

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

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—CHRISTMAS



HOLY MASS 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
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 by appointment.

Room,



Dear brothers and sisters in Provo and throughout the TCI,

As we gather to celebrate this joyous season, I extend my heartfelt Christmas greetings to you and your families! In this year 2024, marking the 25th anniversary under the Archbishop of Newark of our Missio Sui Iuris, I want to share my good wishes through the profound words of Scripture: "The Truth has sprung out of the earth....and The Truth will make you free"

This Christmas, let us take a moment to contemplate the Truth that became Flesh over 2000 years ago and now dwells among us. God chose to become Flesh to save us through Jesus Christ, who embodies the Truth. As G.K. Chesterton wisely noted, "Only the Truth is worthy of Love." Today, we celebrate the fulfillment of these words! In Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, kindness and truth indeed meet. Also Saint Augustine beautifully articulates this mystery: "What is truth? The Son of God. What is the earth? The flesh." The Truth that governs the universe has emerged from the earth to be cradled in the arms of a woman, the Virgin Mary. The Truth was laid in a humble manger, a testament to God's profound love for humanity.

"If we believe," we recognize that what is impossible for human beings is possible for God. This is the essence of faith! God has accomplished the unimaginable: He became Flesh. His all-powerful love has achieved something beyond human comprehension: the Infinite has entered the human family as a child. Yet, this same God cannot enter our hearts unless we open the door to our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Truth. As enter in this Jubilee year, we are reminded of the mercy of God and the forgiveness of sins. Celebrating this Christmas, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will open three doors for the Jubilee, inviting us to receive graces as we pass through the holy door and experience the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity for a transformative encounter with the Truth.

While we may feel apprehensive about our own limitations and the human tendency to close ourselves off from God, let us remember the reality that dispels such fears: truth has sprung up! God is born! "The earth has yielded its fruits" (Ps 67:7). There exists a good earth, a healthy earth, one that is free from selfishness and open to God's presence. This good soil, prepared by God, allows Him to dwell among us, offering hope even in the most challenging times.

Let us pray for peace to flourish in the land where the Redeemer was born. May He grant courage to Israelis and Gazans to end their long-standing conflict and division. We also pray for the nations of Haiti Africa, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, that they may be blessed by the childhood of Jesus. May their citizens work together to build societies founded on justice and respect for the freedom and dignity of every person.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with joy, hope, and the abundant love of Christ, because God is love, and He loves us.!

Happy Christmas to all of you!

Fr. Orlando



Parish Events Dec.26-Jan.2

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

Saturday

Holy Innocents

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875



Dec. 19—Jan Christmas Break
(School Closed)

Jan. 6 Back to School
II Term begins.

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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!

