

Pope Francis Audience 27 November 2024

After speaking about sanctifying grace and then charisms, today I would like to take a look at a third reality: the “fruits of the Spirit”. Something strange. What is the fruit of the Spirit? Saint Paul offers a list of them: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” Nine: these are the “fruits of the Spirit”. But what is this “fruit of the Spirit”?

Unlike the charisms, which the Spirit gives to whom He wants and when He wants for the good of the Church, the *fruits* of the Spirit, are the result of cooperation between grace and our freedom. These fruits always express the creativity of the person, in which “faith works through love” (cf. *Gal 5:6*), sometimes in a surprising and joyful way. Not everyone in the Church can be an apostle, not everyone can be a prophet, not everyone can be an evangelist, not everyone; but all of us, without distinction, can and must be charitable, patient, humble workers for peace.

Among the fruits of the Spirit listed by the Apostle, I like to highlight one of them, the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Jesus joy is constantly born anew” (no. 1). There will be sad moments at times, but there is always peace. With Jesus there is joy and peace.

The joy of the Gospel, evangelical joy, unlike any other joy, can be renewed every day and become contagious. “Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. ... Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 8). It is the dual characteristic of joy as fruit of the Spirit: not only is it not subject to the inevitable wear of time, but it multiplies when it is shared with others! A true joy is shared with others; it even spreads.

Five centuries ago, a saint called Philip Neri lived in Rome – here in Rome. He has passed into history as the saint of joy. Listen to this carefully: the saint of joy. He used to say to the poor and abandoned children of his Oratory: “My children, be cheerful; I do not want qualms or melancholy; it is enough for me that you do not sin”. And again: “Be good, if you can!”. Less well known, however, is the source from which his joy came. Saint Philip Neri had such love for God that at times it seemed his heart might burst in his chest. His joy was, in the fullest sense, a fruit of the Spirit. The Saint participated in the Jubilee of 1575, which he enriched with the practice, maintained thereafter, of the visit to the Seven Churches. He was, in his time, a true evangelizer through joy. And he had this, like Jesus who always forgave, who forgave everything. Perhaps some of us might think: “But I have committed this sin, and this will not be forgiven...”. Listen to this carefully. God forgives everything, God always forgives. And this is joy: being forgiven by God. And I always say to priests and confessors: “Forgive everything, do not ask too many questions; but forgive everything, everything, and always”.

The word “Gospel” means glad tidings. Therefore, it cannot be communicated with a long face and sombre countenance, but with the joy of those who have found the hidden treasure and the precious pearl. Remember Saint Paul’s exhortation to the believers of the Church of Philippi, which he now addresses to us all, and which we heard at the beginning: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (*Phil 4:4-5*).

Dear brothers and sisters, be glad, with the joy of Jesus in our heart. Thank you

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

1310 Leeward Highway, Providenciales.
P.O. Box 340, Turks & Caicos Islands.
Phone: (+1649) 941-5136

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



SECOND SUNDAY OF 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, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

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

05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.

Confirmations: November 10, 2024.

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

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist appears proclaiming repentance. What does this mean?

Simply, to turn away from sin and that's the easy part. First of all it is necessary to discover yourself. To see the things that go on in your heart. To discover that you have many sins deep inside which cause you to doubt the love of God. Many times you can be quite blind to your sins and the state of your soul out of fear. To face oneself is very difficult because it can make you afraid of God's punishment and the fear of going to hell or some such thing. Jesus Christ did not come to make you afraid but then you say "Why did John the Baptist preach so strongly?" Precisely to break through this barrier to the Love of the Lord. Unless you discover the depth of your sin then you will remain in them and continue to judge or look down on other people, as you are a "good person". So the Lord wants to help you to see yourself, "warts and all" and then to turn to him for mercy. Everyone needs the Lord to help them in this. You can't do anything without the grace of God. So first of all ask for the gift of self-knowledge and the grace not to be scandalized by what you discover in yourself. Finally ask also for the grace to believe in the immense mercy and love of the Lord for you. Then you will begin to have mercy on those around you and to judge less.

Let us then pray for the Lord to give us the grace of true repentance which is a deep sorrow for sin and at the same time, never to doubt of God's infinite and eternal mercy for the sinners, including yourself.

Fr. Paul

HOLY HOUR FRIDAYS



4:00 pm—5:00 pm.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday: 6:20 am St. Joseph's room

Penitential: Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm Church.

Christmas concert: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm Church.

Novena of Nativity: Dec 16—Dec 23. 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve 05:30 pm. English
Midnight 12:00 am multilingual

**Wednesday, Christmas day
Dec. 25:**
09:00 am English
11:00 am Multilingual

Tuesday, Dec 31st: 05:30 pm. English

Parish Events Dec. 8-15

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

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

08:00 am School Mass—Church
05:30 pm SMG, Upper Room
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW

Tuesday

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm First English St. Mary Chapel
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish St. Joseph room

Wednesday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room
07:00 pm 3rd English SMG, Upstairs
07:00 pm 4th English St. Joseph Room
07:00 pm 5th English St. Mary's
07:00 pm Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel

Thursday OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday St. Lucy

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday St. John of the Cross

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Holy Family Academy is filled with a rejoicing spirit in preparation for baby Jesus, students are preparing for his birth with a daily Novena where they pray for Jesus to be born in their hearts.



Students are also taking advantage of this time to ask the lord to help them to prepare for their final exams coming up.

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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

