

**'Please excuse me if I do not come down to greet you:
I will greet you from here but I hold you in my heart'**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today, in this audience, as we have done in the previous audiences, I will stay here. I like to come down and greet each one of you, but we must keep our distance, because if I come down, then a crowd forms to greet me, and this is contrary to the measures and the precautions we must take in order to face "Madame Covid", and it is harmful to us. Therefore, please excuse me if I do not come down to greet you: I will greet you from here but I hold you in my heart, all of you. And you, please hold me in your heart, and pray for me. From a distance, we can pray for each other ... and thank you for your understanding.

In our itinerary of catechesis on prayer, after travelling through the Old Testament, we now arrive at Jesus. And Jesus prayed. The beginning of His public ministry takes place with His baptism in the river Jordan. The Evangelists are in agreement in attributing fundamental importance to this episode. They narrate how all the people came together *in prayer*, and specify that this gathering had a clearly *penitential* nature (see *Mk 1:5; Mt 3:8*). The people went to John to be baptised, for the forgiveness of sins: it is of a penitential character, of conversion.

Jesus' first public act is therefore participation in a choral prayer of the people, a prayer of the people who went to be baptised, a penitential prayer, in which everyone recognises him- or herself as a sinner. This is why the Baptist wishes to oppose it, and says: "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" (*Mt 3:14*). The Baptist understands that it was Jesus. But Jesus insists: His is an act of obedience to the will of the Father (v. 5), an act of solidarity with our human condition. He prays with the sinners of the people of God. Let us keep this clearly in mind: Jesus is the Righteous One, He is not a sinner. But He wished to come down to us, sinners, and He prays with us, and when we pray He is with us, praying; He is with us because He is in heaven, praying for us. Jesus always prays with His people, He always prays with us: always. We never pray alone, we always pray with Jesus. He does not stay on the opposite side of the river – "I am righteous, you are sinners" – to mark His difference and distance from the disobedient people, but rather He immerses His feet in the same purifying waters. He acts as if He were a sinner. And this is the greatness of God, Who sent His Son and annihilated Himself, and appears as a sinner.

Jesus is not a distant God, and He cannot be. Incarnation revealed Him in a complete and humanly unthinkable way. Thus, inaugurating His mission, Jesus places Himself at the forefront of a people of penitents, as if He were responsible for opening a breach through which all of us, after Him, must have the courage to pass. But the road, the journey, is difficult; but He goes ahead, opening the way. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that this is the newness of the fullness of time. It says: "His filial prayer, which the Father awaits from His children, is finally going to be lived out by the only Son in His humanity, with and for men" (no. 2599). Jesus prays with us. Let us keep this clear in our mind and in our heart: Jesus prays with us.

On that day, on the bank of the river Jordan, there is therefore all of humanity, with its unexpressed yearning for prayer. There is, above all, the population of sinners: those who thought they were not beloved by God, those who did not dare cross the threshold of the temple, those who did not pray because they did not consider themselves worthy. Jesus came for everyone, even for them, and He begins precisely by joining them. At the forefront.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXXI SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



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 'all saints Day'. It is a great feast because there is a saint for each one, and for every situation. Today's Gospel is what you and I, are called to be. The poor in spirit are those who recognize that they "cannot". They cannot love, they cannot be good and that they are weak. Then, any good they do must be all the Lord's doing. Such was St. Peter, who denied the Lord three times to servant girls, who was called to conversion by St. Paul and who when he was threatened with crucifixion was leaving Rome, only to meet Jesus going the other way. St. Peter said to Jesus those famous words, "Quo Vadis, Domine?" "Where are you going Lord?" Jesus replied, "To get on the Cross you are escaping". So Peter turned around and went back to Rome and was Crucified. Being a Saint does not mean you are strong.

Other Saints did amazing things. St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests, for example, slept standing and leaning against a wall for an hour or so every night. That's all he slept. He spent 18 hours most days in the confessional. He never took a day off and never went on vacation during 40 years. However, he did try to leave his parishioners on 3 occasions but his people chastened by this went and implored him to come back and he did return.

Some saints never smiled, such as St. Ephraim the deacon in the 4th century. He introduced singing into the mass and was called the harp of the Holy Spirit. St. Philip Neri, in 16th century Rome was, on the contrary almost always laughing. He is the patron saint of joy. He is the only saint that managed to bring true conversion of heart to the Cardinals in Rome. If you said to him "I would like to be more humble" then he would give you as a penance to cut off half your hair. You would be bald on half your head!

Some saints lived in the desert, and are called "The Desert Fathers" and are from the 4th – 7th century and were mainly in Egypt. In fact so many became monks or hermits that there were whole towns of them! They lived on the providence of God. Some only ate every 3 days, some stood for years, others did miracles. Other saints lived on top of poles for years.

More recent saints are John Paul II and Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa never felt anything towards the Lord for 45 years. After receiving communion she asked the other nuns what they experienced and they said, "Jesus in my heart" and other such things. She just shrugged her shoulders because she not only felt nothing of the sweetness of the Lord but she felt that God was against her, and yet she was always smiling. Eventually she understood why. She had to experience what the poorest of the poor feel, so that she could be one with them.

I hope that these sketches may inspire you to ask and pray to the saints. They are not far from us and want the best for us.

Fr. Paul

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SOULS

Monday, November 2nd, 2020
Mass at: 07:00 a.m. and 05:30 p.m.

**CCD CLASSES
 HAVE BEGUN!**



Registration 2020-2021 is open.

If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Communion or Confirmation, please ask for the registration form in the church.

As young Catholics, this Sacraments are crucial for their Christian formation, so we encourage you to register.

* All classes are currently taken online

For more information please contact:
T: 941-5136 or oldpchurch@catholic.tc

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>

Parish Events Nov 1— Nov 8

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.

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

05:00 pm Creole
 06:30pm Spanish SM. Goretti.
 06:30pm English. Church



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

Though things were done very differently this year, students at **Holy Family Academy** were still able to celebrate All Saints' Day. Beginning with Mass, continuing with Saint movies, and finishing with other activities, both students and staff were reminded of the call to holiness for everyone. All Saints, pray for us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 13-16 Mid-Term Break.
 School Closed

Contact us at 941-7875 from 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. or send an email to holyfamilytci@gmail.com.

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:

- Scholarships
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Printing paper
- Toner or ink refill for Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!