

## Pope Francis' Angelus March 27, 2022

The Gospel for this Sunday's Liturgy recounts the so-called Parable of the Prodigal Son (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It leads us to God's heart who always forgives compassionately and tenderly. Always, God always forgives. We are the ones who get tired of asking for forgiveness, but he always forgives. It [the parable] tells us that God is a Father who not only welcomes us back, but rejoices and throws a feast for his son who has returned home after having squandered all his possessions. We are that son, and it is moving to think about how much the Father always loves us and waits for us.

But there is also the older son in the same parable who goes into a crisis in front of this Father. It can put us into crisis as well. In fact, this older son is also within us and, we are tempted to take his side, at least in part: he had always done his duty, he had not left home, and so he becomes indignant on seeing the Father embracing his son again after having behaved so badly. He protests and says: "I have served you for so many years and never disobeyed your command". Instead, for "this son of yours", you go so far as to celebrate! (cf. vv. 29-30) "I don't understand you!" This is the indignation of the older son.

These words illustrate the older son's problem. He bases his relationship with his Father solely on pure observance of *commands*, on a sense of duty. This could also be our problem, the problem among ourselves and with God: to lose sight that he is a Father and to live a distant religion, composed of prohibitions and duties. And the consequence of this distance is rigidity towards our neighbour whom we no longer see as a brother or sister. In fact, in the parable, the older son does not say *my brother* to the Father. No, he says *that son of yours*, as if to say, "he is not my brother". In the end, he risks remaining outside of the house. In fact, the text says: "he refused to go in" (v. 28), because the other one was there.

Seeing this, the Father goes out to plead with him: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours" (v. 31). He tries to make him understand that for him, every child is all of his life. The ones who know this well are parents, who are very close to feeling like God does. Something a father says in a novel is very beautiful: "When I became a father, I understood God" (H. de Balzac, *Il padre Goriot*, Milano 2004, 112). At this point in the parable, the Father opens his heart to his older son and expresses two needs, which are not commands, but essentials for his heart: "It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive" (v. 32). Let us see if we too have in our hearts these two things the Father needs: *to make merry and rejoice*.

First of all, *to make merry*, that is, to demonstrate that we are near to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away. Why should we do this? Because this helps to overcome the fear and discouragement that can come from remembering one's sins. Those who have made mistakes often feel reproached in their own hearts. Distance, indifference and harsh words do not help. Therefore, like the Father, it is necessary to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead. "But father, he did so many things": warm welcome. And we, do we do this? Do we look for those who are far away? Do we want to celebrate with them? How much good an open heart, true listening, a transparent smile can do; to celebrate, not to make them feel uncomfortable! The Father could have said: "Okay, son, go back home, go back to work, go to your room, establish yourself and your work! And this would have been a good way to forgive. But no! God does not know how to forgive without celebrating! And the Father celebrates because of the joy he has because his son has returned.

And then, like the Father, we need to *rejoice*. When someone whose heart is synchronized with God's sees the repentance of a person, they rejoice, no matter how serious their mistakes may have been. Do not stay focused on errors, do not point fingers at what they have done wrong, but rejoice over the good because another person's good is mine as well! And we, do we know how to rejoice for others?

I would like to recount an imaginary story, but one that helps illustrate the heart of the father. There was a pop theatrical, three or four years ago, about the prodigal son, with the entire story. And at the end, when that son decides to return to his father, he talks about it with a friend and says: "I'm afraid my father will reject me, that he won't forgive me!" And the friend advised him: "Send a letter to your father and tell him, 'Father, I have repented, I want to come back home, but I'm not sure that will be happy. If you want to welcome me, please put a white handkerchief in the window'. And then he began his journey. And when he was near home, where the last curve in the road was, he was in front of the house. And what did he see? Not one handkerchief: it was full of white handkerchiefs, the windows, everywhere! The Father welcomes like this, totally, joyfully. This is our Father!

May the Virgin Mary teach us how to receive God's mercy so that it might become the light by which we see our neighbours.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González  
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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### 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.

**Fridays:** 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary.  
05:30pm 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:** 19 June, 2022.

**Confirmation:** TBA

The Gospel of today is the woman caught in adultery. The situation is very delicate but as always Jesus know how to deal with it. At first he is silent in front of the crowd who want to stone the woman. Then He stuns them by saying “He who is without sin cast the first stone.” They are all convicted and leave. Jesus has managed at least to get them to see the madness of their demand to kill the woman. He does not enter into debate with them but shames them. How expert is Jesus in this. If only we could be so wise! But the point is that Jesus succeeds because of His mercy. Mercy wins out, you could say. Just think that this woman was destroying a family and yet Jesus forgives her! This woman represents all of us. You are an adulteress! Who, Me? Yes, you! It says in the Gospel of Matthew chapter. 5, that anyone who looks lustfully has already committed adultery in their heart. But this can be applied more broadly than that. When you put the affection of someone ahead of the Lord’s affection then you are committing adultery. Anything that you prefer to the Lord and so on, all this is a kind of adultery. Everyone is guilty of this and yet the attitude of Jesus towards the woman in the Gospel and us is exactly the same. He is extremely merciful. He is not there to beat us up. Let us recognise our adulteries and come before the Lord with a repentant heart and so receive His merciful love. May the Lord grant us this grace to be convicted of our sins and to be truly repentant for them so the we can rise to a new life in Christ’s resurrection this coming Easter.

Fr. Paul

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday to Friday at 6:20 am. Blue Chapel

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** 6:00 pm. Fridays. Church.

### PALM SUNDAY

**Apr. 09:** 05:30 pm English  
**Apr. 10:\*** 09:00 am English — Church.  
 11:00 am Multilingual

\*Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. 10:00 am

**HOLY THURSDAY— Apr. 14**  
**06:30 pm** Mass of the Lord’s Supper and washing of the feet. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

**GOOD FRIDAY — Apr. 15:**  
**03:00 pm** The Passion of the Lord.  
 Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.  
**04:00 pm** Living Stations of the Cross

### SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

**Apr. 16:** 10:30 pm  
 (There will NOT be any Mass this Saturday at 05:30pm).

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**Apr. 17:** 09:00 am English at the Church.  
 11:00 am Multilingual at the Church.  
 05:30 pm English at the Church.

### HOLY HOUR

All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the **new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm** on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

## Parish Events April 3-10

**Sunday:** Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am,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.

**Monday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

**St. Isidore of Seville**

**Tuesday** 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,  
 07:00pm 1st English. New Bldg  
 07:00pm 2nd English New Bldg  
 07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel  
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

**Wednesday:** 05:30pm Mass Church  
 07:00pm 1st Creole, Red Room.  
 07:00pm 3rd English, Blue Chapel.  
 07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament

**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.  
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.

**Friday:** 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Confessions  
 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.  
 06:00pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church  
**With procession of Palms**



## School Notes

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



Students of Holy Family Academy are thrilled for the coming of Sports day, and are starting to prepare their tie-dye shirts to represent their team colors for the anticipated day!

HFA is very proud of their 11th grade students for presenting their final Community Service Project this past Friday. It was excellent to see the diligence and tireless work students exhibited in their final presentations while many received positive feedback from the judges.

**GOD IS LOVE AND HE LOVES US!**

[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:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Pingo Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255