

The Epiphany

The Evangelist Matthew tells us that the Magi, when they came to Bethlehem, “saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him” (Mt 2:11). Worshiping the Lord is not easy; it does not just happen. It requires a certain spiritual maturity and is the fruit of an at times lengthy interior journey.

Worshiping God is not something we do spontaneously. True, human beings have a need to worship, but we can risk missing the goal. Indeed, if we do not worship God, we will worship idols – there is no middle way, it is either God or idols; or, to use the words of a French writer: “Whoever does not worship God, worships the devil” (Léon Bloy) – and instead of becoming believers, we will become idolaters. It is just like that, *aut aut*.

In our day, it is particularly necessary for us, both as individuals and as communities, to devote more time to worship. We need to learn ever better how to contemplate the Lord. We have somewhat lost the meaning of the prayer of duration, so we must take it up again, both in our communities and in our own spiritual life. Today, then, let us learn a few useful lessons from the Magi. Like them, we want to fall down and worship the Lord. To worship him seriously, not as Herod said: “Let me know where the place is and I will go to worship him”. No, that worship is not good. Ours must be serious!

The Liturgy of the Word offers us three phrases that can help us to understand more fully what it means to be worshipers of the Lord. They are: “to lift up our eyes”, “to set out on a journey” and “to see”. These three phrases can help us to understand what it means to be a worshiper of the Lord.

The first phrase, to lift up our eyes ...

The first phrase, *to lift up our eyes*, comes to us from the prophet Isaiah. To the community of Jerusalem, recently returned from exile and disheartened by great challenges and hardships, the prophet addresses these powerful words of encouragement: “Lift up your eyes and look around” (60:4). He urges them to lay aside their weariness and complaints, to escape the bottleneck of a narrow way of seeing things, to cast off the dictatorship of the self, the constant temptation to withdraw into ourselves and our own concerns. To worship the Lord, we first have to “lift up our eyes”. In other words, not to let ourselves be imprisoned by those imaginary spectres that stifle hope, not to make our problems and difficulties the centre of our lives. This does not mean denying reality, or deluding ourselves into thinking that all is well. On the contrary, it is a matter of viewing problems and anxieties in a new way, knowing that the Lord is aware of our troubles, attentive to our prayers and not indifferent to the tears we shed.

This way of seeing things, which despite everything continues to trust in the Lord, gives rise to filial gratitude. When this happens, our hearts become open to worship. On the other hand, when we focus exclusively on problems, and refuse to lift up our eyes to God, fear and confusion creep into our hearts, giving rise to anger, bewilderment, anxiety and depression. Then it becomes difficult to worship the Lord. Once this happens, we need to find the courage to break out of the circle of our foregone conclusions and to recognize that reality is much greater than we imagine. *Lift up your eyes, look around and see*. The Lord asks us first to trust in him, because he truly cares for everyone. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he provide for us? (cf. Lk 12:28). If we lift up our eyes to the Lord, and consider all things in his light, we will see that he never abandons us. The Word became flesh (cf. Jn 1:14) and remains with us always, for all time (cf. Mt 28:20). Always.

When we lift up our eyes to God, life’s problems do not go away, no; instead we feel certain that the Lord grants us the strength to deal with them. The first step towards an attitude of worship, then, is to “lift up our eyes”. Our worship is that of disciples who have found in God a new and unexpected joy. Worldly joy is based on wealth, success or similar things, always with ourselves at the centre. The joy of Christ’s disciples, on the other hand, is based on the fidelity of God, whose promises never fail, whatever the crises we may face. Filial gratitude and joy awaken within us a desire to worship the Lord, who remains ever faithful and never abandons us.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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.

The Feasts just continue! Today is the Baptism of the Lord. Why did Jesus undergo baptism by St. John the Baptist? Jesus was without sin and did not need to be baptised. So why did He do it? To show us that He is one with sinners. Only sinners needed baptism and so Jesus is saying "I am one of you, even in your sins!" Clearly it is out of humility that Jesus does this. A man who is God and without sin, is accounted as a sinner! Not one of us can replicate the depth of this humility. The whole event encompasses other aspects of Jesus' life. The very fact that he came down from heaven to live and to die like one of us is the same type of humility. His suffering and death likewise, show us His humility but they also show Jesus' total submission to the Father's will. How humble is our God and faithful. Today is the final day of the Christmas season and it reveals the true humility of our God from His birth in poverty to His baptism in the Jordan. For you, humility is to recognize your reality, which is, that you are a weak person with many faults, sins and complexes. Through recognizing these, you can discover the immense love of the Lord who humbles Himself to become one with you in your heart, mind, soul and in your very life.

May the spirit of Christmas remain in your hearts every day of this new year.

Fr. Paul

The Three Kings visited Our Lady of Divine Providence.



Last Sunday, The Three Kings visited our church. After a long journey, they were finally able to visit us. The three of them share a joyful time with the parishioners, especially the children, who had the opportunity to ask them questions, bring them letters asking for graces, and receive presents from them.

Courage!
God's mercy is greater than our weaknesses.

He loves you, as you are



¡Ven y escucha!

Catequesis para adultos
Fecha inicio: Enero 18, 2020.

Lunes y jueves.
7:00 - 8:00 PM Parish Hall

Parish Events Jan 10– Jan 17

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, D. Mass Chapel.

Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st Spanish Community, S.M.Goretti
2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chap
1st English Communities, P. Hall
2nd English Community, Blue Chapel.

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st Creole Community, Red Room.
3rd English Communities, Blue Chap.

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



We are happy to announce that the Three Kings stopped by at the end of our school mass to see Jesus



who saved us right here in Turks and Caicos. The children were happy to enjoy the parade of the Kings and the good things they bring.

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: <http://hfa.catholic.tc/wish-list-.html>

- Moving Outdoor planters and gardening material
- Heavy Duty Sun Shade Sail Canopy
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!