

Pope Francis' Easter Vigil Homily April 17, 2022

On this night, brothers and sisters, let us allow the women of the Gospel to lead us by the hand, so that, with them, we may glimpse the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world. As the shadows of night were dispelled before the quiet coming of the light, the women set out for the tomb, to anoint the body of Jesus. There they had a disconcerting experience. First, they discovered that the tomb was empty; then they saw two figures in dazzling garments who told them that Jesus was risen. Immediately they ran back to proclaim the news to the other disciples (cf. *Lk 24:1-10*). *They saw, they heard, they proclaimed*. With these three verbs, may we too enter into the passover of the Lord from death to life. *The women saw*. The first proclamation of the resurrection was not a statement to be unpacked, but a sign to be contemplated. In a burial ground, near a grave, in a place where everything should be orderly and peaceful, the women "found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body" (vv. 2-3). Easter begins by upsetting our expectations. It comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us. Yet it is not easy to welcome that gift. At times – we must admit – this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear: "They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground" (v. 5). All too often we look at life and reality with downcast eyes; we fix our gaze only on this passing day, disenchanted by the future, concerned only with ourselves and our needs, settled into the prison of our apathy, even as we keep complaining that things will never change. In this way, we halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism; we bury the joy of living. Yet tonight the Lord wants to give us different eyes, alive with hope that fear, pain and death will not have the last word over us. Thanks to Jesus' paschal mystery, we can make the leap from nothingness to life. "Death will no longer be able to rob our life", for that life is now completely and eternally embraced by the boundless love of God. True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us. But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings! In the second place, *the women heard*. After they had seen the empty tomb, the two men in dazzling garments said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (vv. 5-6). We do well to listen to those words and to repeat them: *He is not here!* Whenever we think we have understood everything there is to know about God, and can pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories, let us repeat to ourselves: He is not here! Whenever we seek him only in times of trouble and moments of need, only to set him aside and forget about him in the rest of our daily life and decisions, let us repeat: He is not here! And whenever we think we can imprison him in our words and our customary ways of thinking and acting, and neglect to seek him in the darkest corners of life, where people weep, struggle, suffer and hope, let us repeat: He is not here! May we too hear the question asked of the women: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" We cannot celebrate Easter if we continue to be dead; if we remain prisoners of the past; if in our lives we lack the courage to let ourselves be forgiven by God who forgives everything; if we fail to change, to break with the works of evil, to decide for Jesus and his love. If we continue to reduce faith to a talisman, making God a lovely memory from times past, instead of encountering him today as the living God who desires to change us and to change our world. A Christianity that seeks the Lord among the ruins of the past and encloses him in the tomb of habit is a *Christianity without Easter*. Yet the Lord is risen! Let us not tarry among the tombs, but run to find him, the Living One! Nor may we be afraid to seek him also in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the stories of those who hope and dream, in the pain of those who we suffer: God is there! Finally, *the women proclaimed*. What did they proclaim? The joy of the resurrection. Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who "return from the tomb" (v. 9) in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women's words "seemed to them an idle tale" (v. 11). Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. Their hearts were enflamed only with the desire to convey the news, the proclamation: "The Lord is risen!". To experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world. Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him. Let us set him free from the narrow cells in which we have so often imprisoned him. Let us awaken from our peaceful slumber and let him disturb and inconvenience us. Brothers and sisters our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. He entered the tomb of our sin; he descended to those depths where we feel most lost; he wove his way through the tangles of our fears, bore the weight of our burdens and from the dark abyss of death restored us to life and turned our mourning into joy. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

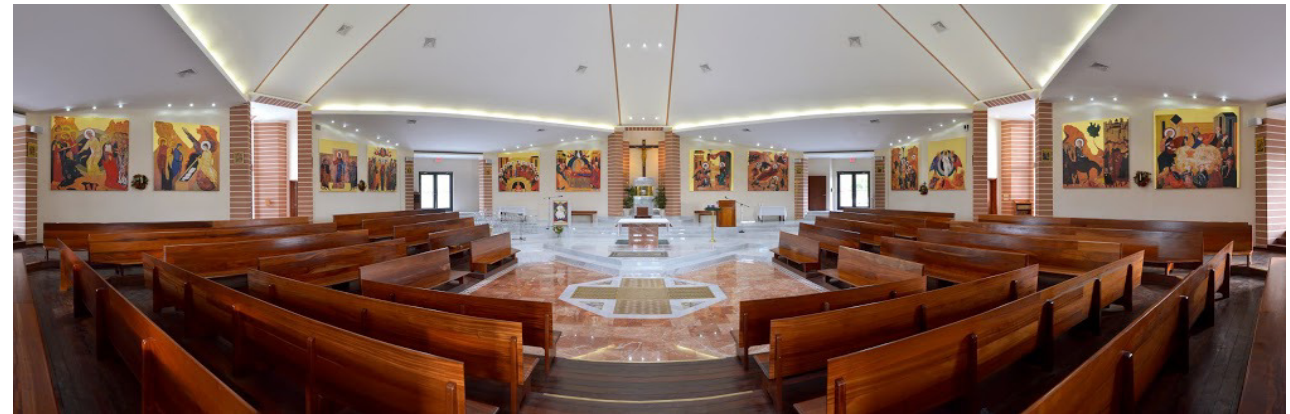
Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

1310 Leeward Highway, P.O. Box 340
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands
Phone: (649) 941-5136

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



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

Today is Divine mercy Sunday but also the eighth day of Easter and so it's the same as Easter Sunday. So happy Easter again! But why is it also Divine Mercy Sunday? Please see the next column to understand a little bit more. In the Gospel for today you can see this mercy. When Jesus appears to the ten Apostles He does not shout at them or berate them for their cowardice or their abandonment of Him in His hour of need. Instead He says "Peace be with you!". In saying this I hope you can see His immense mercy. If it was me, I would be screaming at these guys and yet the Lord does not. "Peace be with you", is what He says a second time. The Apostles, surely thought they were going to cop a mouthful, at the very least for their miserable behaviour but instead Jesus forgives all and forgets all. This is how Jesus is with you and me. I hope that you have discovered through the process of Lent the depth of your sinfulness so that you can truly experience this great mercy that the Lord has for you.

Secondly, our dear St. Thomas. Why did he not believe his fellow apostles? Some Saints say this happened so that his most famous words can be etched in our Hearts.; "My Lord and my God." May we all experience the great love and mercy of the Risen Lord in this Easter Season and never give into discouragement, grumbling or sadness because Jesus Christ has Risen and so there are no hopeless people or situations.

Fr. Paul

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

When Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina, a Polish nun to whom Jesus appeared many times, He also designated the second Sunday of Easter as "Divine Mercy Sunday." Many theologians and those who study the rites of the Catholic Church were dumbfounded as the second Sunday of Easter is within the Octave or the 8th day of Easter and is therefore still Easter Sunday and no other feast or devotion can override it. However, the Pope is the Pope and what he says goes. So today is both the second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday, in which you can gain a complete remission of your sins, commonly called a Plenary indulgence if you do the following:

- 1) go to confession a few days before or after today
- 2) Receive Holy Communion today.
- 3) Pray the creed, an Our Father and some Hail Mary's for the Pope's intentions.
- 4) Either say the Divine Mercy Chaplet preferably led by a priest, or say the Creed, Our Father, and the prayer, "Jesus I trust in you" in the presence of the Lord in the tabernacle, with the full desire never to sin again even venially.

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 24-May 1

Divine Mercy 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 Fraterniteye, 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. Mark

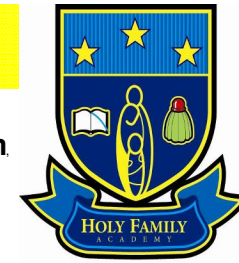
Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,
 07:00pm 1st English. JP II
 07:00pm 2nd English Maria Goretti
 07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 05:30pm Mass Church
 07:00pm 1st Creole, Red Room.
 07:00pm 3rd English, Maria Goretti
 07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament
 07:00pm 4th English Blue Chapel

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

Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.
St. Catherine of Siena Confessions
 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Classes resume Monday 25 April With Eucharist in the Church, 8am.

Remember that:

“GOD IS LOVE AND HE LOVES US!”

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:

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