

Pope Francis Audience 7 December 2022

In the process of discernment, it is also important to remain attentive to the stage that immediately follows the decision taken, in order to either catch *the signs that confirm it* or those that disprove it. I have to make a decision, [so] I make the discernment, pro or con, my feelings, I pray... then this process ends and I make the decision and then comes that part where we have to be careful, see. Because in life some decisions are not good and there are signs that disprove them, while on the other hand, good ones are confirmed. Indeed, we have seen how time is a fundamental criterion for recognizing God's voice amidst so many other voices. He alone is Lord of time: it is a hallmark of His originality, which differentiates Him from imitations that speak in His name without actually doing so. One of the distinctive signs of the good spirit is the fact that it communicates *a peace that lasts in time*. If you consider more profoundly, then make the decision and this gives you a peace that lasts through time, this is a good sign and indicates that the path was good. A peace that brings harmony, unity, fervour, zeal. You come out of the "deepening" process better than when you entered it.

A first aspect is whether the decision is seen as a possible sign of response to the Lord's love and generosity toward me. It is not born out of fear, not born of emotional blackmail or compulsion, but born out of *gratitude for the good received*, which moves the heart to live liberally in relationship with the Lord. Another important element is having a sense of *one's place in life* – that tranquillity, "I am in my place" – and feeling that you are part of a larger plan, to which one wishes to make a contribution. In St. Peter's Square there are two precise points – the focal points of the ellipse – from which one can see Bernini's columns perfectly aligned. Similarly, a man can recognize that he has found what he is looking for when his day becomes more orderly, when he feels a growing integration among his many interests, when he establishes a proper hierarchy of importance, and when he is able to experience this with ease, facing the difficulties that arise with renewed energy and fortitude. These are signs that you have made a good decision. Another good sign of confirmation, for example, is the fact of *remaining free* with regard to what has been decided, being willing to question it, even to give it up in the face of possible denials, trying to find in them a possible teaching from the Lord. This is not because He wants to deprive us of what we hold dear, but in order to live it with freedom, without attachment. Only God knows what is truly good for us. Possessiveness is the enemy of goodness and kills affection. Be attentive to this: possessiveness is the enemy of good, it kills affection. The many cases of violence in the domestic sphere, of which we unfortunately have frequent news, almost always arise from the claim of possession of the affection of the other, from the search for absolute security that kills freedom and stifles life, making it hell.

We can only love in freedom, which is why the Lord created us free, free even to say no to Him. Offering Him what we hold most dear is in our best interest, enabling us to live it in the best possible way and in truth, as a gift He has given us, as a sign of His gratuitous goodness, knowing that our lives, as well as the whole of history, are in His benevolent hands. It is what the Bible calls the *fear of God*, that is, respect for God – not that God frightens me, but a respect, an indispensable condition for accepting the gift of Wisdom (cf. Sir 1:1-18). It is the fear that casts out all other fears, because it is oriented to Him who is Lord of all things. In His presence, nothing can disquiet us. It is the wondrous experience of St. Paul, which he expressed in this way: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:12-13). This is the free man, who blesses the Lord both when good things come and when not-so-good things come: May he be blessed, and let us go forward!

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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THIRD 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

In today's Gospel John the Baptist asks Jesus if he is really the Messiah, because Jesus is not acting like the kind of messiah, or savior that John had imagined. Jesus replies by showing John that He is fulfilling the prophecies about the messiah in the prophet Isaiah and John's idea is wrong. John, like many people of his time, thought the Messiah would come with a sword and vanquish the Roman Imperialists. The reply of Jesus implies that that is not the kind of Saviour that Jesus is. He is not a political Messiah. Instead, He heals people of their infirmity and proclaims the Good News to the Poor. In other words He is coming to save our souls and this goes much beyond John's understanding. And what does this mean for you today? Many times, I am sure that you want Jesus to come and fix up the whole mess and make everything straight and in order and He doesn't do it that way. Jesus allows wars, poverty, crime and sin in the world but at the same time He comes to redeem your life. Through the announcement of the 'Good News' my life changed. I was full of envy and downright hatred for my brother and I heard that God loved me like I was. I found this difficult to believe, that the Lord could love me in the midst of my hatred. 'How can that possibly be?', I thought. Yet, when I started to believe it the Lord opened the way for me to ask forgiveness of my brother and my parents also, and for a great reconciliation to take place. This is the kind of savior Jesus is and it's not the one we might think it should be. Let us all pray that we can experience Jesus as our true savior in the midst of our sins and difficulties to experience His Resurrection in our lives. May the Lord grant us all this grace in this season of Advent

Fr. Paul



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 Dec. 11-18

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 St. Lucy

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. John of the Cross

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: Our children at Holy Family Academy completed the sacrament of the Novena this past week where God manifested his presence to the children through his Son Jesus Christ to help each child bring their sufferings to the Lord. They were reminded of the meaning of this preparation for the second coming of our Lord and what it means to carry this cross that makes us suffer, which is because the Lord wants to have an encounter with us through that suffering.

Academics: Holy Family Academy has finished its 1st Term and was proud to see the students so focused and motivated during Finals Week.

CHRISTMAS BREAK Dec. 15 - Jan 2

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