start a group
5. **Commit to a holy hour, at least once each week** (sit quietly in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in prayer)

If you commit to one or more of these habits, your devotion to the Word of God will certainly grow. This can become weekly or even daily habits. Let's hope that by forming these devotional habits the Word of God "may speed ahead and be honored" (2 Thessalonians in our homes, our communities and our world.



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.

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 Skeritt, Aaron Ryner.

Lectio Divina

READ: John the Baptist introduced Jesus to two of his disciples. He pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God. The two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus asked the two disciples what were they seeking. These disciples were seeking where Jesus abides. Jesus invited them to come and see where he abides. These disciples spent time with Jesus. Andrew was one of the two. Andrew introduced Simon Peter to Jesus.

Jesus gave Simon Peter a new name - Cephas, which means Rock.

REFLECT: Two of Jesus early disciples were originally the disciples of John the Baptist. John the Baptist, in the Gospel of John, is a witness. He bears witness to Jesus by encouraging his disciples to enter into a loving relationship with Jesus. To enter with this kind of relationship with the Lord is a process. We need to be introduced and, once introduced, we must engage in an ongoing search for the place where Jesus abides. We also need to spend time with the Lord to discover that the very place where he abides is where love is. Whenever we respond to this call of entering into loving relationship with God and with one another, we are spending time with Jesus and we are at the very place where Jesus abides.

PRAY: Let us pray that we may truly enter into a loving relationship with God and with one another.

ACT: Let us be more loving. Let us concretize our goodwill by being kinder in words and actions.

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

14 more Bible diaries are still available for sale at the Book Store in the Pastoral Centre. The cost is **\$80.00**.

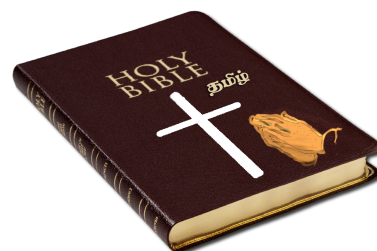
The next Marriage Preparation Classes will begin on February 26th, 2024. Interested couples can collect a registration form at their Parish Office (Pastoral Centre).

Save the date!

COLOURS OF LOVE - will take place on Friday, February 9th 2024. Indies Greens is the place to be. Tickets cost EC \$150.00 per person. It is **ALL INCLUSIVE**—Food, Drinks and Music. **Advanced Tickets Only!** We thank you for your usual support and patronage!

CATECHETICAL NOTICE

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD will be celebrated on Sunday 21st January. Remember to prepare that special place for your Bible Enthronement.



This Sunday's Readings

14th January, 2024

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

Responsorial Psalm: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1: 35-42

Readings for Monday to Saturday

Monday 15th 1 Samuel 15: 16 – 23

Psalm 50: 8,9,16,17,21,23

Mark 2: 18-22

Tuesday 16th 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Psalm 89: 20,21,22, 27,28

Mark 2: 23-28

Wednesday 17th 1 Samuel 17: 32,33,37, 40-51

Psalm 144: 1-2, 9-10

Mark 3: 1-6

St. Anthony, abbot

Thursday 18th 1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19:1-7

Psalm 56: 2-3, 9-13

Mark 3: 7-12

Friday 19th 1 Samuel 24: 3-21

Psalm 57: 2-4, 6, 11

Mark 3: 13-19

Saturday 20th 2 Samuel 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27

Psalm 80: 2-3, 5-7

Mark 3: 20-21

Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Fabian, pope & martyr

St. Sebastian, martyr

WHAT THE FIRST READING SAYS TO ME.

Samuel is one of the great prophets of the Hebrews. It is he who anointed David as king of Israel. By setting down this beautiful tradition, the author relates Samuel's work and life directly to a call of almighty God. God's word is clear: All of us must be faithful to our call in life, whether it is in married life or in celibacy for the sake of God's kingdom.

WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME

Notice that in Paul's language "body" stands for the whole person. Paul gives two reasons for a morally responsible life. First, you are members of Christ; in other words, you belong to Christ by faith and baptism and should be faithful to your baptismal commitment. Secondly, you are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, the Spirit of God dwells in you. Immoral behavior desecrates the temple of God. These are two important reasons to be faithful to our call as Christians.

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

Today's Gospel tells about our Lord's own call/task in life. John designates him as "the Lamb of God," a sacrificial lamb offered to God in contemporary language, "the Man for Others," giving himself to God in his fellow humans. We also learn about the call of the first disciples. This call vocation is a growing thing. It may be initially just curiosity, a disposition to inquire. "What are you looking for?" "Rabbi, where are you staying?" "Come, and you will see." The first day the disciples stayed with Jesus. Their final decision to leave everything and follow the Lord came later.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

Pope Francis: Never forgot that Jesus is beside you in worst moments.

By [Courtney Mares](#)

Vatican City, Jan 3, 2024 / 09:10 am

In life's worst moments, never forget that Jesus is beside you, Pope Francis said Wednesday. In his first general audience of the new year, the pope set aside his prepared remarks to share a message from his heart: "Jesus never leaves us alone, never!" "In our worst moments, in the moments when we slip into sins, Jesus is beside us to help us lift ourselves up," Pope Francis said in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall on Jan. 3.

"We must not lose this certainty: Jesus is beside us to help us, to protect us, and also to lift us up after we sin."

The pope underlined that Jesus came "to forgive and to save" and that the Lord can "forgive everything" when one comes to him seeking mercy.

Pope Francis commented that there are many people in today's society "who absolve themselves" and "who think that they are 'fine'" without the Lord's forgiveness.

"But we are all sinners, all of us. And a little self-examination, a little interior look will do us good," he said.

The pope said that the act of self-examination prevents us from becoming "accustomed to the darkness and no longer knowing how to distinguish between good and evil."

"Let us regain this ability to ask for forgiveness. Each of us has so many things to ask forgiveness for: Each of us should reflect on this within ourselves and talk to Jesus about it today," Pope Francis said.

"We must all ask God for the grace to recognize ourselves as poor sinners, in need of conversion, keeping in our hearts the trust that no sin is too great for the infinite mercy of God the Father," he said.

"Come & See."





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