

## Pope Francis Audience 28 February 2024

Today we examine two deadly vices that we find in the great lists that the spiritual tradition has left us: envy and vainglory. Let us start with envy. If we read Holy Scripture (cf. *Gen 4*), it appears to us as one of the oldest vices: Cain's hatred of Abel is unleashed when he realizes that his brother's sacrifices are pleasing to God. Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve, he had taken the largest share of his father's inheritance; yet, it is enough for Abel, the younger brother, to succeed in a small feat, for Cain to become enraged. The face of the envious man is always sad: he's always looking down, he seems to be continually investigating the ground; but in reality, he sees nothing, because his mind is wrapped up in thoughts full of wickedness. Envy, if unchecked, leads to hatred of the other. Abel would be killed at the hands of Cain, who could not bear his brother's happiness. Envy is an evil that has not only been investigated in the Christian sphere: it has attracted the attention of philosophers and wise men of every culture. At its basis is a relationship of hate and love: one desires the evil for the other, but secretly desires to be like him. The other is the epiphany of what we would like to be, and what we actually are not. His good fortune seems to us an injustice: surely, we think to ourselves, we would deserve his successes or good fortune much more! At the root of this vice is a false idea of God: we do not accept that God has His own "math," different from ours. For example, in Jesus' parable about the workers called by the master to go into the vineyard at different times of the day, those in the first hour believe they are entitled to a higher wage than those who arrived last; but the master gives everyone the same pay, and says, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" (*Mt 20:15*). We would like to impose our own selfish logic on God; instead, the logic of God is love. The good things He gives us are meant to be shared. This is why St. Paul exhorts Christians, "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (*Rom 12:10*). Here is the remedy for envy!

And now we come to the second vice we examine today: vainglory. It goes hand in hand with the demon of envy, and together these two vices are characteristic of a person who aspires to be the centre of the world, free to exploit everything and everyone, the object of all praise and love. Vainglory is an inflated and baseless self-esteem. The vainglorious person possesses an unwieldy "I": he has no empathy and takes no notice of the fact that there are other people in the world besides him. His relationships are always instrumental, marked by the dominating the other. His person, his accomplishments, his achievements must be shown to everyone: he is a perpetual beggar for attention. And if at times his qualities are not recognized, he becomes fiercely angry. Others are unfair, they do not understand, they are not up to it. In his writings, *Evagrius Ponticus* describes the bitter affair of a certain monk struck by vainglory. It happened that, after his first successes in the spiritual life, he already felt that he had arrived, so he rushed into the world to receive its praise. But he did not realize that he was only at the beginning of the spiritual path, and that a temptation was lurking that would soon bring him down. To heal the vainglorious, spiritual teachers do not suggest many remedies. For in the end, the evil of vanity has its remedy in itself: the praise the vainglorious man hopes to reap from the world will soon turn against him. And how many people, deluded by a false self-image, have then fallen into sins of which they would soon be ashamed!

The finest instruction for overcoming vainglory can be found in the testimony of St. Paul. The Apostle always reckoned with a defect that he could never overcome. Three times he asked the Lord to deliver him from that torment, but finally Jesus answered him, "My grace is sufficient for you; for strength is fully manifested in weakness." From that day Paul was set free. And his conclusion should also become ours: "I will therefore gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me".

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González**  
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### 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: 24 May, 2024.**  
**1st Communions: 02 June, 2024.**

**Confirmations: TBC (20 October, 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.**

Today is Laetare Sunday which means 'Rejoice'. "But this is Lent", you might say. "How can we rejoice if we are focusing on our sins?" This is what the first reading speaks about; how the Israelites abandoned the Lord and He destroyed Jerusalem. However, it also speaks about His returning them to their land after a time in exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. This is an analogy for this time of Lent. You are called to look at yourself and your wayward behaviour and to repent and be sorry for it. This repentance involves righting any wrong you have done to others and reconciling with your enemies.

The Gospel and second reading emphasize Faith. Firstly, it is a grace to be saved and faith is also this gift of the Lord just so we can have eternal life. Faith is more than believing. In the creed we say 'I believe **IN** God..I believe **IN** Jesus Christ.' To believe in someone means to know them and so to trust them. Therefore faith is a relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ. Do you have this relationship with the Lord? Did you once have it and it has dried up or disappeared? This time of Lent is a time to reconcile, for sure, but sometimes you need to reconcile with God! Why would you need to reconcile with the Lord? Because the events of your life are not as you would like them to be or you are going through a great deal of suffering and do not see God in it at all. This time of Lent is there to restore this relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting and sacrifices, and by giving away some of your money to the poor.

Finally, we must never forget the words of today's Gospel, "For God so loved the World that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." Let us never doubt the love and mercy of the Lord no matter what.

Fr. Paul

## PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

**TUESDAY MARCH 19 AT 7PM, IN THE CHURCH**

All are invited to listen to 2 readings followed by confessions as a preparation for Holy week.

### ST. JOSEPH

There will be a special mass on Monday 18 March at 5:30pm, in the church to honour St. Joseph on the eve of his feast day. Please come for this very special occasion.

Dear parishioners,

I hope you have all seen the new sealed road at the back . We had a good offer and had to act quickly to take it but now we need to pay for it! If you can contribute something towards the cost of this project please be generous in the collection so we can continue later on with the parking lot as well. Blessings, Fr. Orlando

### **Remember this time of grace**

Remember that the Holy Door will be open until April 7, 2024. I invite you to take advantage of this time of grace following the three requirements to get indulgences:

- A complete and whole-hearted detachment from all sin of any kind, even venial sin.
- Making a valid [sacramental confession](#).
- Receiving [Holy Communion](#) in the state of grace.
- Praying for the [intentions of the Pope](#)

## Parish Events March 10-17

**Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. 12:30pm**

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.  
05:00pm Fraternelle, 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

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30pm Mass in English, SMG upstairs  
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole Parish Hall

### Tuesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs  
07:00pm First English Parish Hall  
07:00pm Second English SMG  
07:00pm Spanish Red Room

### Wednesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30 pm Mass in SMG  
07:00pm Third English, SMG  
07:00pm Fourth English Red Room  
07:00pm Fifth English, Blue chapel  
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole, Parish Hall

### Thursday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30 pm D. Mass , SMG

### Friday

04:00pm **Holy Hour:** St. Maria Goretti.  
05:30pm D. Mass SMG  
06:15pm Stations of the Cross, Church

### Saturday

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



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875



This week the HFA elementary students placed 1st place for the National Social Studies. The next day, the HFA students placed 2nd place for the National Social Studies Competition. Congratulations HFA!

Before every competition the students received a special blessing from the priest that helped them face the competition with humility, accepting whatever outcome. The students are encouraged to participate and accept every opportunity as a learning experience for their futures!

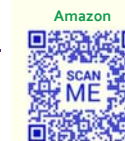
[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://www.hfa.catholic.tc)

### SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our [Scholarship Program](#) and help the school with necessary supplies.

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

- Scientific Calculators
- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Erasable markers and erasers
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- AA Batteries
- Asthma Inhalers & AED



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