

First of all, it is important to make ourselves known. Making oneself known, manifesting oneself to a person who accompanies us on the journey of life. Because *fragility* is, in reality, our true richness: we are rich in fragility, all of us, the true richness which we must learn to respect and welcome, because when it is offered to God, it makes us capable of tenderness, mercy, and love. Woe to those people who do not feel fragile: they are harsh, dictatorial. Instead, people who humbly recognize their own frailties are more understanding with others. Fragility, I dare say, makes us human. Not by chance, the first of Jesus' three temptations in the desert – the one linked to hunger – tries to rob us of fragility, presenting it as an evil to be rid of, an impediment to being like God. And yet it is our most valuable treasure: indeed God, to make us like him, wished to share our own fragility to the utmost. Look at the crucifix: God who descended into fragility. Look at the Nativity scene, where he arrives in great human fragility. He shared our fragility. And spiritual accompaniment, if it is docile to the Holy Spirit, helps to *unmask misunderstandings*, even grave ones, in our consideration of ourselves and our relationship with the Lord. The Gospel presents various examples of clarifying and liberating conversations with Jesus. Think, for example, of those with the Samaritan woman, which we read and read, and there is always this wisdom and tenderness of Jesus; think of the one with Zacchaeus, think of the sinful woman, think of Nicodemus, and the disciples of Emmaus: the Lord's way of approaching. The people who had a true encounter with Jesus were not afraid to open their hearts, to present their own vulnerability, their own inadequacy, their own fragility. In this way, their self-sharing becomes and experience of salvation, of forgiveness freely received. Recounting what we have lived or are searching for, in front of another person, helps to bring clarity to ourselves, *bringing to light the many thoughts that dwell within us*, and which often unsettle us with their insistent refrains. How many times, in bleak moments, thoughts like this come to us: "I have done everything wrong, I am worthless, no-one understands me, I will never succeed, I am destined for failure", how many times it comes to us to think these things. False and poisonous thoughts, that the exchange with another helps to *unmask*, so we can feel we are loved and valued by the Lord for what we are, capable of doing good things for him. We discover with surprise different ways of seeing things, signs of goodness that have always been present in us. It is true, we can share our frailties with the other, with the one who accompanies us in life, in the spiritual life, the teacher of spiritual life, be they a layperson, a priest, and say: "Look what is happening to me: I am a wretch, these things are happening to me". And the one who accompanies answers, "Yes, we all have these things". This helps us to clarify them well, to see where the roots lie and thereby overcome them. He or she who accompanies does not substitute the Lord, does not do the work in the place of the person accompanied, but walks alongside him or her, encouraging them to interpret what is stirring in their heart, the quintessential place where the Lord speaks. The spiritual accompanier, whom we call *spiritual director* – I don't like this term, I prefer *spiritual accompanier*, it is better – they say: "Fine, but look here, look here", they draw your attention to things that perhaps pass you by; they help you understand better the signs of the times, the voice of the Lord, the voice of the tempter, the voice of the difficulties that you are unable to overcome. Therefore, it is very important not to journey alone. There is a wise African saying – because they have that tribal mysticism – which says: "If you want to arrive quickly, go alone; if you want to arrive safely, go with others", go in company, go with your people. This is important. In the spiritual life it is better to be accompanied by someone who knows about us and helps us. And this is spiritual accompaniment. This accompaniment can be fruitful if, on both sides, one has experienced *filiality* and spiritual *kinship*. We discover we are children of God at the moment that we discover we are brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. This is why it is essential to be *part of a journeying community*. We are not alone, we belong to a people, a nation, a city that is on the move, a Church, a parish, this group... a community on the move. One does not go by oneself to the Lord: this will not do. We must understand this clearly. As in the Gospel account of the paralytic, we are often sustained and healed by the faith of someone else (cr. *Mk 2:1-5*) who helps us go forward, because we all at times have inner paralyses and it takes someone who helps us to overcome that conflict, with help. One does not go to the Lord by oneself, let us remember this clearly; other times we are the ones who take on this commitment on behalf of another brother or sister, and we are accompaniers who help that other person. Without the experience of filiality and kinship, accompaniment can give rise to unrealistic expectations, misunderstandings, in the forms of dependence that leave the person in an infantile state. Accompaniment, but as children of God and brothers and sisters among ourselves.

**Our Lady of Divine Providence
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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, B. Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm 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: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmations: TBC

The word 'Epiphany' means 'Manifestation'. This is Jesus' first manifestation to the world when the wise men come to worship Him as a baby. They give him gifts of gold, because He is a king, frankincense, because He is God, and finally myrrh, which is the oil to prepare a dead body for burial. The Magi follow the star, which in a way is to follow Jesus but how did they end up right in front of Jesus' worst enemy? One reason is that they listened to their own idea and stop following the star. They must have put their heads together and said to themselves, 'Let us go to the present King of the Jews, surely he will know where the new born king is'. What a mistake! They end up giving information to the man who wants to kill Jesus the most. This is salutary for you. Have you ever done the same thing when you spoke to someone about a third person, for example, and that third person was their cousin or best friend. So everything you said got back to your adversary. There are other examples I am sure that you can fill in this category. But why does it happen? Because the so-called wise men were not so wise! They took their eyes off the star and used their own reasoning. This is where the messes in our lives come from. Not keeping your eyes fixed on the Lord.

A second aspect of the reading is that the Magi bow down and worship the baby Jesus and so recognise that in spite of the poverty of the surroundings there is God present in the little baby. This means that even in the poverty of your sinful and weak nature the baby Jesus may be born in your heart. And you can begin to worship Him as we contemplate his taking on our human flesh in order to redeem it.

Fr. Paul

Epiphany of the Lord



The three kings will pass by the church this Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone, children and adults as well, are welcome to come and celebrate with them.

Write a letter making a petition with faith and it will be granted to you.

Parish Events Jan. 8-15

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
 05:00 pm Fraternitee, Red Room.
 05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
 05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
 05:00 pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday Baptism of the Lord

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
 07:00pm 1st English, Parish hall
 07:00pm 2nd English, SMG
 07:00pm 1st Spanish, Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish, Red Room

Wednesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
 07:00pm 3rd English, SMG
 07:00pm 4th English, Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 1st Creole Red Room
 07:00pm 2nd Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel

Thursday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday St. Hilary

04:00pm Adoration
 5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .

Saturday

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
 Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

Holy Family Academy has begun its new term and children returned with much enthusiasm and hope for a great year to come.

The students at HFA commenced the year with a beautiful mass celebrating and welcoming the Three Kings! It was a reminder for our staff and children to enter in this joy of the birth of Our Savior.



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:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Toner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255