

From the Pastor's desk

!Dear brothers and sisters from Providenciales and throughout the TCI, Merry Christmas to you and all your families! I can't believe, it is going to be my eighth year in these beautiful islands of Turks and Caicos. In this year 2021, I would like to express my Christmas greetings and good wishes in these words taken from the Gospel of Luke "the shepherds said to one another: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened for us" (cf. Lk 2:15).

Today these words spoken by the shepherds are fulfilled in Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. Let us go to the spiritual Bethlehem, and see that what has happened there will happen to all of us, Jesus Our Savior is to be Born. Therefore, we are full of Joy, and now we start to see life with a new perspective, full of hope, whilst fear has disappeared.

While reflecting in the Christmas novena in Grand Turk, on the beauty that is the splendor of truth, it astonished us that God makes himself a child so that we may love him, so that we may dare to love him, and as a child trustingly lets himself be taken into our arms especially as we live through the consequences of this pandemic. It is as if God was saying: I know that my glory frightens you, and that you are trying to assert yourself in the face of my grandeur. So now when you experience fear because of the virus, sickness, death or vaccine, I am coming to you as a child, so that you can accept me and love me and know what is the Truth.

Saint Augustine explains with the words: "What is truth? The Son of God. What is the earth? The flesh. Ask whence Christ has been born, and you will see that truth has sprung out of the earth ... truth has been born of the Virgin Mary." And in a Christmas sermon he says that "in this yearly feast we celebrate that day when the prophecy was fulfilled: 'truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven'. The Truth, which is in the bosom of the Father has sprung out of the earth, to be in the womb of a mother too. The Truth which rules the whole world has sprung out of the earth, to be held in the arms of a woman ... The Truth which heaven cannot contain has sprung out of the earth, to be laid in a manger. For whose benefit did so lofty a God become so lowly? Certainly not for his own, but for our great benefit, if we believe."

"If we believe," here we see the power of faith! God has done everything; he has done the impossible: he was made flesh. His all-powerful love has accomplished something which surpasses all human understanding: the Infinite has become a child, has entered the human family and shown us the truth. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to him. We need to open the door of faith as Benedict XVI says: "We could be frightened by this, our inverse omnipotence. This human ability to be closed to God can make us fearful. But see the May each of us give glory to God above all by our lives, by lives spent for love of him and of all our brothers and sisters from T.C.I. Because God is Love and He loves us!!! Happy Christmas to all.

Rev. Luis Orlando González, M.Div.

Chancellor and Pastor

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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FEASTS OF CHRISTMAS AND HOLY FAMILY



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

Have you ever contemplated the goodness of God? What is the 'goodness of God'? It is that the Lord never, never, gets sick of you nor your continual sins. He is always ready and willing to take you back after any fall no matter how big or small or how often you commit them. This is the goodness of God and it is very helpful to think about this especially as Christmas is here. Because Christmas shows the Lord's goodness. Why did He have to be born and go through a life with many sufferings? Surely it was to speak to you that He really is close to you in your life and so much so He became a human being just like you and me. Not only that but He was born in poverty and rejection, first of all in St. Joseph's home town and then soon after by King Herod's attempt to exterminate him. Yet all this did not stop the Lord and His plan. How easy it is to doubt the love and the goodness of God! When problems arise and there is great suffering then many people ask, "Where is God in all of this?" So Christmas comes to dispel these thoughts. There is an icon of the virgin holding the baby Jesus in her arms and there is an angel on one side with the nails of his crucifixion and on the other side an angel with the spear that would pierce His side. The reason is that the Lord not only wanted to share your life but also to experience human suffering and through it to redeem you and me. The baby Jesus is the answer to the suffering in the world. Finally, St. Angela of Foligno writes that in order to be saved it is necessary to imagine holding the baby Jesus in your arms and contemplating the Love of God in this. God became a helpless, fragile baby and He trusts himself to you and me. May He always give us His Joy and the grace to see His love in all events of our lives. May you all have a blessed Christmas. Fr. Paul

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



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.26-Jan.2

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 Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice
06:45pm Eucharist Neo Catechumenal communities

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
St. John the Apostle

Tuesday: 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel
Holy Innocents

Wednesday:
St. Thomas Becket

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: 05:30pm vigil of Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Eve

Saturday: 09:00am Mass, in English,
11:00am Multilingual Mass
Mary, Mother of God

5:30pm Mass of Epiphany
Note that NCW Eucharist will be Sunday Jan. 2, At 6 :45pm



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: 649-941-7875



Dec. 16—Jan 3 Christmas Break
(School Closed)

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