

On the cross, we see a single phrase: "This is the King of the Jews". That is Jesus' title: he is a king. Yet as we gaze upon him, our idea of a king is turned upside down. When we try to visualize a king, what comes to mind is a powerful man seated on a throne with magnificent insignia, a sceptre in his hand and precious rings on his fingers, speaking in solemn tones to his subjects. That, more or less, is what we imagine. Looking at Jesus, though, we see the complete opposite. He is not comfortably enthroned, but hanging on a gibbet. The God who "casts down the mighty from their thrones", appears as a slave executed by those in power. Appeared only with nails and thorns, stripped of everything yet rich in love, from his throne on the cross he no longer teaches the crowds by his words; he no longer lifts his hands as a teacher. He does more: pointing a finger at no one, he opens his arms to all. That is how he shows himself to be our king: with open arms, *a brasa aduerte*. Only by entering into his embrace do we understand: we come to realize that God went to this extreme, even to the paradox of the cross, in order to embrace every one of us, no matter how far distant we may be from him: he embraces our death, our pain, our poverty, our weakness. He embraced all of it. He became a slave so that each of us could become a son. By his becoming a slave, he purchased our sonship. He let himself be insulted and derided, so that whenever we are brought low, we will never feel alone. He let himself be stripped of his garments, so that no one would ever feel stripped of his or her rightful dignity. He ascended the cross, so that God would be present in every crucified man or woman throughout history. This is our king, the king of the universe, for he journeyed to the furthest confines of our human experience, entered into the black hole of hatred, the black hole of abandonment, in order to bring light to every life and to embrace all reality. My brothers and sisters, this is the king whom today we acclaim! His is not a kingship easy to understand. And the question we ought to be asking is this: Is this king of the universe also the king of my life? Do I believe in him. How can I celebrate him as the Lord of all creation, unless he also becomes the Lord of my life? So let us look once more upon the crucified Jesus. Let us look at him. He does not look at our life only for a brief moment, or give us the same kind of fleeting glance that we so often give him. No, he stays there, *a brasa aduerte*, to say to you in silence that nothing about you is foreign to him, that he wants to embrace you, to lift you up and to save you just as you are, with your past history, your failings and your sins. "But Lord, is this true, that you love me with all my failings?" Right now, let us think about our own personal poverty: "Lord, do you love me with this spiritual poverty and all these limitations?" And the Lord smiles and makes us understand that he loves us and gave his life for us. Let us think of our own limitations, but also of the good things. He loves us as we are, as we are right now. He gives us a chance to reign in this life, if only you surrender to his meek love that proposes but never imposes, a love that always forgives you. So often we tire of forgiving; we make the sign of the cross and turn our backs on that person. Jesus never tires of forgiving, never. He always sets you on your feet; he always restores your royal dignity. Where does salvation come from? It comes from letting ourselves be loved by him, for only in this way are we freed from slavery to ourselves, from the fear of being alone, from thinking that we cannot succeed. My brothers and sisters, let us often stand before the crucified Lord and allow ourselves to be loved, because those *brasa aduerte* also open heaven to us, as they did to the good thief. Let us hear, addressed to us, the only words that Jesus today speaks from the cross: "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk 23:43). That is what God wants to tell us whenever we let him gaze upon us. Then we realize that ours is not an "unknown God", up in the heavens, powerful and distant, but rather a God who is close: closeness is God's "style", closeness with tenderness and mercy. Tenderness and compassion; his open arms console and caress us. That is our king!

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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FIRST SUNDAY ADVENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, B. Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Blue Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

1st Communions: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmations: TBC

Today begins the season of Advent. It means "Coming". This is a time to think about the Lord's coming again. Therefore it is a time to consider what you have to do to be ready for it. First of all go to confession. If it's been a while then come. There will be a parish penance service Wednesday Dec. 14 at 7pm. Ask forgiveness of those you have hurt or need to reconcile with, even if it's not your fault! Because you have probably held anger or resentment with someone too. Finally, Advent is a time to pray. And why? Precisely because, as it says in today's Gospel, "The Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect". It is a good thing to reflect that one day you will be brought before the Judgement seat of God and what will you say? Or how will you face it? Are you ready? When I think about it all the awful things that I have said and done come to my mind and I wonder how I will stand this judgement. Also, those sins that I still have, such as selfishness, pride and egotism. All of these thoughts can come and humble you so that you begin to see your misery and the hurt you have caused others by your sins. This is a great impetus to pray. You may say, "I cannot pray, as I get distracted so easily" or "I get bored" or even "I do not know how to pray." these are just excuses. When you have a tragedy in your life, you will for sure begin to pray. This self reflection is essential for every Christian so that we can be ready. It purifies the soul to consider one's inadequacies, and it gets you to cry out to the Lord. Pope Francis says "Beginning with our misery, humility makes us turn our gaze off ourselves in order to turn it toward God."

May the Lord grant us all this grace in this season of Advent

Fr. Paul

Gratefulness, I would like to thank you all, our brothers and sisters who made celebrating the feast of the parish possible with joy and dignity.

Thank you for the time and dedication that you gave to organize the music, liturgy, food, recreation, fundraising and so many details needed to have had this important event be successful for our community.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday:

06:20 am (Blue Chapel)

Penitential Celebration: Tuesday, 20 of December. 07:00 pm (Church)

Christmas Concert: Wednesday 14 of December 07:00 pm (Church).

Novena of Nativity and Posadas: Dec 16—24. 07:00 pm

Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass: Dec 24, 05:30 pm English. (Church)

Church choir: Dec 24, 11:30 pm

Christmas Midnight Mass: 12:00 am Multilingual. (Church)

Christmas Day Mass: Dec 25

09:00 am English. (Church)

11:00am Bilingual. (Church)

January 1, Mother of God

New Year's Eve Mass: Dec. 31. 05:30 pm. (Church)

Jan 1. 09:00 am. English. (Church)

11:00 am. Bilingual. (Church)

Parish Events Nov. 27-Dec. 4

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm.

04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternitey, Red Room.
05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00 pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel.

Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel.
07:00 pm 1st English. Blue Chapel
07:00 pm 2nd English Maria Goretti.
07:00 pm 2nd Spanish. B. Sacrament
07:00pm 1st Spanish Red Room

Wednesday St. Andrew, Apostle

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00 pm 1st Creole, Red Room.
07:00 pm 3rd English, Maria Goretti.
07:00 pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament.
07:00 pm 4th English Blue Chapel.

Thursday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday

04:00pm Adoration
5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .

Saturday

05:30 pm Mass, Church
07:00 pm NCW Eucharist



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

Spirituality

At Holy Family Academy, we encourage students to practice the talents God has entrusted them. Among these talents, we inspire our



students to practice their musical talents both in singing or playing an instrument to serve our school in mass and grand events.

Academics

Our HFA 10th grade was invited to meet and network at the Symposium of Geography. At



HFA, we take every opportunity to expose our students to different career fields and push them to be active participants.

www.hfa.catholic.tc

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at holyfamilytci@gmail.com

You can also donate from the US in the following link:

<https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255