

## Pope Francis Audience 3 December 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today too I will not be able to read everything: I am getting better, but my voice is still not good. Monsignor Braida will read the catechesis.

Today, first Sunday of Advent, in the brief Gospel the liturgy offers us (cf. *Mk* 13: 33-37), Jesus addresses a simple and direct exhortation to us, three times: "Watch" (vv. 33, 35, 37).

Thus, the theme is *vigilance*. How should we understand it? Sometimes we think of this virtue as an attitude motivated by fear of impending doom, as if a meteorite were about to plunge from the sky and threaten, if we do not avoid it in time, to overwhelm us. But this is certainly not what Christian vigilance is all about!

Jesus illustrates it with a parable, speaking about a master who will return, and about his servants who await him (cf. v. 34). The servant in the Bible is the "trusted person" of the master, which whom there is often a relationship of collaboration and affection. Think, for example, that Moses is defined as the servant of God (cf. *Nm* 12: 7), and that even Mary says of herself, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord" (*Lk* 1: 38). So, the servants' vigilance is not one of fear, but of longing, of waiting to go forth to meet their Lord who is coming. They remain in readiness for his return because they care for him, because they have in mind that when he returns, they will make him find a welcoming and orderly home; they are happy to see him, to the point that they look forward to his return as a feast for the whole great family of which they are a part.

It is with this expectation filled with affection that we also want to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus: at Christmas, which we will celebrate in a few weeks; at the end of time, when He will return in glory; every day, as He comes to meet us in the Eucharist, in His Word, in our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

So, in a special way during these weeks, let us prepare the house of the heart with care, so that it is orderly and hospitable. In fact, keeping watch means keeping the heart ready. It is the attitude of the sentinel, who in the night is not tempted by weariness, does not fall asleep, but remains awake awaiting the coming light. The Lord is our light and it is good to dispose the heart to welcome him with prayer and to host him with charity, the two preparations that, so to speak, make him comfortable. In this regard, the story goes that Saint Martin of Tours, a man of prayer, after giving half of his cloak to a poor man, dreamed of Jesus clad in that very part of the cloak he had given. Here is a good program for Advent: to encounter Jesus coming in every brother and sister who needs us and to share with them what we can: listening, time, concrete assistance.

Dear friends, it will be good for us today to ask ourselves how we can prepare a welcoming heart for the Lord. We can do so by approaching His forgiveness, His Word, His Table, finding space for prayer, welcoming those in need. Let us cultivate His expectation without letting ourselves be distracted by so many pointless things, and without complaining all the time, but keeping our hearts alert, that is, eager for Him, awake and ready, impatient to meet Him. May the Virgin Mary, woman of expectation, help us to receive

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### 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.**

**Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.**

**Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.**

**Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.**

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, and as always the Church presents to us the figure of St. John the Baptist. St. John is the original 'fire and brimstone' preacher. He called everyone to acknowledge their sins and he continues his mission even today for all. Allow his preaching to touch you so that you can begin this Advent 'getting prepared'. By this I mean to start to looking at your sins. Let me help you and me, by asking the following questions. Are their people that you do not love? Is your love reserved only for your family and some friends.? Do you hold resentments or hatred in your heart. Are their people you do not talk to or associate with. Do you live in hypocrisy, that is, you put on a nice face but underneath you are thinking badly of people? Are you generous with the poor or do you ever despise them? Do you avoid people from different cultural or racial backgrounds? Do you have the courage to tell the truth to people even if they may think badly of you?

These questions do not even include the sexual aspects but hopefully you can begin to see that you have a lot of sins and that seeing this your heart can soften and you can experience remorse for all of the things you have done wrong. This is how to make a good Advent, as this process will humble you if you do it sincerely, as most of our sins stem from pride.

Finally, there will be a penitential celebration this Tuesday at 7pm in the Church with all the priests available to hear your confession. Please take advantage of this opportunity to be really prepared to welcome Jesus Christ this Christmas. Fr. Paul



## HOLY HOUR

FRIDAYS

4:00 pm—5:00pm.

**Rosary in three languages and reflection and meditation on the Holy Eucharist.**

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### ADVENT



**Morning Prayer**  
**Monday to Friday:**  
6:20 am Blue Chapel

**Penitential:** Tuesday,  
December 12 at 7:00  
pm Church.

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

### CHRISTMAS



**Sunday, Dec. 24:**  
Christmas Eve 05:30  
pm. English

Midnight 12:00 am  
multilingual

**Monday, Christmas day Dec. 25:**  
09:00 am English  
11:00 am Multilingual

**Sunday, Dec 31st:** 05:30 pm. English  
**Monday, Jan 1st:** 09:00 am English  
and 11:00 am Multilingual

## Parish Events Dec. 3-10

**Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. and 12:30pm.**  
04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.  
05:00 pm Fraternite, 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 Pope St. Damasus**  
05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

**Tuesday Our lady of Guadalupe**  
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel  
07:00pm Church: Parish Penitential  
Celebration

**Wednesday St. Lucy**  
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

**Thursday St. John of the Cross**  
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

**Friday**  
04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel  
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

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



## School Notes

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

The HFA students started the Novena and they are full of joy during this time, enjoying the songs and the prayers which are helping them to be ready for



the coming of the Lord. They are praying in front of the beautiful nativity built up in the school.

[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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Scientific Calculators
- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Erasable markers and erasers
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- AA Batteries
- Asthma Inhalers & AED



Click on our **Wish List** or scan the code to see more!