



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

"Joyful in Hope"

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 14TH 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 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.

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. Limited supplies.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help & St. Francis of Assisi Villa - **7:00 pm**

Holy Family Cathedral Carol Service at **10:30 pm.**

Christmas Day Mass

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL ADORATION HOURS

Fridays: 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Chapel
Saturdays: 7:00 am - 8:00 am in the main Cathedral

Limited Advent Candles are on sale at the Pastoral Centre for only \$20.00.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION *7th December, 2025*

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday 6:00 pm	\$1,727.95	\$399.69
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,930.90	\$185.80
9:00 am	\$2,236.19	\$488.27
Out Stations		
Potters	\$640.00	\$113.00
Parham	\$482.35	\$163.00
Villa	\$1,116.45	\$225.15
Diocesan Schools	\$35.00	-

Thanks for your Generosity

Theme: *Joyful in Hope.*

The bible readings for today tell us again about a bright future, seemingly a utopia. "Joyful in hope" is a Christian's theme of life.

Christian hope opposes despair, which often results in suicide or just "copping out." It opposes escaping from reality through the use of drugs, abuse of alcohol, or excessive addiction to the pleasures of modern life. Christian hope knows how to handle depression: You get on your knees, knowing that "over the world of the stars, a loving Father must reside" ("Ode to Joy" in 9th Symphony of Beethoven).

What would you tell a friend who knows that he is a terminal cancer patient? A person without faith or hope might say: "Face it! We all have to die sooner or later!" What would you say? A Christian knows about "More to come. Stay tuned in!"



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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The 3rd Advent candle symbolizes Joy, is often pink (or rose) to mark this festive break in penitential purple, and is called the "Shepherd's Candle", representing the great joy the shepherds felt at Jesus' birth and signaling that Christmas is near. Lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday" (Latin for "rejoice"), it shifts the mood from solemn waiting to glad anticipation, reflecting the angels' message of "good news of great joy for all people".

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



"The Lord is always near."

Read: Isaiah describes the coming of the Lord like the flowering of the wilderness. James encourages us to wait patiently for the Lord's coming. Jesus confirms that John the Baptist is the great prophet who will usher in the time of the Messiah.

Reflect: In some desert parts of the world, there's a sudden transformation of the landscape after a heavy downpour of rain. Plants and seeds lie dormant, perhaps even for years, until the moment when water finally reaches them, and then the desert becomes a carpet of flowers and greenery. The readings from Isaiah and James point to the suddenness of God's coming, but also the need for patience, as we wait for his glorious arrival. The barrenness of the desert or the bare field before germination give no indication of what is happening or the potential that lies underneath. The Lord will come in all his glory at the end of time, but he also comes to us in hidden ways in our daily lives. God's help often comes unexpectedly, and blossoms suddenly, perhaps after a time of difficulty or a long period of prayer. Let's never lose heart. The Lord is always near.

Pray: Meditate on Psalm 46:11. Wait and be still in God's presence.

Act: "Report what you see." Talk or write about your faith.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 14th December

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146: 6-10

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10

Gospel

Matthew 11: 2-11



"I Send a Messenger Ahead of Me."

Monday 15th December

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17

Psalm 25: 4-9

Matthew 21: 23-27

Tuesday 16th December

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13

Psalm 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-19 & 23

Matthew 21: 28-32

Wednesday 17th December

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10

Psalm 72: 1-4, 7-8, 17

Matthew 1: 1-17

Thursday 18th December

Jeremiah 23: 5-8

Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Matthew 1: 18-25

Friday 19th December

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25

Psalm 71: 3-6, 16-17

Luke 1: 5-25

Saturday 20th December

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalm 24: 1-6

Luke 1: 26-38

WHAT THE 1ST READING SAYS TO ME

This beautiful poem is attributed to the so-called "Second Isaiah," a prophet who stayed with the Hebrews in Babylonian exile. This prophet saw the Babylonian rule about to be toppled by the mighty King Cyrus of Persia, who would free the captives and let them go home.

This is a poem of joyful hope. "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication."

Christians apply this vision to the future brought about by Jesus, the Messiah, God's Anointed One. "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened." The Lord gives sight to the blind. This is our Christian theme of joyful hope: Our Lord, who comes to be a light to the world. The lights of Christmas symbolize this idea.

WHAT THE 2ND READING SAYS TO ME

James reminds us not to be overly optimistic. The bright future of the Messianic era will not be fully realized on this side of the grave. We must be patient! "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

The prophets should be our models. If you are suffering, this reading could be an inspiring starting point for a personal prayer to God!

WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS TO ME

Matthew takes up the theme of the first Bible reading. "Jesus said to them in reply: '.. the blind regain their sight.'" Jesus is the one-to-come who will give hope to those who suffer.

This "hope" can be finding a way out of trouble through the aid of a loving human being; it can be resignation and acceptance of the unavoidable, founded in faith in a future to come hereafter. Every Christmas, the Lord Jesus should open our eyes to the beauty of life, and its extension, the life to come.

SAINT OF THE DAY

Saturday 13th December, 2025

Saint Lucy's Story

Every little girl named Lucy must bite her tongue in disappointment when she first tries to find out what there is to know about her patron saint. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions.

The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Saint Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a popular song has her name as its title, and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today's pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life.

Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Saint Lucy's, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been crucified by the Romans after his own people turned him over to their authority. Saint Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity.

What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found, but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged.

Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight.



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EXOTIC ANTIGUA -2025 December Christmas Schedule

9th—(9am - 5pm) | **14th**—(9am - 4pm) | **19th**—(9am - 6pm)
20th—(9am - 5pm) | **21st**—(10am - 4pm) | **22nd**—(9am - 7pm)
23rd & 24th—(9am - 7pm) | **30th & 31st**—(9am - 6pm)
Days Closed—**25th, 26th**



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