

## POPE FRANCIS AUDIENCE , 28 NOVEMBER, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of today's liturgy, the First Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Jesus announces bleak and distressing events, but precisely at this point He invites us not to be afraid. Why? Because everything will be okay? No, but because *He will come*. Jesus will return as He promised. This is what he says: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (Lk 21:28). It is nice to hear this encouraging Word: stand up straight and raise our heads because right during those moments when everything seems to be coming to an end, the Lord comes to save us. We await Him with joy, even in the midst of tribulations, during life's crises and the dramatic events of history. We await Him.

But how do we raise our heads and not become absorbed with difficulties, suffering and defeat? Jesus points the way with a strong reminder: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:34, 36).

"Be vigilant": *vigilance*. Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life. From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians" – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness - Christians without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to "dozing off": to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties (cf. v. 34). So today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart? What weighs on my spirit? What makes me go to sit in the lazy chair? It is sad to see Christians "in the armchair"! What are the mediocrities that paralyze me, the vices that crush me to the ground and prevent me from raising my head? And regarding the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of our brothers and sisters, am I aware of them or indifferent to them? These are good questions to ask ourselves, because they help *guard our hearts against apathy*. What then is apathy? It is a great enemy of the spiritual life and also of Christian life. Apathy is a type of laziness that makes us slide into sadness, it takes away zest for life and the will to do things. It is a negative spirit that traps the soul in apathy, robbing it of its joy. It starts with sadness sliding downwards so that there is no joy. The Book of Proverbs says: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Prov 4:23). Guard your heart: that means to be vigilant! Stay awake and guard your heart.

And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is *prayer*. In fact, Jesus says: "Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:36). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the center of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations. For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying, "Come, Lord Jesus." Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus". This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: "Come, Lord Jesus". Let us repeat this prayer all throughout the day: the soul will remain vigilant! "Come, Lord Jesus", is a prayer we can all say together three times. "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus".

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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### SECOND 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.

The Gospel of today is about John the Baptist. He was a real 'fire and brimstone' preacher. He is the one that prepares the way for the Lord. What does it mean for you "to make His ways straight"? It is, in this time of Advent, to call to mind your sins. If you do this with sincerity and in depth then the Lord will make your ways straight. Looking at one's sins is never very pleasant but it is the only way to become a little bit humble and also it helps you to be grateful. How is that? Well, if you really start to face yourself and see all the dirt and dust inside, then anything good that happens, you realise you do not deserve it and therefore it is a gift and grace of God for you. You can begin to see the love of the Lord for you in its immensity. Secondly, the mission of John the Baptist is the same as the Prophet Elijah. Their mission, according to the scriptures, is to reconcile the parents with the children and the children with the parents. ( Malachi 3:23-24). The reading quoted says that if this is done then God's wrath will finish. Why is it so important, the relationships in our families? It is within the family that our basic building blocks are formed and due to original sin all of us carry our deepest wounds from our family history. Reconciliation within the family is necessary in order to begin to see the love of the Lord. E.G. If your father was a drunkard then why did god allow this? If you ask his forgiveness for judging him then you will begin to see that this man has his problems just like you. Hence the need for us all to discover our own faults and then we can reconcile with those unfortunate events that happen in everyone's life. Let us pray, during this season for the graces we need to see ourselves and to discover the Lord's great mercy and to be reconciled not only with our families but with our own life and ultimately with the Lord.

Fr. Paul

*Please note that this Wednesday is a Holy day of Obligation. It is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. There will be two 5:30 masses for the feast, one on Tuesday and the other on Wednesday. See the calendar in the next column.*

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



### ADVENT

**Morning Prayer Monday to Friday:** 6:20am Blue Chapel

**Novena of Nativity:** Dec 16—Dec 24. 7:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS

**Friday Dec 24:**

Christmas Eve 05:30 pm and Midnight 12:00 am

**Saturday, Christmas day Dec 25:**

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

**Friday, Dec 31:** 05:30 pm

**Saturday, Jan 1:**

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

**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 Dec.5-12

**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  
**St. Nicholas**

**Tuesday:** 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel  
**St. Ambrose**  
**Vigil of Immaculate conception**  
06:30pm NCW  
All communities in Church  
**Vigil of Immaculate Conception**

**Wednesday:** <sup>St</sup> 5:30pm Mass in Church  
**Immaculate Conception**

**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.  
**St. Juan Diego** 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.

**Saturday:** 05:30pvm Mass, Church  
**Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW**  
07:00pm English: Church.



## School Notes

**Holy Family Academy**  
Tel: 649-941-7875



**Dec. 13** HFA Christmas Play. School grounds at 5:00 pm.

**Dec 15** Christmas Concert Catholic Church at 7:00 pm.

**Dec. 15** 1st Term Report Card Distribution

**Dec. 16—Jan 2** Christmas Break  
(School Closed)

**Jan. 3** Back to School  
II Term begins.

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://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](mailto: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:

- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- 3 tricycles
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255