

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel from today's liturgy, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, ends with an affirmation made by Jesus who says: "I am a king" (Jn 18:37). He pronounces these words in front of Pilate, while the crowd shouts out that he be condemned to death. He says: "I am a king", and the crowd cries out that he be condemned to death. Quite a contrast. The crucial hour has come. Previously, it seems that Jesus had not wanted the people to acclaim him as king: we recall that time after the multiplication of the loaves and fish when he withdrew by himself to pray (cf. Jn 6:14-15).

The fact is that the kingship of Jesus is completely different than that of the world. "My kingship", he says to Pilate, "is not of this world" (Jn 18:36). He did not come to dominate but to serve. He did not come amid signs of power, but with the power of signs. He was not dressed with precious insignia, but he was naked on the cross. And it was precisely through the inscription placed on the cross that Jesus came to be defined as "king" (cf. Jn 19:19). His kingship is truly beyond human parameters! We could say that he is not *like other kings*, but he is a *King for others*. Let us reflect on this: in front of Pilate, Christ says he is a king at the moment in which the crowd is against Him; but when the crowd was following and acclaiming him, he remained distant from this acclamation. That is, Jesus is showing that he is *sovereignly free* from the desire of earthly fame and glory. And we – let us ask ourselves – do we know how to imitate him in this aspect? Do we know how to govern our tendency to be continuously sought after and approved, or do we do everything to be esteemed by others? So, I ask: what matters? Is it applause or service that matters about what we do, particularly concerning our Christian commitment?

Jesus not only fled from seeking any earthly greatness, but he also makes the hearts of those who follow him free and sovereign. Dear brothers and sisters, he frees us from being subject to evil. His Kingdom is *liberating*, there is nothing oppressive about it. He treats every disciple as a friend, not as a subject. Even while being above all sovereigns, he draws no dividing line between himself and others. Instead, he wants to have brothers and sisters with whom to share his joy (cf. Jn 15:11). We do not lose anything in following him – nothing is lost, no – but we acquire dignity because Christ does not want servility around him, but people who are free. And – we can ask ourselves now – from whence does Jesus' freedom derive? We discover that by returning to the affirmation he made in front of Pilate: "I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world: *to bear witness to the truth*" (Jn 18:37).

Jesus' freedom derives from the truth. *It is truth that makes us free* (cf. Jn 8:32). But the truth of Jesus is not an idea, something abstract: the truth of Jesus is a reality, it is He himself who made the truth within us that frees us from the fabrications and falsity that we have inside, from doublespeak. Being with Jesus, we become true. The life of a Christian is not a play in which you can don the mask that best suits you. For when Jesus reigns in the heart, he frees it from hypocrisy, he frees it from subterfuge, from duplicity. The best proof that Christ is our king is detachment from what pollutes life, makes it ambiguous, opaque, sad. When life is ambiguous – a bit here and there – it is sad, very sad. We must always face our limitations and defects, of course: we are all sinners. But when we live under the lordship of Jesus, we do not become corrupt, we do not become false, inclined to cover up the truth. We do not live double lives. Remember this well: all of us are sinners, yes; corrupt, never, never. Sinners, yes; corrupt, never. May the Madonna help us to seek every day the truth of Jesus, King of the Universe, who liberates us from earthly slavery and teaches us to govern our vices.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Blue Chapel.
(Except Wednesdays)

Fridays: 05:30pm Blue Chapel.
06:00pm Adoration Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.

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: Corpus Christi, 2022.

Confirmation: January 16, 2022.

Today is the beginning of Advent which means “Coming”. This is Jesus’ coming at the end of the world. You can see that it has already started in the sense that there are wars, famines, plagues and so on. The Day of the Lord will be a tremendous earthquake and the Lord gives a warning not to go to sleep and let this ‘Day’ catch you unawares. So be careful not to let down your guard and give in to your little comforts or those things you rely on that are not the Lord. Jesus exhorts everyone to this vigilance and to pray for the strength to withstand His coming which will be an onslaught for those not ready. The most important grace to ask for at this time is that of true conversion of heart. It has other names such as compunction of heart and this is derived from the word ‘puncture’. Allow the Lord to ‘puncture’ your heart and to give you the grace of true “Pentos” , which means sorrow for your sins. This grace is a beautiful gift and can include even up to the point of crying for your sins and that gift is called the gift of Tears and yet it is not a sad thing! As a child, after I had had a good cry, I always felt relieved or somehow a burden was lifted. What an immense gift it would be to really cry over all your past sins and then truly know that the Lord has forgiven you all of them. A good cry, yes, but what comes after is consolation Let us pray during this time of Advent, because that is what the season calls us to do, for the grace of repentance and that truly our lives can change for the better and that therefore we will be able to stand with heads held high on the Day of the Lord.

Fr. Paul

Thank you!

I would like to thank the brothers and sisters who made celebrating the feast of the parish possible with joy and dignity, both the Liturgy, the food and the activity. Thank you for the time and dedication that you gave to organize the music, liturgy, food, and so many details needed to make this important event a success for our community.

May God reward you, Fr. Orlando.



Holy Family Academy’s first procession since COVID-19 was celebrated this past Sunday to honor the Parish Feast Day of Our Lady of Divine Providence. After the beautiful journey with The Blessed Sacrament, the children followed in and participated in singing a song dedicated to The Virgin Mary. The event concluded with meals-to-go for both the students, parents, and parishioners.

The Parish Hall needs to be renovated and we need your help.

The Parish hall (old church) is finally being fully repaired and renovated. The roof was damaged since hurricane Irma and now is seriously affected by termites as well.

If you would like to help completet this project, the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for any contribution you make.

Donations can be made by check to **Our Lady of Divine Providence** or bank transfer through Scotiabank. Instructions in the link below:

<https://www.catholic.tc/donate.html>

Parish Events Nov.28-Dec.5

Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am and 12:30pm
04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children’s group.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00pm Fraternitey, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice
05:00pm Choeur D’hommes 1st and 3rd
Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Tuesday: 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,
06:30pm announcement of Advent
All communities in Church
Feast of St. Andrew

Wednesday: ^{St.}

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice
Parish Hall.
06:30pm English Choir Practice,
D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.
06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament & Benediction.
06:00pm Confessions.
St. Francis Xavier

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church
Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW
07:00pm English: Church.
St. John of Damascus



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: 649-941-7875

Holy Family Academy students from ages 15-17 years are participating and preparing in the TCI Moot competition in which students are exposed to mock court settings. In order to enforce COVID-19 procedures, students will participate via zoom and will receive a virtual tour of the United Kingdom’s Supreme Court!



For more information visit us at 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:

- Rechargeable Digital Camera
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255
- Hand dryers
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels