

‘God Gives Love, God Asks for Love’

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Good morning!

The Church's first steps in the world were interspersed with prayer. The apostolic writings and the great narration of the *Acts of the Apostles* give us the image of an active Church, a Church on the move, yet which, gathered in prayer, finds the basis and impulse for missionary action. The image of the early Community of Jerusalem is the point of reference for every other Christian experience. Luke writes in the Book of Acts: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (2:42). The community persevered in prayer.

We find here four essential characteristics of ecclesial life: listening to the apostles' teaching, first; second, the safeguarding of mutual communion; third, the breaking of the bread; and fourth, prayer. They remind us that the Church's existence has meaning if it remains firmly united to Christ, that is, in community, in His Word, in the Eucharist and in prayer – the way we unite ourselves to Christ. Preaching and catechesis bear witness to the words and actions of the Teacher; the constant quest for fraternal communion shields us from selfishness and particularisms; the breaking of the bread fulfils the sacrament of Jesus' presence among us. He will never be absent – particularly in the Eucharist, He is there. He lives and walks with us. And lastly, prayer, which is the space of dialogue with the Father, through Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Everything in the Church that grows outside of these "coordinates" lacks a foundation. To discern a situation, we need to ask ourselves about these four coordinates: how in this situation these four coordinates are present – the preaching, the constant search for fraternal communion, charity, the breaking of the bread (that is, the Eucharistic life), and prayer. Any situation needs to be evaluated in the light of these four coordinates. Whatever is not part of these coordinates lacks ecclesiality, it is not ecclesial. It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. The Church is not a market; the Church is not a group of businesspeople who go forward with a new business. The Church is the work of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to us to gather us together. The Church is precisely the work of the Spirit in the Christian community, in the life of the community, in the Eucharist, in prayer... always. And everything that grows outside of these coordinates lacks a foundation, is like a house built upon sand (see *Mt 7:24-27*). It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. It is Jesus' word that fills our efforts with meaning. It is in humility that we build the future of the world. At times, I feel tremendous sadness when I see a community that has good will, but takes the wrong road because it thinks that the Church is built up in meetings, as if it were a political party. "But, the majority, the minority, what do they think about this, that and the other... And this is like a Synod, the synodal path that we must take..." I ask myself: "But where is the Holy Spirit there? Where is prayer? Where is communitarian love? Where is the Eucharist?" Without these four coordinates, the Church becomes a human society, a political party – majority, minority – changes are made as if it were a company, according to majority or minority... But the Holy Spirit is not there. And the presence of the Holy Spirit is precisely guaranteed by these four coordinates. To evaluate whether a situation is ecclesial or not ecclesial, let us ask ourselves about these four coordinates: life in community, prayer, the Eucharist...how is life developing along these four coordinates. If this is lacking, the Holy Spirit is lacking, and if the Holy Spirit is lacking, we are a beautiful organization, humanitarian, doing good things, good, good...even an ecclesial party, let's put it that way. But it is not the Church. It is for this reason that the Church does not grow with these things: it does not grow through proselytism, as any other company, it grows by attraction. And who provokes attraction? The Holy Spirit. Let us never forget Benedict XVI's words: "The Church does not grow through proselytizing, she grows by attraction". If the Holy Spirit is lacking, who is the one who attracts [people] to Jesus, the Church is not there. There might be a beautiful friendship club, good, with good intentions, but not the Church, not synodality.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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I SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00am English, Church.
10:30am Creole, Church.
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Church.
(*Except Wednesdays*)

Fridays:
05:30pm Church.
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: Sep. 27, 2020 Sunday

Confirmation: Date to be confirmed.

Advent

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. "Advent" means "coming". The readings today refer to Christ's coming at the end of time, and so may not seem to relate to you, this very day. Jesus tells you to be ready for this coming. This coming can be the end of the world or it can be your own death, which ever comes first. You may think you have not to worry about either as they do not seem imminent but I have known plenty of people who died unexpectedly, as you never know the day nor the hour. The thought of death's uncertainty puts everyone in tension but to be ready you must face this uncertainty with faith. Jesus gives you a word and it is "Be Ready!" So to be ready what can you do? Well, Advent is a time to pray. It is a time to beg the Lord for help in order to be ready. Ask Him to give you the grace to FORGIVE. It may take time but if you persist the Lord will grant you this grace. Many of your problems stem from lacking forgiveness to others. Combined with this you need to look into your own heart to discover what is there, and it will not be pretty! LOOK AT YOUR OWN SINS to see the immense mercy of the Lord. So often you blame the other person, yet you forget the wrongs you have done to others. Go to CONFESSION to experience this mercy clearly. PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES, either in private or offer the Eucharist for their salvation. The Lord will certainly listen to such prayers.

As I wrote above Advent is a time to pray and to be prepared for Christ's coming, whenever that will be. Pray to the Lord that He take out any "Junk" you have in your heart and this will make your prayers reach the ears of God. What stops your prayers reaching the Lord is lack of forgiveness towards others. It is also a time to pray for this world and whatever is dear to your own heart. If the Lord grants us the favor of becoming more fervent in prayer our lives can be renewed. So let us pray for these things during the season of Advent that our hearts can be purified in order to receive the Christ-Child on Christmas day.

Gratefulness, I would like to thank you all, our brothers and sisters who made celebrating the feast of the parish possible with joy and dignity, both the Liturgy and the food. About 500 lunch were distributed.

Thank you for the time and dedication that you gave to organize the music, liturgy, food, and so many details needed to make this important event a success for our community.

May God reward you, Fr. Orlando.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday: 6:25am Blue Chapel

Penitential Celebration: Second Wednesday of December, 7:00pm Church.

Novena of Nativity: Dec 16—Dec 24. 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec 24:

Christmas Eve 05:30 pm and Midnight 12:00 am

Friday, Christmas day Dec 25:

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

Thursday, Dec 31: 05:30 pm

Friday, Jan 1:

09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

Remember:

- Masks are required **ALL TIME** while being inside and in public covering the nose and mouth. (Attendees, choir and lectors as well.)
- Keep 2mts / 6ft of physical distance.
- Attendees must register at the entrance.
- Sanitize your hands.

If you feel sick or can't attend Mass, you can follow our online Sunday Mass at our **YouTube** channel below:

**Our Lady of Divine Providence
Roman Catholic Church**

<https://qrqo.page.link/U6mGg>

Parish Events Nov 29— Dec 6

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 Fraternité, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir Practice
05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Wednesday: 07:00pm Advent Announcement

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

Friday: 05:30pm Daily Mass, Church.
06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.
06:00pm Confessions.

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

05:00pm 2nd English: SM. Goretti.
05:00pm 3rd English: Blue Chapel.
06:30pm Spanish: SM. Goretti.
06:30pm Creole. Blue Chapel
06:30pm 1st English. Red Room



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: +1(649)941-7875



Advent is Here!

Jesus is coming!

Each year, students at [Holy Family Academy](#) recall this mystery, the Church urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has for us!

Advent reconciliation: Dec. 1st & Dec. 3rd at the School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1 Christmas Novena begins

Dec. 7-11 1st Term Finals Week.

Dec. 11 Christmas Novena ends.

Dec. 17-Jan 3 Christmas Break.

Contact us at 941-7875 from 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. or send an email to holyfamilytci@gmail.com

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
- Printing paper
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!