



## Never Big Enough

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**C**hildhood daydreams come peppered with visions of heroes and heroines, movie stars and rock stars, fame and notoriety.

Eventually, however, we adjust our visions of what we can become as we are confronted by the reality of who we are. Seldom, however, are our daydreams and visions big enough. They tend to be only about ourselves, barely including others.

The same may be said about becoming people of faith. Too readily we think of faith simply as our personal decision to believe in God. Faith then becomes one-sided—the prayers we say, the Masses we attend, the Church's rules we obey. Like the people of the prophet Habakkuk's day, we may bemoan, "I cry for help and you do not listen.... [I] cry out to you, 'Violence!' and you do not intervene" (Habakkuk 1:2).

Then, too, our faith and its vision for life are not big enough, for we do not allow room for God to slip into our lives and do what God does. Then, faith is only about ourselves—our needs and struggles and pains. Faith needs to be a surrender to God's vision, not simply for ourselves, but for all of life. [The LORD said,] "The vision is a witness for the appointed time...it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late" (Habakkuk 2:3). The difficulty is that we want God to make life perfect for us the way we want it and when we want it. Then, it becomes our vision for life and not God's. ●

### Reflect

***Have I ever given up my vision or plan and found God's plan to be perfect for me?***

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice  
but rather of power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7





## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1928.  
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.  
Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda  
or  
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**PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES**



**Tentative Mass Schedule**  
**Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.**

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass – Saturday 11:00 a.m.	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Kids & Youth Ministry	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
Children's Mass	TBA
<b>Pastoral &amp; Finance Council</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Coffee Social</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Second Collection	Second weekend of the Month

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA**  
**Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak**  
[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

### Parish Team Leaders

<b>Mrs. Elizabeth Card</b> – Pastoral Council Chairperson	<b>Mrs. Annette Barclay</b> St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
<b>Walette Cross</b> Stewardship Representative	<b>Natalia Walker &amp; Justin Tavares</b> Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
<b>Mrs. Mary Harvey</b> - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	<b>Mrs. Jane Farge</b> Music Ministry



### Today's Hymns

<b>Entrance:</b>	<b>Gather Your People</b>	<b>#768</b>
<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>Servant Song</b>	<b>#820</b>
<b>Communion:</b>	<b>On Eagles Wings</b>	<b>#671</b>
<b>Recessional:</b>	<b>Rejoice The Lord is King</b>	<b>#459</b>

**Leader of Song: Aidan Stones**



*The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.*



**Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Opening/Closing of the Church**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Altar Server**  
**Music**

**Elizabeth Card**  
**Elizabeth Card**  
**Justin Tavares**  
**Simon & Mary Stones**  
**Seamus Stones**  
**Jane Farge**

**Prayers:** Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Evelyn Pinlac, Mary Maybury and Andrew Card.

### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October**      **the People of St. Josephs**  
**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October**      **+ John & Lucy Moffat**

### **ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION**

<b>MASS</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Collection</b>
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September – 4:00 p.m.	9	75.00
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September – 8:45 a.m.	31	239.00
Donations towards paint, etc. (maintenance)	-	312.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$617.00</b>

*Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield*



**Next weekend is the second weekend** of the month; therefore, there will be two collections - regular and maintenance.



**THANK YOU** to all who contributed the wonderful array of goodies for the Coffee Social held last Sunday morning to welcome Fr. Jacob. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated. God bless.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to help paint the exterior of our little church on Saturday. Your “stewardship” is very much appreciated.



Our “**Kids & Youth Ministry**” will be held in the Parish Centre after this morning's Mass. Please let the children come to enjoy an hour of faith-filled fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Rejoice** always, **pray continually**,  
*give thanks in all circumstances:*  
*for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-18.*

If you are unable to attend Mass on a weekend, please take a little time out to pray during the time of Mass.



Dear Parents,

Another year of the “**Kids & Youth Ministry**” begins today. These classes are available to children who are parishioners of St. Josephs, including children from MSA who would like to join us. We have combined classes that are fun and meaningful to enrich the faith of the children. However, you, our dear parents, are the primary teachers of their faith. You are entrusted with the responsibility to transmit our faith to your children by teaching them basic prayers, sharing with them our salvation history, and showing them daily examples that reinforce the basic foundations of our faith.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first step on their journey to receiving their other Sacraments, and the Church is grateful that through you your child's faith was initiated. We would like to help you nourish that gift of faith through their participation in our classes. We would also help you attain your child's readiness to receive the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion (if we have children in that age group). We encourage you to be an active part of the goal of forming and deepening your child's relationship with Christ.

It is not too late to register your child/children for this new year.

We ask that you take the time to prepare your children with enthusiasm and joy. Teach them their basic prayers! Let them feel that every prayer is an encounter with Jesus who loves them so much. Bring them to Church. Assist them in learning Mass responses. Teach them that the *MASS is the HIGHEST FORM OF PRAYER*. Our Catholic faith has a rich history with many rituals, and celebrations that need to be explained and experienced within the parish community. You can see, therefore, that your participation is a valuable tool that will complement our programme!

Take care, and God's blessings be upon you and your families.

Yours faithfully,  
The Kids & Youth Ministry Team  
*Liz Card, Naty Walker, and Justin Tavares*



## **BISHOP's CORNER**

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, whose feast day is the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, is the youngest Doctor of the Church. Having endured life-threatening illnesses when she was an infant and a child, and the heartbreaking loss of her mother when she was only four, Thérèse had to overcome crushing adversity with her powerful faith and determination. She sought to enter Carmel while still a young teenager, and achieved this goal at the age of 15. She was not a martyr or a missionary in the conventional sense, but she offered every small act for love of God, and her teachings have spread far and wide through her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*. Thérèse taught “the little way,” which is not about striving for great deeds but rather, doing everything, even small things, with great love.

These small acts make up a lifetime, and make the ordinary extraordinary. St. Thérèse explains how forgiving a slight against you, smiling genuinely when you would rather complain, or even picking up a pin from the floor with love, any of these things can have great worth before God. It all depends on love. In her words: “Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.” This Saint of love died in 1897 at the age of twenty-four. Did you know that 2025 marks St. Thérèse of Lisieux's 100th year as a saint? That is 100 years of roses from heaven, as St. Thérèse is known for granting those who request her intercession, signs of her assistance through flowers. St. Thérèse, known as the “Little Flower,” famously said that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth and that, “When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens.” What a beautiful Patroness we have at our diocese! St. Thérèse, the “Little Flower”, the “Roses Sender”, pray for us!

May your weekend be peaceful and your week blessings-full!

Bishop Wes



**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Stewardship Self-Control:** “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Many of us compartmentalize our Faith, we bring it out only when we attend Mass or when we attend a parish event. Being a good **Steward** requires discipline and striving to put God first in everything - all the time. The next time you are at a neighborhood party or at work or out shopping, would your words and actions signal to others that you are a good and faithful servant of our Lord?

**STELLA MARIS - FAMILY BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT**  
**on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 p.m.** in the St. Theresa's Church Hall. Tickets: Adults \$25 - Children \$15 (10 & under). For tickets, please contact Susanna at 535-3195 or [mlandscaping@northrock.bm](mailto:mlandscaping@northrock.bm)



# Dear Padre,

***Is envy a sin? I find myself becoming very envious of people who have more than I do. I find it difficult to be content with what my family and I have now.***

We live in a climate that encourages discontent with what we have. Advertising plays on our feelings of envy and our desire for possessions. In this almost universal rush to possess more and better material objects, Christians are called to a counter-witness. We are called to embrace a freedom and a poverty of spirit that actually rejoices in the blessings of others.

The Tenth Commandment alerts us to the danger of undisciplined envy: “You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:17). In the New Testament, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there also will be our heart. (See Matthew 6:21.) The real antidote to envy, then, is prayers of thanks for all God has given to us and others. To feel envious, to desire or covet someone else’s possessions, is not in itself a mortal sin. But to let that feeling invade your mind, to indulge it and rationalize it, is to let that feeling harden into an envious frame of mind. Then you are flirting with real sin. The grave sin is to allow these envious thoughts to drive you to any injustice or evil. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums it up well: “Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother’s [and sister’s] progress, and you will immediately give glory to God” (2540). ●

**Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

### Monday

October 6

Weekday

Jon 1:1–2:2, 11

Lk 10:25–37

### Tuesday

October 7

*Our Lady of the*

*Rosary*

Jon 3:1–10

Lk 10:38–42

### Wednesday

October 8

Weekday

Jon 4:1–11

Lk 11:1–4

### Thursday

October 9

Weekday

Mal 3:13–20b

Lk 11:5–13

### Friday

October 10

Weekday

Jl 1:13–15; 2:1–2

Lk 11:15–26

### Saturday

October 11

Weekday

Jl 4:12–21

Lk 11:27–28

### Sunday

October 12

*Twenty-eighth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

2 Kgs 5:14–17

2 Tm 2:8–13

Lk 17:11–19



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## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor.***

**ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025**

# Our Sunday Readings

HABAKKUK 1:2-3; 2:2-4b  
PSALM 95:1-2,6-9  
2 TIMOTHY 1:6-8,13-14  
LUKE 17:5-10

## What's Expected

### HABAKKUK 1:2-3; 2:2-4b

#### Reading closely

1. What is Habakkuk witnessing?
2. How severe does the situation seem to be?
3. What does Habakkuk seem to feel?
4. What does Habakkuk want?
5. What does God tell Habakkuk to do?
6. What's the difference between *the rash one* and *the just one*?
7. What do you think it was like to be Habakkuk?

#### Living the word

8. What parts of the world today are like what Habakkuk experienced?
9. Do you know anyone whose faith was weakened by a painful experience?
10. When have you experienced suffering? Did you talk about it with God?
11. How do you want God to respond to suffering?

### THE FIRST READING

#### Why is this happening?

Habakkuk lives in the late seventh and early sixth centuries BC. As he examines the state of his people, the Israelites, he sees injustice,

disunity, and violence. He cries out to God for an explanation. How can a faithful, loving God permit such wickedness and suffering? Why doesn't God do something?

God replies that he will use the Babylonian Empire to punish the Israelites for their sins. God commands Habakkuk to write down what will happen so that when it does, everyone will know that God is in charge. The Babylonians invade and destroy Jerusalem in the early sixth century BC.

#### Faith makes a person patient

Once God has cleansed Israel of its sin, he will show his power over the Babylonians, too. None of this will happen overnight, but it will happen. Habakkuk and others who live justly must wait patiently for things to change.

People who lack faith in God's all-powerful goodness don't believe that any justice is coming. Faith-filled people see beyond the immediate situation to a time when God will change things, even if they don't know when or how this change will come about.

### LUKE 17:5-6

1. What is *faith*?
2. Why do you think the apostles ask for greater faith?
3. How might the apostles feel about Jesus' reply?
4. How much faith do you think they had?
5. How much faith do you have?
6. Has your faith ever helped you do something you didn't think you could do?

### LUKE 17:7-10

7. What all is the slave expected to do?
8. What will the master do?
9. What won't the master do?
10. How might the slave have felt?
11. Why should Jesus' followers consider themselves *unprofitable*?
12. What all have you been commanded to do?
13. Do you expect rewards from God?
14. Is heaven a reward?

## THE GOSPEL READING

### *Trees in the sea*

It's not clear why Jesus' followers ask for more faith. They might feel overwhelmed by what Jesus expects of them: helping the poor, not causing scandal (vv.1-2), and readily forgiving people (vv.3-4). They might instead want greater faith so that they can do amazing deeds, like casting trees into the sea.

It's also not clear from Jesus' reply if he thinks these followers do have great faith or if he thinks their faith is weak.

In any case, Jesus doesn't increase the faith of his disciples. Instead he tells them how powerful faith can be, then warns that even if they have perfect faith and can command trees to go here, there, and everywhere, they are still only doing what God expects of them.

### **No claim on God**

Here *servant* means *slave*. Slavery in this setting was very different from slavery in the United States. Some slaves held respectable positions. Some were even held in higher esteem than free persons.

Nonetheless, slaves were in a different situation than wage-earners. Day laborers rightly expected to be compensated for their work, but slaves had to do everything their master demanded without expecting any material reward or even a word of praise.

The master in this scenario seems to have only one or two slaves because normally slaves who plowed fields or herded animals didn't also cook and wait at table. This slave must have had his hands full, but however hard and well he works, he can't expect anything from his master.

We can't expect anything, either. Since everything we have is from God, we can't do anything that doesn't ultimately come from God.

### **Note on "apostles"**

We don't know why Luke uses the word *apostles* in this passage instead of *disciples* (v.5). He might have wanted to distinguish between all of Jesus' followers (who are called *disciples*, including the Twelve) and the future leaders of these followers (*apostles*). Even if Luke is making this distinction, Jesus' words still apply to all who put their faith in him.

## PRAYER

*adapted from Healing Prayers  
by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

Lord,  
my faith has always been important to me. For much of my life, I have gone to church and prayed, confident of your power and presence in my life. At times, however, my faith is not as strong as I would like it to be. Sometimes it's really hard to apply the message of the gospel to my daily life. Help me to overcome my doubts. Make me a stronger and better Christian. Open my mind and heart to your word and power. Guide me toward the people and resources that will ease my confusion and strengthen my faith. Amen.