



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus’ words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on “repent,” or is the emphasis on the announcement, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees” (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: “for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●

Reflect

**What does “repent” mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?**



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY





St. Theresa's Cathedral

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Monday – Friday from 10:00am – 4:00pm

St. Theresa's Catechetical (CCD) Leader: Maria Pacheco sttheresaccd@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.	Jan. 24th	6:30pm	St. Theresa's Parish Family	
Sun.	Jan. 25th (Portuguese)	8:30am 10:00am 11:30am 6:00pm	+ Jacqualine Barton, Birthday in Heaven Special Intentions of Natalie Yokell, Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garrafa & family, & Mr. & Mrs. Richard Senechal + Marshall Yokell, Souls in Purgatory + Jose Fernando Pimentel, Antonio Pimentel, + Angelina Botelho, Senhor Padre Julio + Wanda & Edward Spiewak	
Mon.	Jan. 26th	7:30am		
Tues.	Jan. 27th	7:30am		
Wed.	Jan. 28th	7:30am 12:10pm	Intentions of Bishop Elect Fr. Gerard Bradley, of the Arch Diocese of Southwark Cleavon Lloyd	
Thurs.	Jan. 29th	7:30am 12:10pm		
Fri.	Jan. 30th	7:30am 12:10pm	+ Maria Gilda & Antonio Garça	
Sat.	Jan. 31st	6:30pm	+ Jeffrey Mark Medeiros & + Estrela Veloso, Birthday in Heaven	
Sun.	Feb. 1st (Portuguese)	8:30am 10:00am 11:30am 6:00pm	+ Antonio & Ernestina Rebello + Marshall Yokell & Souls in Purgatory St. Theresa's Parish Family	

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY : January 31st & February 1st, 2026

Time:	6:30pm	8:30am	11:30am	6:00pm
Proclaimer:	J. Judd	B. D. Knights	c/o MSA	C. Duqueza K. Mosquito
Communion Ministers:	C. Carreiro C. Maiato A. Donaghy D. DeSilva	I. Brackstone G. Lovecchio C. Scarth O. Scarth	P. LeFevre G. Edwards J. Alcantara	M. Billones R. Ronquillo C. Sevilla
Song Leaders:	K. Judd	J. Pearman	M. Gravito	L. Consolacion J. Madio



ONLINE ACCOUNTS:

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

SVDP— BNTB BDA #2000 6060 4767
11100

Or BNTB USD # 8400 7847 30010

Thank you for your continued support!



FILIPINO MASS SCHEDULE:

St. Theresa's Cathedral

7pm February 13th, 2026

St. Patrick's Church

7pm February 6th, 2026

St. Joseph's Church

11am 3rd Saturday of the month

Stella Maris Church

7pm Last Wednesday of the month

ADORATION: Saturday Adoration in the Chapel of St. Theresa's Cathedral: 9:00am – Holy Mass in Portuguese followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration – 10:15am - Benediction

LECTIO DIVINA: Mondays at 7:30pm via Zoom. Please contact Franz Wohlmuth on, fgwohlmuth@logic.bm to join. Meetings are led by Bishop Wes.



GUIDELINES FOR INTINCTION:

We wish to inform you that the Vatican Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments has issued a note reminding the faithful of the Church's guidelines regarding Holy Communion by intinction, that is, by dipping the consecrated host into the consecrated wine.

The guidelines state that only the Minister of the Sacrament (priest, deacon or a properly instituted Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion) may dip the host, and that then the communicant must receive Communion on the tongue. This means that self-intinction and the distribution of an intincted host in the hand are not permitted.

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to live in intentional and faithful discipleship.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his first disciples by name. Their response is immediate and total – they leave everything behind and accept his invitation. We gather today to celebrate this Eucharist because we, too, have been called to follow Christ in intentional and faithful discipleship. Today we ponder that call and renew our response.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure

	Date	Actual
Collection:	Jan. 17th & 18th	\$4,039.00
Electronic offering:	Jan. 17th & 18th	\$890.00
2026 Collection to Date:	Week 3	\$18,904.50

Thank you for your support!



ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL

January 18th—24th, 2026

Donation Given for Two 7 day Candles
No intention

REFLECTION: The watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all responded immediately to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:

Mount Saint Agnes Academy, Bermuda's only Catholic school, celebrates Catholic Schools Week from **January 25th—February 1st** with the theme "United in Faith and Community." At MSA, faith and learning go hand in hand as we form servant leaders, faith-filled disciples, and enriched citizens. We thank you for your support. Look for us at Masses across the Island on January 31st and February 1st! www.msa.bm



MSA: Information Session Grades 1 - 11

MSA will be holding an Information Session for Grades 1 - 11 on **Wednesday, February 4th at 5:30pm**. To sign up please see the flyer with the QR Code located at the back of the church or email admissions@msa.bm.



KIDS (Children) SERVICE AT HOLY MASS:

Sunday, January 25th at 6pm



Calling Children to serve as: Lector , Altar Server , & / Choir

MEN OF GOD MONTHLY GROUP:

The Med of God Monthly Group meetings will resume on **Tuesday, January 27th, 2026**.

We hope to see you there!



SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY:

This NEW BIBLE STUDY will be on **Thursday's at 3pm** in the Pastor's Office at St. Michael's Church. Just park behind the Church and make sure to bring your CATHOLIC BIBLE. This is **FREE** and is open for all. For any questions, please contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236.



THE BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place each year from the 18th to the 25th of January. This year's celebration takes Ephesians 4:4 as its central text which includes the words "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." This Week extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church. These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

Link to the resources: <https://tinyurl.com/ywurad25>

I believe that it is also the best moment to let you know that the number of Christians exposed to persecution and at risk of suffering violence worldwide rose again reaching a record 388 million. Of these 388 million, 201 million are women or girls; while 110 million are minors under the age of 15. "Open Doors" has just published the World Watch List 2026, and its latest report on persecuted Christians around the world. "Open Doors" is a global membership organization with 25 national bases. They share one mission: to support persecuted Christians worldwide and strengthen what remains.

Have a peaceful weekend and a good week!

Bishop Wes

BAPTISMS:

We welcome **Zahni Tavoy dos Santos Lee**, child of Tyrone & Marissa Lee, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism, this **Sunday, January 25th, 2026**.

Welcome to the Church Family Zahni!

MOVIE NIGHT:

The Peace and Social Justice Committee will be showing the movie "Cabrini" on **Friday, February 6th at 7:30pm** in St. Theresa's Hall.



Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.

Please RSVP your attendance to peaceandsocialjusticeorcc@logic.bm.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Open: Saturday, January 31st, 2026



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

2026 Calendars are still available

STUDIO APARTMENT NEEDED: Single male in desperate need of a small apartment, preferably with no stairs. Looking for \$1400 or less, with electricity included. No pets/no smoking. Please contact 536-5495 or phillipingham42@gmail.com.

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. “Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion” (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).



When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our “Amen” to “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ” means, “Truly, so be it!” It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

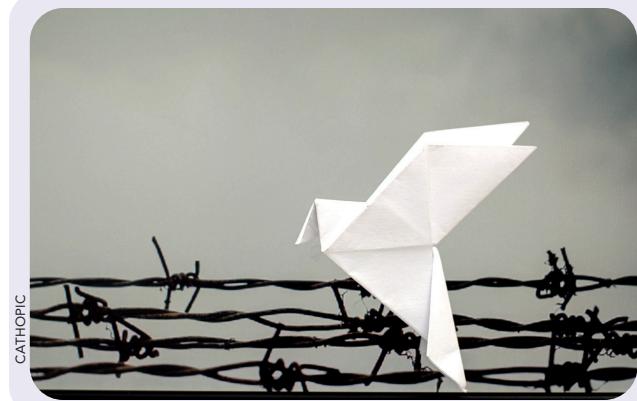
However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<i>2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5</i>	<i>2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19</i>	<i>Mk 3:31-35</i>	<i>2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29</i>	<i>2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17</i>	<i>2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17</i>	<i>Zep 2:3; 3:12-13</i>
<i>Mk 3:22-30</i>		<i>2 Sm 7:4-17</i>	<i>Mk 4:21-25</i>	<i>Mk 4:26-34</i>	<i>10-17</i>	<i>1 Cor 1:26-31</i>
		<i>Mk 4:1-20</i>			<i>Mk 4:35-41</i>	<i>Mt 5:1-12a</i>

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE “ARENA OF PEACE,” ROME, MAY 30, 2025