

The Gospel of today's Solemnity introduces us into the home of Mary to recount the Annunciation (cf. Lk 1:26-38). The angel Gabriel greets the Virgin like this: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (v. 28). He does not call her by her name, Mary, but with a new name, that she did not know: *full of grace*. Full of grace, and therefore free from sin, is the name God gives her and that we celebrate today.

But let us think of Mary's wonder: only then did she discover her truest identity. Indeed, by calling her by that name, God reveals her greatest secret to her, which was previously unknown to her. Something similar can also happen to us. In what sense? In the sense that we sinners have also received an initial gift that has filled our lives, a good greater than anything else: we have received an *original grace*. We talk a lot about original sin, but we have also received an original grace, of which often we are unaware. What is it, this original grace? It is what we received on the day of our Baptism, which is why it is good for us to remember, and even celebrate it! I will ask you a question: this grace received on the day of Baptism, it is important. But how many of you remember the date of your Baptism, what is the date of your own Baptism? Think about it. And if you do not remember, when you go home, ask your godfather, your godmother, your father or mother: "When was I baptized?", because that day is the day of the great grace, of a new life beginning, of an original grace that we have. God descended into our lives that day, and we became his beloved children forever. This is our original beauty, for which to be joyful! Today, Mary, surprised by the grace that made her beautiful from the first instant of her life, leads us to marvel at our beauty. We can grasp this through the image of the white Baptismal garment; it reminds us that, beyond the evil we have stained ourselves with over the years, there is a good in us greater than all the evils that have befallen. Let us listen to the echo, let us hear God saying to us: "Son, daughter, I love you and I am with you always, you are important to me, your life is precious". That is God's message to us. When things do not go well and we are discouraged, when we are downcast and risk feeling useless or wrong, let us think about this, about this original grace. And God is with us, God is with me from that day. Let us think about it again. Today the Word of God teaches us another important thing: that to safeguard our beauty demands a cost, it demands a struggle. Indeed, the Gospel shows us the courage of Mary who said "Yes" to God, who chose *the risk of God*; and the passage from Genesis, on original sin, speaks to us of a battle against the tempter and his temptations (cf. Gen 3:15). But we know this from experience too, all of us: it takes effort to choose good, it costs us; it takes effort to safeguard the good that is in us. Think of how many times we have squandered it by giving in to the lure of evil, being crafty for our own interests or doing something that would defile our hearts; or even wasting time in useless or harmful things, putting off prayer, for example, and saying "Today I can't", or saying "I can't" to those who have needed us, when instead we could have.

But today, faced with all this, we have good news: Mary, the only human being in history without sin, is with us in the battle, she is our sister and, above all, our Mother. And we, who struggle to choose good, can *entrust ourselves to her*. By entrusting ourselves, consecrating ourselves to Mary, we say to her: "Take me by the hand, Mother, guide me: with you I will have more strength in the battle against evil; with you I will rediscover my original beauty". Let us entrust ourselves to Mary today, let us entrust ourselves to Mary every day, repeating to her: "Mary, I entrust my life to you, I entrust my family, my work, I entrust my heart and my struggles. I consecrate myself to you". May Mary Immaculate help us to safeguard our beauty from evil.

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## FOURTH 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, St. Joseph is given a difficult task. To take as his wife a woman who is pregnant by another. It is only divine intervention that stops him separating from Mary and when he is told the truth he acts immediately, without grumbling or seeking another solution. Joseph is the height of obedience and humility. These are definitely virtues that you and I are in great need of. Obedience, especially when it goes against your ideas and in this case against all logic. How can my wife be pregnant by the Holy Spirit? Nonetheless Joseph not only obeys but he believes it to be the truth. His is not just acquiescent to what is going on. His response is immediate and wholehearted acceptance of the situation and he shows this by taking Mary, immediately into his home. That means he marries her straight away.

Secondly, there is the name of Jesus. 'Jesus' come from the name "Joshua" who was a great savior of the Jewish people and led them into the promised land. It means "The Lord saves." This is what Christmas is all about. That the Lord comes to save you. That God, who is so high above you deigned to become one like you, in order to save you. Therefore, there is still time to consider from what the Lord is saving you? From your sins, of course but what are they? This week on Tuesday night you have the opportunity to go to confession especially if its been a while or even a long, long while, even better. The mercy of the Lord is boundless. It is never-ending. Perhaps you are ashamed of yourself, well and good. Do not let that stop you from feeling the forgiving love of the Lord. Do not let pride intervene but come and receive His forgiveness no matter what you have done. I repeat, no matter what you have done.

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. 06:00 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. 18-25

**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  
6:00pm Novena of Christmas, Church.

### Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel  
06:00pm Novena, Church  
07:00 pm Parish Penance celebration

### Wednesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel  
06:00pm .Novena, Church

### Thursday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel  
06:00pm Novena, Church

### Friday

04:00pm Adoration  
5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .  
06:00pm Novena, Church

### Saturday

05:30 pm Mass, Church  
**Midnight** Mass, Church



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

## CHRISTMAS BREAK Dec. 15 - Jan 2

[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:

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