

Today's Gospel takes us to Jerusalem, in the most sacred place: the temple. There, around Jesus, some people speak about the magnificence of that grandiose building, "adorned with costly stones" (Lk 21:5). But the Lord states, "there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down" (Lk 21:6). He then adds to the story, explaining how in history almost everything collapses: there will be, he says, revolutions and wars, earthquakes and famines, pestilence and persecution (cf. vv. 9-17). As if to say: one should not place too much trust in earthly realities, which pass. These are wise words, which can however make us somewhat bitter. There are already many things going wrong. Why does the Lord even make such negative pronouncements? In reality his intention is not to be negative, it is otherwise – to give us a valuable teaching, that is, the way out of all this precariousness. And what is the way out? How can we come out of this reality that passes and passes, and will be no more? It lies in a word that will perhaps surprise us. Christ reveals it in the final phrase of the Gospel, when he says: "By your perseverance you will secure your lives" (v. 19). *Perseverance*. What is perseverance? The word indicates being "very strict"; but strict in what sense? With oneself, considering oneself not up to standard? No. With others, becoming rigid and inflexible? Not this either. Jesus asks us to be "strict", uncompromising, persistent in what he has at heart, in what counts. Because, what truly counts, very often does not coincide with what attracts our interest. Like those people at the temple, we often prioritize the work of our hands, our achievements, our religious and civil traditions, our sacred and social symbols. This is fine, but we accord too much priority to them. These things are important, but they pass away. Instead, Jesus says to concentrate on what remains, to avoid devoting our life to building something that will then be destroyed, like that temple, and forgetting to build what will not collapse, to build on his word, on love, on goodness. To be persevering, to be strict and resolute in building on what does not pass away. This, then, is perseverance: *building goodness every day*. To persevere is to remain constant in goodness, especially when the reality around us urges us to do otherwise. Let us reflect on a few examples: I know that prayer is important, but, like everyone, I too always have a lot to do, and so I put it off: "No, I am busy now, I can't, I'll do it later". Or, I see many crafty people who take advantage of situations, who dodge the rules, and so I too stop observing them and persevering in justice and legality: "But if these scoundrels do it, so will I!". Beware of this! And again: I carry out service in the Church, for the community, for the poor, but I see that many people in their free time think only of enjoying themselves, and so I feel like giving up and do what they do. Because I do not see results, or I get bored, or it does not make me happy. Persevering, instead, is *remaining* in goodness. Let us ask ourselves: what is my perseverance like? Am I constant, or do I live faith, justice and charity according to the moment: I pray if I feel like it; I am fair, willing and helpful if it suits me; whereas if I am dissatisfied, if no-one thanks me, do I stop? In short, do my prayer and service depend on circumstances or on a heart that is steadfast in the Lord? If we persevere – Jesus reminds us – we have nothing to fear, even in the sad and ugly events of life, not even in the evil we see around us, because we remain grounded in the good. Dostoevsky wrote: "Have no fear of men's sin. Love a man even in his sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth" (*The Brothers Karamazov*, II, 6, 3g). Perseverance is the reflection in the world of God's love, because God's love is faithful, it is persevering, it never changes.

May Our Lady, servant of the Lord, persevering in prayer (cf. *Acts* 1:12), fortify our perseverance.

## **Our Lady of Divine Providence** **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González**  
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### **SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING**



#### **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.**

**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: 11 June, 2023.**

**Confirmations: TBC**

Today is Christ the King and what a strange King we have! He is a crucified King and He reigns from the cross! The King of the Universe and creator of all things we crucified and yet He is our King. How can this be? The answer is that in order for Jesus Christ to conquer death He needed to go through it. By going through His passion and death He has conquered pain and suffering and even death and opened the way to paradise for all of us.

The problem of suffering is a question mark for everyone. If God is so good why is there so much misery in the world? Jesus Christ has come to show you that no suffering is ever wasted and is precious in the Lord's sight. It also has been resurrected through the cross of Jesus Christ. Your suffering is not in vain. This feast, then comes to give everyone consolation and especially those who are in the pit of suffering because Christ our Lord and savior has been through it all and come out the other side and that is the resurrection. Without resurrection there is no answer to suffering. Jesus comes to counteract this by redeeming suffering. Also, the good thief, in today's Gospel says that he deserves his suffering. Have you ever said that? Not likely, I would imagine. Yet it was a grace for him to accept his cross, literally, and that day to enter paradise. For us this means that if the Lord gives you the grace of seeing you deserve your daily cross and also to accept it, then you can experience a little bit of paradise on earth. You will become joyful and peaceful in the midst of your sufferings Jesus also comes to tell each one of you that the way of the cross inevitably leads to resurrection. I see this with my brother who was a communist and how much this made me suffer. But three days before he died he received the last rites. It was worth the suffering! The Lord uses suffering in our lives to experience His resurrection. May we all have the grace to see the resurrection in our sufferings.

Fr. Paul

## Church Festival

All are invited. There will be only one multilingual Mass at

11:00 a.m.

There will be fun and games for the whole family!

**Sunday, November 20**

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### ADVENT

**Morning Prayer Monday to Friday:**  
06:20 am (Blue Chapel)

**Penitential Celebration:** Second  
Wednesday of December

07:00 pm (Church)

**Christmas Concert:** Wednesday 14 of  
December

07:00 pm (Church).

**Novena of Nativity and Posadas:** Dec  
16–24. 07:00 pm

#### Christmas

**Christmas Eve Mass:** Dec 24, 05:30  
pm English. (Church)

**Christmas Midnight Mass:** 12:00 am  
Multilingual. (Church)

**Christmas Day Mass:** Dec 25,

09:00 am English. (Church)

11:00am Bilingual. (Church)

#### January 1, Mother of God

**New Year's Eve Mass:** Dec. 31. 05:30  
pm. (Church)

Jan 1. 09:00 am. English. (Church)

11:00 am. Bilingual. (Church)

## Parish Events November 20-27

**Sunday Holy Mass: 9:00am, 11:00 am,**

**12 Noon**

04:00 pm

05:00 pm

05:00 pm

05:30 pm

05:00 pm

#### Parish Festival

Coeur de Marie Children's group.

Fraternitey, Red Room.

Creole Youth Choir practice.

Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd

Sunday at church.

**Monday**

#### Presentation of Virgin Mary

05:30 pm

D. Mass Chapel.

**Tuesday**

#### St. Cecilia

05:30 pm

D. Mass Chapel.

07:00pm

#### Announcement of Advent

**Wednesday**

#### St. Columban

05:30 pm

D. Mass Chapel

**Thursday**

#### St. Andrew Dung-Lac

05:30 pm

D. Mass Chapel

**Friday**

#### St. Catherine of Alexandria

04:00pm

Adoration

5:30pm

Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .

**Saturday**

05:30 pm

Mass, Church

07:00 pm

NCW Eucharist



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

### Spirituality



As part of the Our Lady of Divine Providence Novena, Holy Family Academy students practiced a very special song this week to present for the Feast Day.

### Academics

HFA's Social Studies department, is working hard to nurture students' eagerness to learn about the importance of world history and civilization.

[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:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255