



# 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 ♦ 268 461-1127

*"He Speaks with Authority"*

**4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 28th 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 21st January, 2024

	1st	2nd
Cathedral Saturday	\$2,171.20	\$ 771.97
Sunday 7:00 am	\$2,059.77	\$ 282.39
9:00 am	\$2,684.83	\$ 854.67
Potters	\$ 160.00	\$ 337.00
Parham	\$ 554.00	\$ 46.00
Villa	\$ 502.76	\$ 126.00
Donovans	\$ 183.00	\$ 109.67
Diocesan Schools	\$ 70.00	

Thank you for your generosity

**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! Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Marriage Ministry Team or at the Pastoral Centre. We thank you for your usual support and patronage!

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### MASS FOR THE SICK AND ELDERLY

Saturday, February 10th, 2024, will be observed as "World Day of the Sick". It is a day that is specially set aside for invoking special blessings and healing of the sick and elderly through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. On that day you are asked to bring all your sick and elderly, loved ones to Mass at Holy Family Cathedral at 9.00am to experience God's healing power. Let us as a church community support and show our love and care for the sick and elderly. Those in need of transportation for sick relatives, should contact the Pastoral Centre at 560-2693 or 461-1127.

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The Lenten Season will soon commence, parishioners are encouraged to prepare themselves for a new Lenten Spiritual experience. There will be a series of Talks, Discussions, Stations of the Cross, and Penitential Service to culminate the season. Please participate.

### Attention All Groups

Please take note that plans for ALL events within the Parrish for the 2024 Calendar must be submitted in writing before February 16th, 2024. Even if the event is tentative, please indicate so that your date may be secured and clashes may be averted. Please send your information to [hfc.antigua@gmail.com](mailto:hfc.antigua@gmail.com). Please be guided accordingly.

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### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Holy Family Cathedral**  
**6:00 am**  
**7:00 pm**

**VILLA - 6:00pm**

**SCHOOLS - 8:00 am**

**St Joseph's Academy**  
**Christ the King High**  
**St. Johns Catholic Primary**

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### MARRIAGE MINISTRY

**The next Marriage Preparation Classes** will begin on February 24th, 2024. Interested couples can collect a registration form at the Pastoral Centre. They can call 560-2693 or 461-1127 for further details.



## 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.

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### 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:** Jesus was in Capernaum. He taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The people were astonished because Jesus taught them with authority. In that synagogue, there was a man with an evil spirit. The man with an evil spirit shouted while recognizing Jesus' identity as the Holy One of God. Jesus drove out the evil spirit. All the people were astonished.

**REFLECT:** The synagogue is a holy place. Sabbath is a holy time. This is a setting that invites us to deepen our relationship with God while heeding his words. The man with an evil spirit recognized Jesus as the holy One of God. This man was cognizant of Jesus' identity and authority. He was also aware of the power of Jesus' words that is eternal and divine. This is what the people failed to recognize. Astonished as they were, the people felt the authority of Jesus' words but would remain ignorant of Jesus' identity as the Holy One of God and as the Sovereign Lord. God can always perform astonishing miracles before our eyes but unless we recognize his Sovereign authority and lordship over us, our relationship with him will remain without depth.

**PRAY:** Let us pray that we may truly accept Jesus as our Sovereign Lord and that his words become truly authoritative over our life.

**ACT:** Let us deepen our knowledge of Jesus by taking time to study the Bible.

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

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**The 4th Antigua Scout Group** will host a Pre-Valentines Cake Sale on Sunday 11th February, 2024 immediately after the 7:00 am and 9:00 am Masses. A variety of cakes will be available, carrot, red velvet, cheese cake and lots more . Please support.

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**The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated soon.** Parents with children to be Baptized are asked to bring the child's birth certificate and the name of two confirmed Catholics to register at the Pastoral Centre.

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**Theme: He Speaks with Authority**  
Meeting people for the first time, hearing them in a public address, may prompt various reactions. We might state: "He/she did not impress me too much," that is, as a person he/she does not have much to offer. Our reaction could also be: "I was very much impressed, "that is, we see a person who stands for something, who is a real "somebody." This first impression, though perhaps mainly intuitive, is often decisive for our final opinion about a a person. Only for very good reasons do we revise it.

The Lord Jesus must have impressed people as a real "Somebody." He was so impressive that he has prompted people to agree with him, to give up everything and follow him, not just in his own time and country, but all over the globe and already for some 2,000 years.

## This Sunday's Readings

**28th January, 2024**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20**

**Responsorial Psalm:** If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28**

### Readings for Monday to Saturday

**Monday 29th 2 Samuel 15: 13-14, 30;**

**16: 5-13**

**Psalm 3: 2-7**

**Mark 5: 1-20**

**Tuesday 30th 2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3**

**Psalm 86: 1-6**

**Mark 5: 21-43**

**Wednesday 31st 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17**

**Psalm 32: 1-2, 5-7**

**Mark 6: 1-6**

*St. John Bosco, priest*

**Thursday 1st 1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12**

**1 Chr 29: 10-12**

**Mark 6: 7-13**

**Friday 2nd Malachi 3: 1-4**

**Hebrew 2: 14-18**

**Psalm 24: 7-10**

**Luke 2: 22-40**

*Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

**Saturday 3rd 1 Kings 3: 4-13**

**Psalm 119: 9-14**

**Mark 6: 30 -34**

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

*St. Blaise, bishop and martyr*

*St. Ansgar, bishop*

## **WHAT THE FIRST READING SAYS TO ME.**

Meditating on the great prophet Moses, the writer of Deuteronomy assures his readers that the prophetic office will be an ongoing process in Israel. "I [God] will raise up for them a prophet like you [Moses], ... and will put my words into his mouth." God will always guide his people through his "mouthpieces," the prophets.

Later, this text came to be regarded as teaching that God would send a final prophet. These are the terms in which Jesus saw himself, and more explicitly in which the early Church understood him. Just as Moses spoke with authority, so did the Lord Jesus. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts".

## **WHAT THE SECOND READING SAYS TO ME**

Notice that Paul does not condemn marriage or sex as something inferior. He recommends celibacy as a way of life for those who are called to it, and offers just one reason for it (freedom to be concerned with things of the Lord). There are many more. You should read this passage in its total context of chapter 7, and remember that the background from which Paul reasons is the patriarchal marriage pattern of his time and culture, which as such is not part of divine revelation.

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

"The people were astonished at his teaching.... a new teaching with authority." Jesus says: "I say to you..." (Mt 5:34). The exorcism accompanying Jesus' teaching in Mark's account underlines this authority. Where God's word breaks through in human history, announcing the coming of his kingdom of justice, love, and peace, their evil must cease! Listen often and with faith to the Lord Jesus and his teaching with authority, as we have it in Scripture. "Astonished" by his words, you will keep balance in a society where so much other "wisdom" is for sale.

## **KNOW YOUR CHURCH**

Having grown up in the 1950s, when sex was not an approved topic, I was in my late 20s before I knowingly had a conversation with someone who was gay. It was not until much later that someone explicitly told me that they were gay. Today in America, high schools have gay-straight alliances and you'd be hard-pressed to find a teenager who doesn't know someone who identifies as gay or queer.

Most of Africa's Catholic bishops grew up in a culture like the one I grew up in, when being gay meant being in the closet. And they still live there. In many African countries, homosexual activity is still a crime, as it was in the West for most of the 20th century.

It's not surprising that the African bishops have rejected Pope Francis' decision to green light the blessing of gay couples and others in relationships outside marriage. On Jan. 11, with the pope's approval, they issued a statement saying, "We do not consider it appropriate for Africa to bless homosexual unions or same-sex couples because, in our context, this would cause confusion and would be in direct contradiction to the cultural ethos of African communities."

Besides the moral question, the African hierarchy sees the push for LGBTQ rights as a form of neocolonialism. In addition, if the church begins welcoming gay people, they fear, they may lose followers to Pentecostal and evangelical churches, whose ministers would attack them for being gay friendly. Since the declaration allowing same-sex blessings was announced Dec. 12 by the Dicastery for Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Víctor Fernández, who heads the dicastery, has been forced to defend its orthodoxy. But he also gave bishops like the Africans room to disagree: "Prudence and attention to the ecclesial context and to the local culture could allow for different methods of application" of the new blessings rule, he has said.

It would be progress if the church in Africa would oppose the criminalization of homosexual activity. It is shameful that some bishops there publicly support laws against gay people. But blessing gays was a bridge too far in Africa.

***"Be Silent and come out of this man!"***





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