

Pope Francis Ash Wednesday Homily 2024

When you give alms, or pray or fast, take care to do these things *in secret*, for your Father sees in secret. "Go to your room": this is the invitation that Jesus addresses to each of us at the beginning of the Lenten journey. *Going to your room* means returning to the *heart*. It means journeying from without to within, so that our whole life, including our relationship with God, is not reduced to mere outward show, a frame without a picture, a draping of the soul, but is born from within and reflects the movements of our heart, our deepest desires, our thoughts, our feelings, the very core of our person. Lent immerses us in a bath of purification and of self-spoilation: it helps us to remove all the cosmetics that we use in order to appear presentable, better than we really are. To return to the heart means to go back to our true self and to present it just as it is, naked and defenceless, in the sight of God. It means looking within ourselves and acknowledging our real identity, removing the masks we so often wear, slowing the frantic pace of our lives and embracing life and the truth of who we are. Life is not a play; Lent invites us to come down from the stage and return to the heart, to the reality of who we are: a return to the heart and the truth. That is why this evening, in a spirit of prayer and humility, we receive ashes on our head. This gesture is meant to remind us of the ultimate reality of our lives: that we are dust and our life passes away like a breath. Yet the Lord does not allow it to vanish; he gathers and shapes the dust that we are, lest it be swept away by the winds of life or sink into the abyss of death. The ashes placed on our head invite us to rediscover the secret of life. They tell us that as long as we continue to shield our hearts and hide ourselves behind a mask, to appear invincible, we will be empty and arid within. When, on the other hand, we have the courage to bow our heads in order to look within, we will discover the presence of God who loves us and has always loved us. At last those shields you have built for yourself will be shattered and you will be able to feel yourself loved with an eternal love. Sister, brother, I, you, each of us, is loved with an eternal love. We are ashes on which God has breathed his breath of life, we are the earth which he has shaped with his own hands dust from which we will rise for a life without end prepared for us from all eternity. And if, in the ashes that we are, the fire of the love of God burns, then we will discover that we have indeed been shaped by that love and called to love others in turn. To love the brothers and sisters all around us, to be considerate to others, to feel compassion, to show mercy, to share all that we are and all that we have with those in need. Almsgiving, prayer and fasting are not mere external practices; they are paths that lead to the heart, to the core of the Christian life. They make us realize that we are ashes loved by God, and they enable us to spread that love on the "ashes" of so many situations in our daily lives, so that in them hope, trust and joy may be reborn. Saint Anselm has left us these words of encouragement that this evening we can make our own: "Escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labours. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him. Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, O Lord, I desire". Let us listen to the voice of the Lord who does not tire of repeating: *go to your room*, return to your heart. It is a salutary invitation for us, who so often live on the surface of things, who are so concerned to be noticed, who constantly need to be admired and appreciated. We find ourselves no longer having an "inner chamber" in which we can stop and care for ourselves, immersed as we are in a world in which everything, including our emotions and deepest feelings, has to become "social" – but how can something be "social" that does not come from the *heart*? Even the most tragic and painful experiences risk not having a quiet place where they can be kept. Everything has to be exposed, shown off, fed to the gossip-mill of the moment. But the Lord says to us: *Enter into the secret*, return to the centre of yourself. Precisely there, where so many fears, feelings of guilt and sin are lurking, precisely there the Lord has descended in order to heal and cleanse you. Let us enter into our inner chamber: there the Lord dwells, there our frailty is accepted and we are loved unconditionally. Let us return, brothers and sisters. Let us return to God with all our heart. During these weeks of Lent, let us make space for the prayer of silent adoration, in which we experience the presence of the Lord, like Moses, like Elijah, like Mary, like Jesus. Have we noticed that we have lost the sense of worship? Let us return to worship. Let us lend the ear of our hearts to the One who, in silence, wants to say to us: "I am your God – the God of mercy and compassion, the God of pardon and love, the God of tenderness and care Do not judge yourself.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



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, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.

Confirmations: To be confirmed.

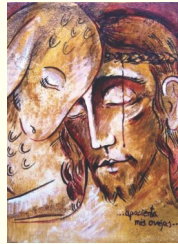
Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Today's Gospel is perfect for Lent. This is a time of conversion and repentance. Jesus is not mincing words. He is shouting from the hip. "If you do not repent you will all perish as they did." Hopefully you are beginning to see your sins as Lent progresses and that you are not any better than others. This is very difficult to believe. Many of you think, "Well, I am a good person. I don't steal kill or cheat anyone. I get angry sometimes but who doesn't do that." This season is a time to recognize the depth of your sins. That there are people whom you despise or look down upon or you feel superior to. Only the person who truly knows them selves does not think them selves better than anyone. Most people judge other people and, as Jesus says, "Do not judge and you won't be judged." This means if you do judge you will be judged. Judgement comes from feeling better than the other person. Perhaps you always trust in yourself and not on the Lord, which is pride or you can't stand it when people criticize you. As I reiterate I hope you are beginning to see that you are a sinner caught up in many sins. This is the bad news but there is hope, even in today's bleak gospel. If you repent you will not perish. What is 'Repentance'? The Jerusalem Bible footnote says this about repentance : "Metanoia or change of heart means a renunciation of sin, repentance. This regret for past conduct is normally accompanied by a 'conversion' by which a person turns back to God and enters a new life. Repentance and conversion are the **necessary condition** for receiving the salvation which the kingdom of God brings."

Let us pray this Lent for the graces of real repentance and a true conversion of heart so that we can really feel the Lord's forgiveness in our lives and hearts.
Fr. Paul



"Come to me, all who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28)

**Are you suffering and don't know why?
Worried about the future?
Do you feel alone ?**

**Come and Listen
God Loves You!**

Catechesis for Youth and Adults
(13 years old and up)

**Mondays and Thursdays
at 7:00pm**
(Free babysitting available)

Our Lady of Divine Providence
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1310 Leeward Highway, Providenciales TKCA
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LENTEN SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday 6:20am
St. Maria Goretti, Upper Room

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent after the daily mass, 6:00pm in the Church.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

PLEASE HELP US GET THERE

(around 50 young & adults \$3,000 e/a)

Any help God will reward you a hundred fold, not only spiritually but materially as well.

Parish Events 23-30 March

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm Catechesis Upper Room

Tuesday Solemnity of the Annunciation

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm First English Blue Chapel
07:00pm Second English Red Room
07:00pm Spanish SMG, Upper Room

Wednesday

05:30pm Daily Mass., SMG Upper Room
07:00pm Third English SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm Fourth English Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel
07:00pm Creole Blessed Sac. Chapel

Thursday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm Catechesis SMG, Upper Room

Friday

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs
06:00 pm Stations of the Cross in the Church

Saturday

05:30 pm Mass in Church
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

This week we celebrated the feast day of St. Joseph! Students reflected on St. Joseph's example at morning Mass, learning that openness to God's will, even when it means giving up your own, leads to finding genuine happiness.



Last week, Holy Family Academy held its annual Sports Day! Through these games, all students demonstrated teamwork and sportsmanship, aligning with the school's commitment to fostering well-rounded individuals: religiously, academically, socially, and physically.

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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

