

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"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.

Therefore, we should not be shocked if we feel the need to pray, we should not be ashamed. And, especially when we are in need, to ask. Jesus, speaking of a dishonest man, who had to settle the accounts with his landlord, says this: "Ask, I am ashamed". And many of us have this feeling: we are ashamed to ask, to ask for help, to ask something of someone who can help us, to reach our purpose, and we are also ashamed to ask God. "No, this can't be done". Do not be ashamed to pray. "Lord, I need this", "Lord, I am in difficulty", "Help me!": the cry, the cry of the heart to God who is the Father. And also to do so in happy moments, not only in bad times, but also in happy ones, to thank God for everything that is given to us, and not to take anything for granted or as if it were owed to us: everything is grace. We must learn this. The Lord always gives to us, always, and everything is grace, everything. The grace of God. However, we must not suffocate the supplication that rises up in us spontaneously. Prayer of petition goes in step with acceptance of our limit and our nature as creatures. One may even not reach the point of belief in God, but it is difficult not to believe in prayer: it simply exists, it presents itself to us as a cry; and we all know this inner voice that may remain silent for a long time, but one day awakens and cries out.

And, brothers and sisters, we know that God will respond. There is no prayer in the Book of Psalms that raises a lament that remains unheard. God always answers: maybe today, tomorrow, but he always answers, in one way or another. He always answers. The Bible repeats it countless times: God listens to the cry of those who invoke Him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart, that we are ashamed to express: the Father listens to them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every prayer and transforms everything. Brothers and sisters, in prayer there is always a question of patience, always, of supporting the wait. Now we are in the time of Advent, a time that is typically of expectation; of expectation of Christmas. We are in waiting. This is clear to see. But all our life is also in waiting. And prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer. Even death trembles when a Christian prays, because it knows that everyone who prays has an ally stronger than it has: the Risen Lord. Death has already been defeated in Christ, and the day will come when everything will be final, and it will no longer scorn our life and our happiness.

Let us learn to stay in waiting; in expectation of the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us, not only in these great feasts – Christmas, Easter – but rather the Lord visits us every day, in the intimacy of our heart if we are in waiting. And very often we do not realise that the Lord is nearby, that He knocks on our door, and we let Him pass on by. "I am afraid of God when He passes", Saint Augustine used to say. "I am afraid He will pass and I will not realise". And the Lord passes, the Lord comes, the Lord knocks. But if your ears are filled with other noise, you will not hear the call of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, staying in waiting: this is prayer. Thank you.

#### 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 fourth Sunday of Advent. We have entered the “Novena” of Christmas and so the Gospel is preparing us for Christ’s birth. It speaks of many things. About who the child will be and his miraculous conception and so forth but I want to focus on two aspects. Firstly, Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel. One translation has it, “You see before the Lord’s servant, let it happen to me as you have said.” Mary is at the Lord’s service. Paraphrasing her words, she is saying, “Do with me what you will.” It is also true that the Lord is asking Mary’s permission to do with her whatever He wills! Without her consent nothing could happen. The Lord wants a free “yes” from her and she gives it! Mary’s life will never be the same. To be at God’s service, this is what you are called to, and yet the Lord respects your free will. How gentle is the Lord. To be a servant means not to do what you want but what the Master wants. The problem is when you really do not want to do it and yet the Lord is asking you. For this we need Jesus Christ to be born in our hearts, so that we can say “Yes” to Him. And we need His grace because in doing this you lose your very self but, of course with the Lord, you gain a new and freer self. Mary, after this, is free. She will no longer do her will but always God’s will and she will always be joyful in doing it. This can seem impossible but let us ask this grace this Christmas to say “Yes”, to the will of God, whatever it is, wherever it leads us. Remember that “Nothing is impossible for God”, which means that He can give us the grace to say “Yes” to His will in our freedom. May the Christ child, when He comes this week give to each one of us this grace and so experience the full joy of Christmas.

Fr. Paul



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### ADVENT

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

**Penitential Celebration:** Tuesday, Dec. 22  
7:00pm Church.

**Novena of Nativity:** Dec 16—Dec 24. 6:00 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  
05:30 pm English

**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 20—Dec 27

**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.

### 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. 12 -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
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!