



# 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  
"Faith"

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 21ST 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**

## HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL ADORATION HOURS

### Fridays

**1:00 pm - 7:00 pm** in the Chapel

### Saturdays

**7:00 am - 8:00am** in the main  
Cathedral

The Advent Novena continues until  
**Wednesday 24th December, 2025.**  
Novena begins at 5:00 am at Holy  
Family Cathedral and at St Francis of  
Assisi, Villa at 5:30 am.

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**MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS**

### **Christmas Eve Mass**

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

Holy Family Cathedral Carol Service  
begins at **10:30 pm**. Mass begins at  
11:00 pm.

### **Christmas Day Mass**

Holy Family Cathedral, Donovans &  
Parham **9 am**. Villa and Potters **11 am**.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Fr. Lawrence Malama**

(Administrator) and the Christmas  
Dinner Committee would like to thank  
all those who donated, contributed and  
participated in the annual Christmas  
Dinner. To date the dinner made  
**\$10,266.70**.

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**The Chancery Office will be closed**  
from Monday 22nd December, 2025  
until Friday 2nd January, 2025.

The Pastoral Centre will be closed  
from Monday 22nd December, 2025 and  
will re-open on Monday 5th January,  
2026. For urgent matters please call  
560-2693 and leave a message.

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**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The 2026 Calendars are here. Please**  
get your copy from:

Shyka Hannays—Saturday Night.

Gilbert Laudat—Sundays

Rosie Aska—Villa

Helen Raguette—Parham

Barbara Bird—Potters

And at the Pastoral Centre

The cost is \$25.00.

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**The 2026 Bible Diaries are here.** The  
cost is **\$80.00**.

**The Daily Gospel Large Edition Books** is  
also here and the cost is \$55.00. Limited  
supply.

## **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION**

*14th December, 2025*

Cathedral	1st	2nd
Saturday 6:00 pm	\$1,803.64	\$526.73
Sunday 7:00 am	\$1,356.69	\$329.80
9:00 am	\$1,412.76	\$441.19
Out Stations		
Potters	\$523.17	\$255.90
Parham	\$910.00	\$265.00
Villa	\$598.35	\$225.15
Diocesan Schools	\$175.00	-

**Thanks for your Generosity**

### **Theme: Faith.**

King Ahaz had more faith in a treaty with the Assyrians than in God, who approached him in the prophet Isaiah. It is faith in God, who approaches us in the Lord Jesus, that saves us from a meaningless existence. God is willing to step into the darkness of our confusion, if we "let the Lord enter". Loneliness is the greatest threat to happiness. A person alone has no answer. A loner is an unhappy person, depressed, facing absurdity. "Emmanuel" (God-with-us) in Jesus Christ saves us from ourselves.

Time and again, Christmas reminds Christians that God came to share our human situation on this planet. Looked at in this way, Christmas will become a happy and meaningful day for us. "Lord,... as Christmas draws near make us grow in faith and love to celebrate the coming of Christ our Saviour".



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 FORTH ADVENT CANDLE**

*The 4th Advent candle, which is lit on the final Sunday before Christmas, symbolizes Love or Peace, often called the "Angel's Candle" after the angels' message of "Peace on Earth" at Jesus' birth, representing God's immense love in sending His Son and the coming Kingdom, typically in purple or blue.*

**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.*

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**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

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**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



"To be open to what God would have us do."

**Read:** Isaiah prophesies that Emmanuel will be born of a virgin. Saint Paul writes to the Christians in Rome saying that they are redeemed through the Son of God, who was born in the flesh a descendent of David, and because of him they are called to holiness. Following a dream, Joseph obeys God's command through the angel and takes Mary home as his wife.

**Reflect:** The image of the sleeping Joseph has become a popular portrayal of the husband of Mary, and a devotion that many have found most helpful in times of dilemma. It's said that if you have a problem you should sleep on it. Often a solution will present itself to us while we dream, but we also reach decisions with God's help. So it is with Joseph, who learns that Mary's child has been conceived by the Holy Spirit and that he will "save his people from their sins." Joseph wants to do the right thing, but now with these new insights, he radically changes his decision about what that right thing is. Joseph teaches us to reflect deeply on major decisions, and to be open to what God would have us do.

**Pray:** Ask the intercession of Saint Joseph in a difficult decision.

**Act:** Put the intention under a statue of the Sleeping Joseph.

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday 21st December**

#### ***First Reading***

*Isaiah 7: 10-14*

#### ***Responsorial Psalm***

*Psalm 24: 1-7, 10*

#### ***Second Reading***

*Romans 1: 1-7*

#### ***Gospel***

*Matthew 1: 18-24*



*“This is how Jesus Christ was born.”*

### **Monday 22nd December**

1 Samuel 1: 24-28

1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8

Luke 1: 46-56

### **Tuesday 23rd December**

Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24

Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-10 & 14

Luke 1: 57-66

#### ***St. John of Kanty, priest***

### **Wednesday 24th December**

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

Psalm 89: 2-5, 27 & 29

Luke 1: 67-79

### **Thursday 25th December**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98: 1-6

Hebrews 1: 1-6

John 1: 1-18

#### ***Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)***

### **Friday 26th December**

Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

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

Matthew 10: 17-22

#### ***Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr***

### **Saturday 27th December**

1 John 1: 1-4

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

John 20: 1-8

#### ***Feast of St. John, apostle & evangelist***

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

This reading Zephaniah leads up to the theme of the Gospel, Jesus' sermon on the mount. In Judah. "a nation without shame," there is a remnant of faithful servants of Yahweh. They are called "the remnant of Israel."

In this remnant, the prophet addresses all of us: "All you humble of the earth, who have observed his law." Humility is a Christian virtue and a condition to be considered "blessed," as explained in the Gospel.

## **WHAT THE 2ND READING SAYS TO ME**

Paul addresses the slaves and "longshoremen" of Corinth: "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise." Christ's special concern for the deprived implies a lesson for those who are going by the wisdom of this world, which is pride. Paul stresses: "it is due to [God] that you are in Christ Jesus."

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

Matthew was a Jew, writing for Christians of Jewish background. He compares Jesus often with the great lawmaker of Israel, Moses, with whom all Jews were familiar. In this Bible passage, Matthew states indirectly: Moses announced the laws (figuratively) from Mount Sinai. Jesus, greater than Moses, does (figuratively) the same "the mountain."

Notice that Luke has the Lord preach this sermon on the plain. Actually, Matthew combines various sayings of Jesus and has the Lord proclaim them in what is known now as the sermon of the Mount. The beatitudes are ideals which we should pursue constantly, though humbly admitting that it is not easy to do so!

## ***The Story of the Nativity of the Lord*** Saturday 25th December, 2025

On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

## **Reflection**

The precise dating in the Scripture readings for today sounds like a textbook on creationism. If we focus on the time frame, however, we miss the point. It lays out the story of a love affair: creation, the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, the rise of Israel under David. It climaxes with the birth of Jesus. Some scholars insist that from the beginning God intended to enter the world as one of us, the beloved people.

Praise God!



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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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