



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



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"Christ's Leadership"

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 7TH DECEMBER, 2025 - A

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday

Holy Family Cathedral **6:00pm**

Tuesday

Holy Family Cathedral **6:00 am**

St. Anthony's Potters **6:00pm**

Wednesday

Holy Family Cathedral **6:00pm**

Thursday

Holy Family Cathedral **6:00 am**

St. Francis of Assisi, Villa **6:00pm**

Friday

Holy Family Cathedral **12:15 noon**

Saturday

Holy Family Cathedral **8:00am**

The funeral Mass of Mrs. Colette Simon will be held on Thursday 11th December, 2025 at Holy Family Cathedral at 2:00 pm. May her soul Rest In Peace.

The funeral Service of Mr. Donald Looby will be held on Monday 22nd December, 2025 at Holy Family Cathedral at 2:00 pm. May his soul Rest In Peace.

St. Joseph's Academy invites you to its **Christmas Carol Service on Friday 12th December, 2025** at Holy Family Cathedral, Michael's Mount at **5:00 pm**. There will be lighting of the Advent Candles, a presentation of the Nativity of Jesus, Christmas Carols and songs, dancing, Steelband, performances, Storytelling and a recorder Ensemble.

"Jesus is the reason for this Christmas Season"

Couples for Christ Ministries Annual Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 18th December, 2025.

TICKETS COST \$10.00 EACH

1st prize	(1) Smart Television
2nd prize	(1) IPAD
3rd prize	(1) Microwave Oven
4th prize	(1) Food Hamper
5th prize	(1) Resort Day Pass

Plus TEN Consolation Prizes. Proceeds are in aid of Christmas Meal and Gift Outreach.

The 2026 Calendars are here. Please get your copy early. The cost is \$25.00.

The 2026 Bible diaries and Daily Gospel Large Edition Books are here. Further details will be given in a subsequent announcement.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Mass

Holy Family Cathedral Vigil - **7:00 pm** and Mass at **11 pm**.

Christmas Day Mass

Holy Family Cathedral, Donovan's & Parham **9 am**. Villa and Potters **11 am**.

Limited Advent Candles are on sale at the Pastoral Centre for only \$20.00. Start the Advent season by being watchful.

The Advent Novena begins on Tuesday 16th December, 2025 at 5:00 am at Holy Family Cathedral and at St Francis of Assisi, Villa at 5:30 am. The Novena to the Child Jesus this year will focus on the humility and love of the infant Jesus.

Theme: Christ's Leadership. Christ is the answer to the frightening questions of life. When the leaders of a nation are corrupt, its people usually suffer. The human family on this planet is afflicted with many maladies resulting from lack of leadership. The Hebrews of Isaiah's time (800 B.C.) yearned for a leader, an ideal king, who would be capable of restoring the nation and endowing it once again with the peace and prosperity of King David's time.

Jesus Christ is the God-given Leader, who came to establish God's kingdom on earth, "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of justice, love and peace" (Preface of Christ the King). The Spirit of the LORD—a Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear (filial respect) of the Lord—rests upon him.

"Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever". Are you accepting Jesus Christ and the outlines he gives for a better society? We know that the ideal society as envisioned by Jesus will never be fully realized on this planet. Neither do we state that the Bible has all the answers. But society would be much better if all would heed the guiding principles of Jesus of Nazareth. Let us Christians give the example!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION *30th November, 2025*

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday 6:00 pm	\$1,361.10	\$426.04
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,665.19	\$373.78
9:00 am	\$4,220.06	\$639.33
Out Stations		
Potters	\$356.70	\$91.20
Parham	\$665.00	\$232.00
Villa	\$561.85	\$170.00
Diocesan Schools	\$55.00	-

Thanks for your Generosity



The word "Advent" means precisely "the coming," the arrival, that special time in which we are invited to prepare to celebrate, with all enthusiasm of heart, the first coming of Jesus Christ. A new liturgical year prepares us for Christmas, inviting us to lift our gaze and open our hearts to welcome Jesus. During Advent, we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ—when he will return at the end of time—preparing ourselves with consistent and courageous choices for the final encounter with Him. I want to ask how many of you think about this. "There will be a day in which I meet the Lord face to face." And this is our goal: the encounter. We do not await a time or a place, but we will encounter a person: Jesus. Am I prepared enough for the coming of Christ through my familiarity with an obedience to the Word of God?

THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

It represents **Peace** and is often called the **Bethlehem Candle**. It is a purple candle that symbolizes the peace found in the coming of Jesus and commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Advent Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, as we begin this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to walk in faith and hope, to be watchful in prayer, and to live in joyful expectation of His coming. Through Christ our Lord. 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, Catherine Durand, Georgina -Glave-Toussaint, Catherine DeTouche, Edward Lewis, Arnold Gomes, Jean James, Conrad Looby, Cecelia John, Justin Joseph, Carmen Ambrose, Tyler Lockhart, Joan Underwood, Cosmas Rowe, Andrea Brown, Niethia Dyier, Victor Charles, Junie Browne, Cheralyn Beazer, Brenda Frederick, Yvonne Watkins, Anthony Mathurin, Shirley Dyer.

Jubilee Prayer (Amended)

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Thanksgiving prayer for the end of the Hurricane Season.

Heavenly Father, Master of this passing world, we come to You with humble hearts to give thanks for the protection you have provided throughout this hurricane season. We are grateful that we can now return to our daily lives with a sense of peace after the season's challenges. We thank You for Your guidance, strength, and for keeping us safe from harm. We also pray for those who are still recovering from recent storms and ask that they find comfort and renewed hope. Help us to remain mindful of Your constant presence and to show our gratitude through acts of love and generosity towards one another, especially towards those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

LECTIO DIVINA



"Change Your Ways; The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand!"

Read: Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, who will not judge by appearances. Paul prays that the church in Rome will be united in praise of God, welcoming one other. John the Baptist preaches repentance and conversion of heart.

Reflect: The Pharisees hoped that externals and their association with their ancestors would be enough to secure them a place in heaven. Their idea was that if they were children of Abraham then they would be as holy as him. But John said that this didn't necessarily follow. It would be a bit like saying, "I met the Pope once," to share in his renown, to make people respect us or like us more. But who we know or who we're related to makes no difference to who we are, or to the morality of our lives. John was saying that Pharisees and Sadducees couldn't ride on the back of the reputation of others. They had to show God they wanted to change their lives for the better. They had to show by good works that they really wanted to be part of the Kingdom.

Pray: Pray for a conversion of heart and express your fervent desire to be part of God's Kingdom.

Act: Show your belonging to Christ by bearing "good fruit," that is, deeds of mercy to others.

Act: Spend time in Eucharistic adoration. Today.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 7th December

First Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading

Romans 15: 4-9

Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12



Monday 8th December

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20

Psalm 98: 1-4

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12

Luke 1: 26-38

Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 9th December

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalm 96: 1-3 & 10-13

Matthew 18: 12-14

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin

Wednesday 10th December

Isaiah 40: 25-31

Psalm 103: 1-4, 8 & 10

Matthew 11: 28-30

Our Lady of Loreto

Thursday 11th December

Isaiah 41: 13-20

Psalm 145: 1 & 9-13

Matthew 11: 11-15

St. John of Damascus I, Pope

Friday 12th December

Zechariah 2: 14-17 or

Revelation 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10

Judith 13: 18-19

Luke 1: 39-47 / Luke 1: 26-38

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday 13th December

Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11

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

Matthew 17: 9-13

WHAT THE 1ST READING SAYS TO ME

The setting of this reading is Jerusalem of Isaiah's time, the eighth century B.C. The king is Ahaz, a weak young man. Though a ne'er-do-well, he is of the royal family of David, whose father was Jesse. Ahaz has brought the royal family and his country to such ruin that Isaiah compares the leftovers with the stump of a tree.

But from the root of that stump a bud shall blossom. From this seemingly dead stock God will bring out a shoot, a prince, who will prove himself an ideal king. It is the yearning of a people that walks in darkness for an ideal king (leader) to come!

Christians see all of this yearning fulfilled in God's Anointed One, Jesus of Nazareth. The Spirit of the Lord rests upon him. He has established an ideal kingdom (reign) of peace and justice that is already partially realized now on earth and will be fully realized in the world to come.

WHAT THE 2ND READING SAYS TO ME

Paul tells us that Scripture was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from it. In Christ is the yearning of people fulfilled.

Accept Jesus Christ as your leader, and heed his great commandment to accept one another! Like Christ, become one another's servants! Then you will be working toward the realization of that seemingly impossible dream of Isaiah and Jesus: a society where "the wolf [is] a guest of the lamb".

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

Preparing for the Lord's coming and fully accepting him may require a change in lifestyle. John the Baptist speaks clear language not just to the Jews of his time but to all of us. You should not delay a decision.

"His [Jesus Christ's] winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor." Make sure you do not end up with the chaff that will be burned up in "unquenchable fire."

SAINT OF THE DAY

Thursday 12th December, 2025

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story. A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady. Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Reflection

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.



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