

## ‘God Gives Love, God Asks for Love’

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.

In reading the Acts of the Apostles we then discover what a powerful driving force of evangelization the *prayer gatherings* can be, where those who participate actually experience Jesus' presence and are touched by the Spirit. The members of the first community – although this always applies, even to us today – sensed that the narrative of the encounter with Jesus did not stop at the moment of the Ascension, but continued in their life. In recounting what the Lord said and did – listening to the Word – in praying to enter into communion with Him, everything became alive. Prayer infuses light and warmth: the gift of the Spirit endowed them with fervour.

For this reason, the *Catechism* contains a very substantial expression. It says this: "The Holy Spirit... keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church at prayer, also leads her toward the fullness of truth, to the whole truth, and inspires new formulations expressing the unfathomable mystery of Christ at work in his Church's life, sacraments, and mission" (n. 2625). This is the Spirit's work in the Church: *making us remember Jesus*. And Jesus Himself said it: He will teach you and remind you. The mission is to *remember Jesus*, but not as a mnemonic exercise. Christians, walking on the paths of mission, remember Jesus while they make Him present once more; and from Him, from His Spirit, they receive the "push" to go, to proclaim, to serve. In prayer, Christians immerse themselves in the mystery of God, that mystery who loves each person, that God who desires that the Gospel to be preached to every one. God is God for everyone, and in Jesus every wall of separation has definitively crumbled: as Saint Paul says, He is our peace, that is, "He who has made us both one" (*Eph 2:14*). Jesus created unity, unity.

In this way the life of the early Church had the rhythm of a continuous succession of celebrations, convocations, times of both communitarian and personal prayer. And it is the Spirit who granted strength to the preachers who set out on the journey, and who, for love of Jesus, sailed the seas, faced dangers, subjected themselves to humiliation.

God gives love, God asks for love. This is the mystical root of the believer's entire life. In prayer, the first Christians – and us as well, who come many centuries afterwards – we all live the same experience. The Spirit inspires everything. And every Christian who is not afraid to devote time to prayer can make his or her own the words of the Apostle Paul, who says this: "the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (*Gal 2:20*). Prayer makes you aware of this. Only in the silence of adoration do we experience the whole truth of these words. And we must recapture this sense of adoration. To adore, to adore God, to adore Jesus, to adore the Spirit. The Father, the Son and the Spirit: to adore. In silence. The prayer of adoration is that prayer that makes us recognize God as the beginning and the end of all of History. And this prayer is the living flame of the Spirit that gives strength to witness and to mission. Thank you.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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## II 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.



Today is the 2nd Sunday in Advent and it is entered on St. John the Baptist. He goes ahead of Jesus by proclaiming repentance. Repentance encompasses many things. First of all, to recognize your sins and to be sorry for them, especially those that hurt other people. Actually, every sin we commit ends up hurting other people, one way or another. Even a sin that might seem private affects you and you cannot put up with any criticism or other people's sins or problems. Sin weakens you and makes you prone to anger, as you can become angry at yourself, first for falling into the trap and then take it out on those around you. The Greek word for repentance is 'metanoia' which means a change of direction. It involves a complete turn around. For most of us this is a lifelong struggle, but there can be progress, no matter how slow it is. If you are being unjust in your treatment of your workers or those around you, ask the Lord for the grace of 'metanoia'. As I wrote last week only the Lord can give us this grace but He gives us Advent to pray and this is one thing we can implore the Lord for. Another sign of repentance is to give money to the poor. Other things you can do is to fast from some things. St. Therese, the Little Flower, gave her 'little flowers' to Jesus. These were ordinary daily things, such as offering the fact that the nun next to her was better at her work than Therese was, and this suffering she offered to the Lord. It was truly a 'little flower'. Also to recognize just how far you need to go to become humble. Humility is to accept the little injustices that life throws at you, and the big ones too so that one day you can reach the truly sublime humility of the good thief, who said, "I deserve to be on this cross" and what was Jesus' reply? "today you will be with me in paradise". Hence the good thief became ready for the Lord's coming and when we can say "Thank you Lord for the Crosses you give me, as I deserve them", then we will be ready for Christ to come. May we all have this grace.

Fr. Paul

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020.**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS**  
**08:00am and 05:30pm. Church.**

**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>



**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: Immaculate Conception Mass**  
 08:00am Mass, Church.  
 05:30pm Mass, Church.

**Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**

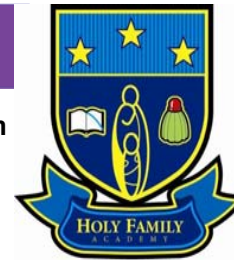
06:30pm 2nd English: Blue Chapel.  
 07:00pm Spanish: S.M. Goretti.  
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish BS Chapel:

**Wednesday:** 6:30pm Creole: Parish Hall  
 06:30pm 3rd English: Blue Chapel  
 06:30pm 1st English: S. M. Goretti.

**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**  
 06:30pm All communities. Church.



**School Notes**

**Holy Family Academy**  
 Tel: +1(649)941-7875



*Advent is Here!*  
**Jesus is coming!**

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

**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](mailto:holyfamilytci@gmail.com)

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://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](mailto: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!*