

Pope Francis Homily Corsica 15 December 2024

Luke's Gospel tells us that those who express the desire for conversion are the "outsiders". It is not those who were generally considered closest, the Pharisees and doctors of the law, but those who were farthest away, the tax collectors, who were thought to be sinners, and the soldiers who ask, "Teacher, what should we do?" This is a beautiful question that each of us could take to prayer tonight: "Lord, what should I do to prepare my heart for Christmas?". Those who consider themselves righteous are not renewed. Those regarded as public sinners, long to leave behind their former lives of dishonesty and violence, and to embark upon a new life. Those who are distant become close whenever Christ approaches. The Scriptures we have heard present us with two different ways of waiting for the Messiah: we can wait either with *suspicion* or with *joyful expectation*. The first attitude, that of suspicion, is full of *distrust* and *anxiety*. When we think constantly of ourselves and our own needs, we lose the spirit of joy. Instead of awaiting the future with hope, we view it with diffidence. Caught up in worldly concerns, we are not open to the workings of God's providence. We do not know how to wait with the hope that the Holy Spirit brings us. The words of Saint Paul can serve as an antidote to rouse us from our lethargy: "Do not worry about anything". When anguish overwhelms us, it destroys us. Pain, both physical pain and the hurt produced by family tragedies, is one thing, but anguish is quite different. As Christians, we must not be overwhelmed by anguish. Stop being distressed, disappointed or sad. How widespread are these spiritual ills nowadays, especially in places where consumerism reigns! I have seen so many people on the streets of Rome these days that are out shopping, overwhelmed by the anxiety of consumerism that then disappears and leaves you empty.. If we live only for ourselves, we will never find happiness. The Apostle proposes an effective remedy when he writes, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God". Faith in God gives hope! This brings us to the second attitude: *joyful expectation*. The second attitude is joyful expectation. It is not easy to be joyful. Christian joy is neither shallow nor ephemeral, like the joy that comes from going to the fair. It is a joy rooted in the heart and built on a solid foundation. In this sense, the prophet could tell his listeners to rejoice, for "the Lord, your God, is in your midst.". Trust in the Lord, who dwells among us. We forget this so often: he is in our midst when we do a good deed, He is not in our midst, when we gossip or when we speak ill of others. The Lord's coming brings us salvation: that is the reason for our joy. God is "mighty". He can redeem our lives because he is able to accomplish what he promises! Our joy is not a fleeting consolation that helps us to forget life's sorrows. Our joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, born of faith in Christ the Saviour, who knocks at the door of our hearts and frees us from sorrow and lethargy. The Lord's presence in our midst is a cause for celebration; it fills everyone's future with hope. In the company of Jesus, we discover the authentic joy of living and we become signs of the hope that our world so eagerly seeks. And the first of those signs of hope is *peace*. He who comes is Emmanuel, God with us, who bestows peace on those favoured by the Lord. And congratulations! I have never seen so many children as I have here! It is a gift from God! Dear brothers and sisters, have children! Have children! They will be your joy, your consolation in the future. I am telling the truth: I have never seen so many children. I only saw this many in Timor-Leste, but nowhere else. This is your joy and your glory. The word of God never fails to encourage us. Despite sufferings that affect nations and peoples, the Church proclaims an unshakable hope that does not disappoint, because the Lord has come and dwells in our midst. And in his coming, our efforts to work for peace and justice find inexhaustible strength. Sisters and brothers, in every time and amid every affliction, Christ remains present; Christ is the source of our joy. He is with us in every tribulation to carry us through and give us joy. Let us always foster this joy in our hearts, this assurance that Christ is with us, walking with us. Let us not forget this!

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FOURTH 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

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

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

Confirmations: To be confirmed.

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

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or

In today's Gospel Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth who exclaims "Blessed is she who believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Do you realize that the Lord has made you a promise? And what is this promise He has made to you? Clearly it is eternal life. You are destined by your baptism to eternal life with the Trinity and all the angels and saints. "Does this mean I can relax, that I don't have to strive to improve my faults and so on?" No, of course not. That's why every day there is the need to repent and be prepared for the Lord's coming. This is especially seen in the coming of the Lord at Christmas. In spite of your sinfulness and lack of faith, the Lord comes to you as a little baby. There is nothing more helpless as a little baby. It is completely dependent on the parents to survive. Such is God's revelation of who He really is. This is a sign for everyone not to be afraid but to trust in the Lord and His enormous love and eternal mercy for all us weak people, The second point in the Gospel is this, when the baby in Elizabeth's womb, that is, John the Baptist, leaps for joy. This is because Mary brings Jesus within her. Mary was completely open to the will of God and hence the Lord was conceived in her. Let us all pray that we can have the same openness to the will of The Lord as Mary did, so that her beloved son Jesus can also be born in our hearts this Christmas season. For this we all need the grace of God, as to give up our will is very difficult indeed, well, at least I find it so, This would be the best Christmas gift you could receive because doing the will of the Lord is the only way for joy to be born in our hearts.

Merry Christmas to one and all.

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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Novena of Nativity: Dec 19—
Dec 23. 7:00 pm

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

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

Tuesday, Dec 31st:
New Year's Eve: 05:30 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025:
Mary, Mother of God:
09:00 am English
11:00 am Multilingual

Parish Events Dec. 22-29

**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

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00 pm Novena of Christmas, Church

Tuesday Christmas Eve

05:30pm Vigil of Christmas, Church
12 Midnight Midnight Mass, Church

Wednesday Christmas Day

9:00am Mass in English, Church
11:00 am Multilingual Mass, Church

Thursday St. Stephen

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday St John the Evangelist

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

Saturday Holy Innocents

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Holy Family Academy students recently brought the Christmas story to life with a beautiful Nativity play and a joyous Christmas concert.



Report cards have gone out, and students are now enjoying a well-deserved break. Classes resume on January 6th. We wish you all a blessed Christmas season!

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

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

