



Say to the fearful of heart:

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense

he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
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Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



St. Theresa's Cathedral

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St. Theresa's Catechetical (CCD) Leader: Maria Pacheco sttherasaccd@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society Parish Rep: Joanne Judd & Tommy Sinclair

St. Theresa's Gift Shop: 292-0416 Shop Hours: Tuesday's & Saturday's from 10am – 2pm

Confessions: By appointment only, at this time

Baptisms: By appointment – 5 weeks in advance

Weddings: By appointment – 1 year in advance. Pre-Marriage Course is required for all weddings here or overseas

Website: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm – Where you can find information about our Diocese.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda – Visit our page & "LIKE" us to join our on-line community.

DATES	TIMES	INTENTIONS
Sat. Dec. 13th	6:30pm	+ Christine Pratt, early Birthday Wishes in Heaven + Eileen Boys, Birthday in Heaven
Sun. Dec. 14th (Portuguese)	8:30am	+ Antonio & Ernestina Rebello
	10:00am	+ Jose Cunha, Joao Carlos Frias, Antonio Mansinho, + Maria Teresa Mota, Fr. Julio Blazejewski
	11:30am 6:00pm	Special Intentions of Maria Pacheco St. Theresa's Parish Family
Mon. Dec. 15th	7:30am	Special Intentions of Jackie Martin
Tues. Dec. 16th	7:30am	Sinan Buyukaksakal, Birthday Wishes
Wed. Dec. 17th	7:30am	+ Anna Micek
	12:10pm	+ Christine Pratt, Happy Birthday in Heaven
Thurs. Dec. 18th	7:30am	Special Intentions of Samuel & Oliverio Rego
	12:10pm	José & Goretti Resendes, 49th Wedding Anniversary
Fri. Dec. 19th	7:30am	In Honor of Our Lady of Medjugorje
	12:10pm	+ Manuel Bizzarrio, Jose Oliveira, Maria de Lourdes & + Maria Encarnação Martins
Sat. Dec. 20th	6:30pm	+ Jeffrey Mark Medeiros
Sun. Dec. 21st (Portuguese)	8:30am	Ana deSousa, Birthday Wishes
	10:00am	+ Joe & Theresa DoCouto
	11:30am	St. Theresa's Parish Family
	6:00pm	Bishop Wes, Christmas Wishes

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY : December 20th & 21st, 2025

Time:	6:30pm	8:30am	11:30am	6:00pm
Proclaimer:	C. Powell	K. Scarth	V. Turner G. Edwards	C. Duqueza
Communion Ministers:	C. Carreiro C. Johnson D. DeSilva J. Judd	E. Cabral H. Cabral O. Scarth B.D. Knights	A. Cannonier J. Alcantara P. LeFevre	D. Robiso R. Ronquillo C. Sevilla
Song Leaders:	G. Medeiros	M. S. Brackstone	K. Judd	F. Nery

CHRISTMAS GIFT:

There are envelopes for "Christmas Gifts" to St. Theresa's Cathedral at the entrances and communion rails of the church. *We thank you in advance for your generosity!*

ONLINE ACCOUNTS:

St. Theresa's Cathedral—BNTB #2000 6060 4827 32100,

SVDP— BNTB BDA #2000 6060 4767 11100 OR BNTB USD # 8400 7847 30010



MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS



The deadline for Christmas Flowers "In Memory" of your deceased loved ones is **this Monday, December 15th**. All names will be remembered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
Thank you for your contributions!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:



There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service **this Thursday, December 18th, 2025 from 6-8pm**.

SUNDAY & SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONLINE BANKING & PARISH ENVELOPES: Please make direct payments to St. Theresa's Cathedral at **BNTB A/C #2000 6060 4827 32100**. Also, the parish encourages the use of **Sunday Offering Envelopes**.
Thank you for your continued support!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL DONATIONS:

BNTB BDA #2000 6060 4767 11100
or USD # 8400 7847 30010
For cash please use the **SVDP envelopes**.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:



2026 Faith & Stewardship Calendars - a few more are still available for only \$10 each.

HOLIDAY DATES:

Closed for the holidays: beginning Saturday, December 23rd, 2025

Opening only: Saturday, January 17th, 24th & 31st, 2026

Reopening again for Tuesday's & Saturday's: starting February 3rd, 2026

Do stop by for your Christmas gift ideas!

PARISH COUNCIL COFFEE SOCIAL:



Come join us for Coffee and baked goods next week, on **December 21st, 2025, after the 11:30am Mass**, in the Church Hall

FOCUS: Lord, come and save us.

Jesus' actions speak for themselves: The blind see; the lame walk; the poor receive the Good News. John the Baptist need not look for another, for God has arrived in human flesh, bringing the kingdom of God with him. Today, we carry on Jesus' work, allowing our words and actions to embody the love of God in the world.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure

	Date	Actual
Collection:	Dec. 6th & 7th	\$3,543.00
Electronic offering:	Dec. 6th & 7th	\$130.00
2025 Collection to Date:	Week 50	\$290,792.00
Donation	Dec. 8th	\$100.00

Thank you for your support!

**ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL**

December 14th—20th, 2025

**Donation Given for Two 7 day Candles
Happy Heavenly Birthday Maria de Jesus Pacheco**

REFLECTION: Each of us has his or her role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

**BAPTISMS:**

We welcome **Adhiran Viaan Priyadharshan**, child of Priyadharshan Anton Bond & Berlin Roxi Bernard Ananthanayagam, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on **Sunday, December 7th, 2025.**

Welcome to the Church Family Adhiran!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE:

During the 2025 Advent season, parishes throughout our Diocese are asked to support a "Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive". Each day of Advent, add one item to your collection box. By Christmas, you will have a food basket which will be donated to those in need. See the flyers, at the entrances of our Cathedral, for a list of items to be collected as well as drop of details. Collection of food baskets in each parish will be coordinated by the parish SVDP representative on the weekend of **Jan. 3rd/4th**. Last year's collection provided enough supplies to feed those in need through March, which is fantastic. Thank you to all those who participated. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Kelly at 236-4613 or ekelly@ibl.bm.

**ST. JOSEPH'S AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS:**

St. Joseph's Church invites you to join them for their Afternoon of Christmas today, **Sunday, December 14th at 2:30pm** in the Church for carols, songs, and music. If you would like to sing, or play an instrument, you are welcome AND wear your Christmas sweater! Social will follow in the Parish Center.

For more information or tickets, please contact Liz Card at 234-0872 or email: lizatstjsephs@gmail.com.

**THE BISHOP'S CORNER**

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

The Vatican Secretariat for the Economy has published the Vatican's 2024 Consolidated Financial Statements, which show a surplus of 1.6 million Euro. The result represents a significant recovery compared to the deficit of 51.2 million Euro recorded the previous year. The report highlights a clear improvement, and while prudently aware that full financial sustainability is a long-term goal, a clearly positive direction can be observed.

The overall improvement is based on a significant reduction of the deficit, which fell by almost 50%, going from 83 million to 44 million Euro. This was made possible by an increase of 79 million Euro in revenues, coming mainly from donations and hospital management, and by efforts to control expenses, which partially offset inflation and the rise in personnel costs.

Performance in financial management was particularly positive, generating positive results amounting to 46 million Euro, exceeding 2023 levels and playing a key role in covering the operating deficit. This performance was chiefly due to the realization of capital gains produced with the help of the Investment Committee.

The Secretariat for the Economy underlined the need for prudence in interpreting these figures, since this improvement is mainly due to an increase in donations and to a one-off accounting impact of investments, linked to the sale of long-standing investments. This progress will therefore need to be confirmed in the coming years.

Have a peaceful weekend and a blessed 3rd week of Advent!

Bishop Wes

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

At the **Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30pm** there will be a live Nativity Scene and Children's Choir in our Cathedral. If you would like for your child to participate, **please contact Maria Pacheco at 735-3109 before Thursday, December 18th** for further details.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE:**

Please place your gifts for the children of the Star Lighthouse Foundation under the Christmas tree after Mass ensuring that the tag is attached to the gift. **Deadline is TODAY, Sunday, December 14th.**

We thank you for your anticipated support!

**PRAYING FOR A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE:**

After 14 years renting at one location, a family of 4 (2 adults, 2 middle school age children), all our St. Theresa's parishioners, are in desperate need of a **2 bedroom, 1.5 bath**. They would like outdoor space for 1 car and 1 BBQ. Non smoking, no pets. Preferably a location in the central parishes. If you can assist, or know of someone who can, please contact Michal #525-2004.



Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025