

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Let us continue our reflections on prayer. Christian prayer is fully human – we pray as humans, as what we are – it includes praise and supplication. Indeed, when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He did so with the “Our Father”, so that we might place ourselves in a relationship of filial trust with God, and ask Him all our questions. We implore God for the highest gifts: the sanctification of His name among men, the advent of His lordship, the realisation of His will for good in relation to the world. The Catechism recalls that: “There is a hierarchy in these petitions: we pray first for the Kingdom, then for what is necessary to welcome it and cooperate with its coming” (no. 2632). But in the “Our Father” we also pray for the simplest gifts, for the most of everyday gifts, such as “daily bread” – which also means health, home, work, everyday things; and it also means for for the Eucharist, necessary for life in Christ; and we also pray for the forgiveness of sins – which is a daily matter; we are always in need of forgiveness – and therefore peace in our relationships; and finally, that He may help us face temptation and free us from evil. To ask, to supplicate. This is very human. Let us listen to the Catechism again: “By prayer of petition we express awareness of our relationship with God. We are creatures who are not our own beginning, not the masters of adversity, not our own last end. We are sinners who as Christians know that we have turned away from our Father. Our petition is already a turning back to Him” (no. 2629).

If one feels bad because he has done bad things – he is a sinner – when he prays the “Our Father” he is already approaching the Lord. At times we can believe we do not need anything, that we are enough for ourselves, and we live in total self-sufficiency. This happens at times! But sooner or later this illusion vanishes. The human being is an invocation, that at times becomes a cry, often withheld. The soul resembles a dry, parched land, as the Psalm says (see Psalm 63:2). We all experience, at some time or another in our existence, the time of melancholy, of solitude. The Bible is not ashamed of showing our human condition, marked by disease, injustice, the betrayals of friends, or the threat of enemies. At times it seems that everything collapses, that the life lived so far has been in vain. And in these situations, when it seems that everything is falling apart, there is only one way out: the cry, the prayer “Lord, help me!”. Prayer can open up a sliver of light in the densest darkness. “Lord, help me!”. This opens: it opens up the road, it opens up the path.

We human beings share this invocation of help with the rest of creation. We are not the only ones “praying” in this boundless universe: every fragment of creation bears the desire for God. And Saint Paul himself expressed it in this way. He says: “We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly” (Rom 8:22-24). This is good. There resounds in us the multiform cry of creatures: of trees, of rocks, of animals. Everything yearns for fulfilment. Tertullian wrote: “Every creature prays; cattle and wild beasts pray and bend their knees; and when they issue from the layers and lairs, they look up heavenward with no idle mouth, making their breath vibrate after their own manner. Nay, the birds too, rising out of the nest, upraise themselves heavenward, and instead of hands, expand the cross of their wings, and somewhat to seem like prayer” (De oratione, XXIX). This is a poetic expression commenting on what Saint Paul says: “the whole creation has been groaning”. But we are the only ones to pray consciously, knowing that we are addressing the Father, and entering into dialogue with the Father.

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### III 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.

In today's Gospel, we see the Jerusalem religious authorities sending representatives to John the Baptist, asking who he is. He says he is no one important, just the voice to prepare the way for the Lord. This shows John's humility. Even if he sincerely denied he was the Christ, he also denied he was 'Elijah', which in another passage Jesus confirms that John really was a new 'Elijah'. What cries out in this passage is John's humility. "I am not worthy to untie his sandal strap." John merely knew the truth about himself, that he, of himself, was not important. His role was just to prepare the way for another.

Total self-abnegation, you could say. Are you like that? Each one of us wants to be someone important, even if you only rule in your own kitchen or toolshed. You want 'TO BE' and this causes a lot of problems and friction, as all the people around you also want to be someone. There cannot be 2 queens in the castle or 2 kings in the toolshed. Pope Francis says, that in order to become humble a person must endure many humiliations. Some saints paid people to curse them and abuse them verbally, so that they would not become proud! Others deliberately sought to be humiliated or took the blame for someone else and lost the esteem of people. Others acted like they were stupid or a fool or a simpleton. Again, other saints provoked persecution. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to accept the humiliations that life presents to us, so that we can begin to realize we are not in charge, that we are weak, poor people, with many sins and that this can prepare the way for the Lord to come to us.

Fr. Paul



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### ADVENT

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

**Penitential Celebration:** Tuesday, Dec. 15  
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://qrgo.page.link/U6mGg>

## Parish Events Dec 13—Dec 20

**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 Fraternity, 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.

**Penance Celebration 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday:**

**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 English and Spanish. Church.  
06:30pm Creole. Red Room.



## School Notes

**Holy Family Academy**

**Tel: +1(649)941-7875**



*"May the joy and peace that were present at the birth of Christ be present in your home this season. **Merry Christmas!**"*

**Christmas Break.**  
Dec. 17 -Jan. 3

[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
- Toner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!