



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Is 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 1

Cor 1:3–9

Mk 13:33–37



Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

MARK 13:33

OMIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Hurry Up and Wait!

**W**e've all had this experience. We rush to get ready...and then we wait: at the doctor's office, for a train, at a restaurant. For what do we hurry up and wait this Sunday? Some might say we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. But today's readings don't say this. The first reading describes people waiting for relief from the guilt of their sinfulness. Paul talks about waiting for "the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the end time (1 Corinthians 1:7). The people in the Gospel are waiting for the return of the householder to settle accounts. There's no waiting for Christmas—yet.

For what should we wait if not Christmas? Isaiah tells us to hurry up and change our lives of pettiness, selfishness, and arrogance, and then to wait for the graciousness of God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63:19). Paul tells us to hurry up and embrace "the grace of God bestowed on [us] in Christ Jesus" (1

Corinthians 1:4), and then to wait for the final revelation of his glory. The Gospel tells us to hurry up, be alert and ready for Christ's return, and then to wait for it to happen.

If we don't prepare ourselves for the coming of God in the reality of our own lives, we might not recognize this salvation when it comes. We're not waiting for an event that happened in the past; we are waiting for the grace of God that is calling us into the future. So, hurry up and wait!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *If you are waiting for salvation, from what weakness or sin must you be saved?*
- ★ *How are you readying yourself for that salvation to take root in your life?*



### ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Community Building Committee Chair:	Grace Lovecchio	email: <a href="mailto:mglove@northrock.bm">mglove@northrock.bm</a>	(h) 236-5006



**Weekend Masses:** Vigil: 5:45pm, Sunday: 10:00am

**Baptisms:** by appointment 3 weeks in advance

**Weddings:** by appointment 6 months in advance

**Vocations:** Fr. Toby Collins [www.vocationculture.ca](http://www.vocationculture.ca)



[www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget) & "LIKE" us

Diocesan Webpage: [www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this Sunday. May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

<b>Sat., Nov 28th</b>	<b>5:45pm</b>	Adelina & Jose De Frias ++
<b>Sun., Nov 29th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	St. Michael's Parishioners
<b>Sat., Dec 5th</b>	<b>5:45pm</b>	Mary Crainey +
<b>Sun., Dec 6th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Joe Morley, 16th Anniversary of Priesthood, (Dec. 8th)

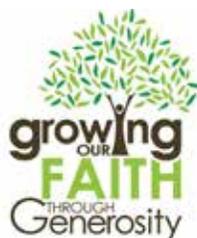
### November 28th/29th 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>5:45PM</b>	<b>Lector:</b>	Joshua Blee
<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Lector:</b>	Isabelle Brackstone
	<b>Counters:</b>	LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson

### December 5th/6th 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>5:45PM</b>	<b>Lector:</b>	Karen Marsh
<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Lector:</b>	Pat Robinson
	<b>Counters:</b>	Karen Marsh

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at St. Theresa's - 7:30 Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00 Tues.—Fri.



## STEWARDSHIP

**The overall financial well-being of the parish is so important at this time.**

**COLLECTION TALLY: \$936.00**

**ST. VINCENT DEPAUL (POOR BOX): \$310.00**

**DONATION: \$1,000.00 – which will be allocated to Operational expenses**

### ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

**FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION** are welcomed.

Consider making it a quarterly, monthly or even weekly transactions.

**Be sure to include your name and collection as your memo on your banking transaction.**

*“Please note, that we are charged \$20 for US\$ checks drawn on a US Bank.”*

**ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support Parish Operations.**

*Thank you to those parishioners who have answered our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.*

**YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**

Direct Deposit to Butterfield Bank (BNTB) to: “The Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Michael's” Acct # 2000-6060-081824 -100

## WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



*Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say...Often the other spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard,*

*to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their disappointment, their fear, their anger.*

—AMORIS LAETITIA, MARCH 19, 2016

## The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

According to the Pew Research Center report, 2018 was a record year in terms of restrictions on religious freedom in the world. Christians are still the most persecuted religious group. They face violence, both verbal and physical, in one hundred forty five countries around the world.

Christians have been on the top of the list since the establishment of the Pew Research Center in 2007. Muslims, Jews, ethnic religions and Hindu are the other groups affected. The least disliked religious group are Buddhists. “The fact that Muslims and Christians are at the forefront is due to the fact that they are the two largest and most spread out religious groups in the world,” says Samiry Majumbara, one of the authors of the report.

The document, which is over one hundred pages long, states that the most serious threats to Christian religious freedom, has been observed in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. The report also emphasizes that religious intolerance is not only a problem of rights and repression, but also of mentality. According to the authors of the document, aversion to religion as such, has increased significantly in the world. The greatest tensions were recorded in Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. In these countries, social enmity towards Muslims and Jews is growing. This could be associated with the fact that these countries are losing their Christian identity which affects attitudes towards other religions as well.

For the purposes of the report, the Pew Research Center divided countries into four categories: authoritarian regimes, hybrid regimes, and young and mature democracies. As might be expected, authoritarian regimes are responsible for the most serious restrictions on freedom of religion.

Have a nice Sunday and a fruitful Advent season!

*+ Wes. J. Wallace*

Bishop Wes

## 1st Sunday of Advent

A Time To Remember The Future With Hope



## Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

**Bishop Wes will be taping the Saturday evening Mass each week at the Cathedral and will post it for viewing on the websites below.**

Please visit,

[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

Click on “Bishop Wes, CR – Gospel Reflection or

[www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda)

**ST. THERESA'S CATHEDRAL 12:10 MASS  
WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY**



## READING 1 IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 R. (4)

**R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. **R.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **R.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. **R.**

## READING II 1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irrepensible on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

## GOSPEL MK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We are the work of God's hands, and so we now call upon the name of our Lord, who gives new life to all.

For our Church, led by Pope Francis, as we watch and wait for the Lord anew this Advent season, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace within and among all nations, especially in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Syria, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who continue to live in hunger this week after Thanksgiving, especially young families and children, let us pray to the Lord.

For successful research in the development of treatments and vaccines for COVID-19, and for considerate patience and cooperation with sensible restrictions in the meantime, let us pray to the Lord.

For our own community of faith, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord by learning and doing God's work among ourselves and in the world beyond our doors, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19, and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N., let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make us turn to you with all our hearts. Hear these our prayers, let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord, whose coming we long for and whose day we await.



With Advent we begin a new church year as we renew our preparations for the coming of Christ. The scriptures show a profound movement from despair in the first reading, as we feel the wrath of God's anger and a sense of being abandoned, to the responsive psalm, which begs us to turn toward God, and the second reading where we see a glimmer of hope. Brimstone returns in the Gospel. This sense of unease and pain is much like what we have endured throughout 2020 with COVID-19, racial struggles, and political campaigns. Frankly, everyone is ready for a restart, for a do-over, for a better year. We can understand the heartfelt prayer of the prophet Isaiah: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down." Hide not your face from us, O God, but during these days of Advent may you reveal yourself to each of us once again.

**BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!**

When Jesus does not speak in eloquent sentences, but barks out imperative statements such as in our Gospel reading today, one can understand the urgency. There is no place for flowery language. "Be watchful! Be alert!" One has a sense that these should be written in bold or all caps! He tells the parable of the homeowner leaving his workers at home, with no knowledge of when he would return. Without phones and texts and travel schedules it could have meant the homeowner was returning sometime in the day, or sometime in the coming month or year. So Jesus is not telling us, "You have to behave for a little bit," but rather, "You must live your life and work like the homeowner is always here. You must always be prepared."

**WATCH!**

This author was very aware of the language of "master/servant" in the Gospel today and is reading it and praying it in light of discussions on racism in recent months. Perhaps this goes with the last imperative at the end of the parable to "Watch!" This year has taught us to be alert in our actions such as social distancing, masks, and sanitizing, as well as in our language and even our thoughts. Now how do we apply that to our spirituality, to our faith? For many, due to restrictions on numbers in church, singing, and choirs, this has meant learning to pray in a whole different way. The celebration of liturgy is the same as ever, with its focus always on the Word and the Eucharist, but for those in the pew, or still watching on livestream, the sense of active participation has taken on a very different meaning from how most of us have experienced liturgy in our lifetime. It feels like we have become spectators rather than participants. Perhaps this challenge can move us from complacency in our faith, to rediscover and relate to God in new ways, and call us to be even stronger in our personal faith. We must remain diligent. We must "watch." We must hope. We must love. We must pray.

## UPDATE ON CATHEDRAL OPENING:

Bishop Wes has advised St. Theresa's Cathedral will return to normal opening hours commencing this Monday, 30th November. Thank you for your patience.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

1. **EMMAUS JOURNEY (EJ)** is a Catholic evangelization and discipleship ministry that is conducted primarily in and through Catholic parishes. EJ has embraced Goal One of Go and Make Disciples: "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."

EJ is really inspired from Luke 24:13-35 "...Were not our hearts burning [with-in-us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

EJ endeavours to accomplish this goal in support of the Church by: helping Catholics who maybe only occasionally practise their faith or who are nominal in their commitment, to experience conversion to Christ. Encouraging individuals to experience transformation in Christ as they grow in understanding and commitment to Scripture and the Church's teachings. Mobilising Catholics to become actively involved in sharing their faith among non-religious and in the process of forming disciples. By providing high quality, thoroughly Catholic, practical small-group bible study materials (of which there are



many), evangelization and discipleship resources, etc., that help equip Catholic parishes and individuals to do the ministry of evangelization and discipleship.

You are invited to St. Michael's Parish Hall from 7:30 - 8:30 pm on each Tuesday. We will be physically distanced, please bring a mask, hand sanitisation and "track & trace" sign up sheet will be available. This particular bible study is based upon the upcoming Sunday readings, is FREE OF CHARGE with all of the material provided by Fr. Joe. Invite someone else, as you learn and grow together in your faith on an ongoing basis.

2. **ROSARY, ADORATION, BENEDICTION** - Saturdays (instead of Thursdays), after the 5:45 pm Mass starting at 7:00 pm in St. Michael's Church with physical distancing, mask wearing, hand sanitisation and "track & trace" sign up sheet and finishing at 8:00 pm sharp. All are invited to attend as you enhance your ongoing personal spirituality.

**ADDITIONAL PARISHIONERS ARE NEEDED** to assist at each Mass with temperature taking and hand sanitizing. If you are willing to assist, we will start a schedule for the 5:45pm and 10am Masses. Thanks in advance for your assistance and stewardship.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**ST THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** Opening hours- 10:00am to 2:00pm on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Gift Shop is always in need of additional volunteers, so if you could spare 4 hours of your time on any one of the three days that they are open, that would be a great assistance to them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Christine DaCosta at 292-0607 Ext 2 or by email: sttheresas@northrock.bm

**Caritas House of Prayer: 236-5877** Today we begin a new liturgical year, Cycle B Year 1. May this new liturgical year be a source of many blessings for each of you and our world so much in need of recognizing God's loving presence in our midst. Sister Dolores and I want to thank each and every one who has shared life with us over the years and for your kind words, cards and gifts to us as we prepare to begin a new chapter in our lives. We will be leaving Caritas on December 23rd and will stay at Grotto Bay until we fly to JFK and on to Logan on December 27th. May the holy season of Advent be a time of reflection and many blessings for each of you and our diocese. Please keep us in prayer as we surely will keep all of you.

**REFLECTION:** Today we begin a new liturgical year and ironically our Gospel speaks of endings rather than beginnings! It is taken from the Gospel of Mark, believed to be the earliest written and used by Matthew and Luke in their writings. In the final chapter before Mark recounts the Passion of Jesus, Christ stresses the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning. The disciples and we, too, must not be caught unprepared but rather must stay alert. The church's special liturgical season of Advent is set aside to remind us of the incredible truth that God so loved the world that He sent His Son to be one of us in order that one day we would be happy with Him in heaven. This beautiful season of expectation often gets lost because all around us the sights and sounds of the season are present but not really focusing on the true meaning of Who it is that we celebrate. While Christmas celebrates Christ's birth, we must also be watchful and ready as we do not know the day or the hour when Christ will come to us in death now or when He will come in majesty at the end of time. Watch!

*Sisters Dolores and Judith*

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS VOUCHER PROGRAMME:

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will once again be distributing food vouchers to those in need at Christmas. If you know of any parishioners that could use a voucher, please contact your SVDP parish representative, your pastor or email svdp@northrock.bm. Please supply the person's name and telephone number, along with your name and telephone number.

**Deadline to receive names is Friday December 11th.**

**Distribution will take place from Monday December 15th.**

*Thank you for your assistance in helping us reach those in need.*

### FUN FAMILY ADVENT PROJECT

During the Advent season, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be sponsoring a "Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive". Please see flyer insert for details. Each day of Advent, add one item from the list to your collection box. By Christmas, you will have a food basket which will be donated to those in need. Distribution will be early in the New Year, at the request of the recipient charities.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Kelly [ekelly@ibl.bm](mailto:ekelly@ibl.bm) or Ricky Lopes [rcc.lopes@outlook.com](mailto:rcc.lopes@outlook.com).



## ST. MICHAEL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Christmas Mass Schedule 2020

Thursday, December 24th

Children's Christmas Liturgy: 5:00pm, and 7:00pm

MIDNIGHT MASS: 12:00am

Friday, December 25th

Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am

**Due to COVID restrictions, only 63 parishioners will be allowed at each Mass**

**More information will be available next week on sign up sheets and Online sign up for the**

**Mass your family and the Number in your family who will be attending.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME, COME JOIN US!**

### FUNDRAISER

#### for St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Local author and artist, Joan Aspinall has generously offered to donate the proceeds from her latest book, "Dear God, Save the Children. We are the Future" to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This book would make a great Christmas gift for young children (purchase includes a personal dedication from Joan and a T-shirt). Please consider purchasing a book (only \$20) to support the ongoing work we do in the community. Flyers and order forms will be available from the weekend of Nov 28th/29th. For more information, contact your parish SVDP representative or email [svdp@northrock.bm](mailto:svdp@northrock.bm).

