

POPE FRANCIS ANGELUS, 8 DECEMBER, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel for today's Liturgy, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, brings us into the house of Nazareth, where she receives the angel's annunciation (cf. *Lk* 1:26-38). Within the domestic walls, a person reveals him or herself better than elsewhere. And it is precisely within that domestic intimacy that the Gospel gives us a detail that reveals the beauty of Mary's heart.

The angel calls her "full of grace". If she is full of grace, it means the Madonna is void of evil: she is without sin, Immaculate. Now, at the angel's greeting, Mary – the text says – is "greatly troubled" (*Lk* 1:29). She is not only surprised, but troubled. To receive grand greetings, honours and compliments sometimes brings the risk of provoking pride and presumption. Let us recall that Jesus is not gentle with those who go in search of greetings in the squares, adulation, visibility (cf. *Lk* 20:46). Mary, instead, does not exalt herself, but is troubled; rather than feeling pleased, she feels amazement. The angel's greeting seemed too grand for her. Why? Because she feels her littleness within, and that littleness, that humility attracts God's eyes.

Within the walls of the house of Nazareth, we thus see a marvellous characteristic of Mary's heart. How is Mary's heart? Having received the highest of compliments, she is troubled because she hears addressed to her what she has not attributed to herself. In fact, Mary does not credit prerogatives to herself, she does not hold claim to anything, she accounts nothing to her own merit. She is not self-satisfied, she does not exalt herself. For in her humility, she knows she receives everything from God. Therefore, *free from herself*, she is completely directed toward God and others. Mary Immaculate *does not look on herself*. This is true humility: not looking on oneself, but looking toward God and others.

Let us remember that this perfection of Mary, the full of grace, is declared by the angel within the walls of her house – not in Nazareth's main square, but there, in hiding, in the greatest humility. In that little house of Nazareth beat the greatest heart that any creature has ever had. Dear brothers and sisters, this is extraordinary news for us! Because the Lord is telling us that to work marvellous deeds, he has no need of grand means and our lofty abilities, but our humility, eyes open to Him, and also open to others. With this annunciation, within the poor walls of a small house, God changed history. Even today, he wants to do great things with us in our daily lives: in our families, at work, in everyday environments. God's grace loves to operate there more than in great historical events. But, I ask myself, do we believe this? Or rather do we think that holiness is a utopia, something for insiders, a pious illusion incompatible with ordinary life?

Let us ask the Madonna for a grace: that she free us from the misleading idea that the Gospel is one thing and life is another; that she enkindle enthusiasm in us for the ideal of sanctity which has nothing to do with holy cards and pictures, but is about living *humbly and joyfully*, like the Madonna, what happens each day, freed from ourselves, with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbour we meet. Let's not lose heart: The Lord has given everyone the stuff it takes to weave holiness within our everyday life! And when we are assailed by the doubt that we cannot succeed, the sadness of not being adequate, let us allow the Madonna to look on us with her "eyes of mercy", for no one who asked for her help has ever been abandoned!

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
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FOURTH 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.

Christmas is almost upon us. In the Gospel Mary leaves in haste to help her cousin Elizabeth and also to see the miracle that she who was barren is now pregnant. In the same way Mary comes to you and me, in this season to bring her son Jesus Christ to us. In a hidden way she carried Him to Elizabeth but with the help of the Holy Spirit Elizabeth recognises this and proclaims it. Mary is doing the same with us. Her whole purpose is to bring us all to meet her son because only He can help us and give us Joy. Mary is the image of the Church and in every liturgical celebration of the Church Jesus Christ becomes present but especially in the Eucharist because it is there that Jesus Christ passes from death to life. The bread and the wine, which, of themselves, are dead elements, become the body and blood of the Lord. But it is only through the presence of the Church that this can happen. Just as Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary when “she believed the promise made to her by the Lord”, so it is on Mary’s faith that Jesus was conceived and He can be conceived in our hearts by the same faith. This means to believe that the promises made to you will be fulfilled. At Baptism you were promised eternal life and that eternal life begins already in this life. All of us, due to our sins and distractions experience ‘death’ and come to each celebration a bit dead, so to speak, but it is through the Eucharistic celebration that Jesus Christ risen from the dead raises us up also with Him. As you make your final preparations for Christmas ask the Lord for an open heart to do His will no matter what it may involve and to be without fear so that the Lord’s plan for you may be accomplished, just as it was in Mary and in Elizabeth. Finally, there are immense graces on offer every Christmas, please ask for these and they will be given in accordance with the will of the Lord. May all of you have a wonderful Christmas and may the Lord be born in our hearts and families. Fr. Paul

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

Saturday, Christmas day Dec 25:

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

5:30pm English

Friday, Dec 31: 05:30 pm

Saturday, Jan 1:

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

5:30pm English

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 complete 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.19-26

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.

Since Christmas and Mother of God fall on Saturday, the NCW will celebrate the Eucharist on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 at 6:45pm.

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
7pm Christmas novena, Church

Tuesday: 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel
07:00pm 1st English. Church
07:00pm 2nd English. School
07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament
07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 7pm Novena of Christmas, Church
07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.
07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.
07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.
7pm Novena of Christmas in Church

Friday: **05:30pm vigil of Christmas**
Christmas Eve **Midnight Mass of Christmas**

Saturday: **09:00am Mass, in English,**
Christmas Day **11:00am Multilingual Mass**
05:30pm English



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: 649-941-7875

Merry Christmas!

Dec. 16—Jan 3

Christmas Break

Jan. 2 The Epiphany of the Lord.
Jan. 4 Back to School
II Term begins

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:

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