



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking



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for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

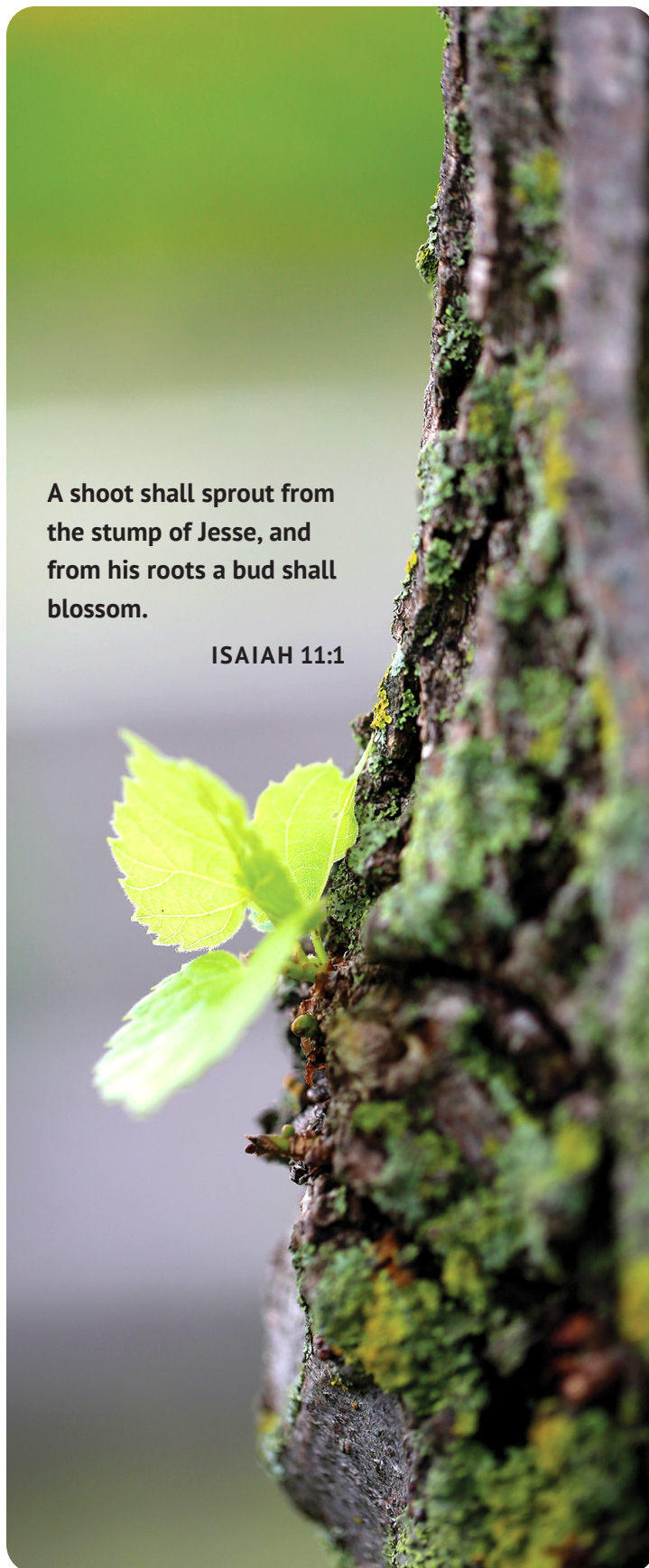
The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

***Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work
in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?***

**A shoot shall sprout from
the stump of Jesse, and
from his roots a bud shall
blossom.**

ISAIAH 11:1





St. Anthony's Church

26 Middle Road -Warwick WK03, Bermuda
Phone: (Office Direct Line) 441-238-1784

Parish Email: stanthonybermuda@gmail.com

Father Jacob Swapan Gomes-Pastor

Telephone Number – 292-0607 Ext. 5

Cell Number -- 704-1874

Reconciliation: By appointment

Baptisms: By Appointment – One month in advance

Weddings: By Appointment –A year in advance

Organist: Jane Farge

St. Anthony's Club (CCD): Fridays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Coordinator: Anna Daniel 441-236-2438

Email: stanthonycdd@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Rep: Pat Rodrigues

St. Vincent de Paul No. 525-1191

Mass Schedule at St. Anthony's

Dec	6	6:15 pm	Manuel & Maria Reis++
Dec	7	11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Anthony
Dec	8	8:30 am	
Dec	9	8:30 am	
Dec	10	8:30 am	
Dec	11	8:30 am	
Dec	12	8:30 am	
Dec	13	6:15 pm	Ben Lualala+
Dec	14	11:30 am	Maria de Lourdes Furtado & Herminio Soares Furtado++

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, collection counters, etc. If you can assist, kindly let a member of the Parish Council know or Pat Rodrigues at 524-1026.

Hospital Visits by Father Jacob

If you have any relative or friend in the hospital who would like Father Jacob to visit with/without the Sacrament of the Sick, kindly inform Father of their names and room numbers.

Please note that there will be daily mass at 8:30 am during the season of Advent.

Bulletin for December 6/ December 7, 2025

Weekly Collections at St. Anthony's

Nov 22/Nov 23 \$ 1,305.00

Nov 29/Nov 30 \$ 803.00

**Online payments can be made directly into the Bank account of St. Anthony's – Butterfield Bank –
BD \$ Current A/c – 20006060061567100 and
US \$ Current A/c - 20006840061567100.**

Please make sure to indicate what the donation is for in the memo field when making the payment online – i.e., General collection; Maintenance; Mission Sunday, etc. Multiple payments can be made for those times when you are away or on vacation. Please note that we are charged \$20 for US checks drawn on a US Bank. Kindly **do not** place Canadian or British currency or any old Bermuda currency in the collection baskets.

Maintenance Collection – this weekend

Counting Schedule:

This week: Annette and Pat

Next week: Annette and Steve

Bishop's Corner

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Leo, during his apostolic journey to Turkey last week, celebrated his only public Mass on Saturday evening, 29th of November. In his homily, he spoke about the feast of St. Andrew, the patron of the Orthodox Church, as well as the start of Advent, with a three-part call to promote unity.

First there is unity within the local Church united to Rome, which there are four different ethnic groups; Latin, Armenian, Chaldean, and Syriac. Then unity among all Christians, and finally unity with other Non-Christians.

The Pontiff reflected that we should want to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope and an invitation to become "peacemakers".

The Pope also suggested, "Let us make these values our resolutions for the season of Advent and even more so for our personal and communal life."

He ended his homily, saying, "We journey as if on a bridge that connects earth to Heaven, a bridge that the Lord has built for us. Let us always keep our eyes fixed on both

shores, so that we may love God and our brothers and sisters with all our hearts in order to journey together and find ourselves one day united in the house of the Father.”

The official text of the homily:
<https://tinyurl.com/yc2y6mzn>

Have a serene weekend and a blessed 2nd week of Advent!

Bishop Wes

Important Messages

Please be advised that during the winter season St. Theresa’s Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.

Please be advised that due to Bishop Wes’ trip to Canada next week, there will be no 6:00pm Portuguese Mass on Wednesday the 10th of December at St. Patrick’s Church.

Christmas Flowers Offering

In preparation for Christmas kindly submit the names of your loved ones on the Christmas flower form available at the back of the church. The deadline for submissions is Saturday December 20.

Christmas Children’s Mass

The Christmas Children’s Mass on 24 December, 2025 is to be held at 7:00 pm. at St Anthony’s. More details to follow.

Jamaica Relief

Thank you for your generous support for the Jamaica Relief. The collection from both weekends for the Jamaica Relief amounted to approximately \$2,000.

Reverse Advent Calendar

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. Collection of food baskets in each parish will be coordinated by the parish St. Vincent de Paul representative on the weekend of Jan 3/4. 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 “Afternoon of Christmas” will be held on Sunday, 14th December at 2:30 p.m., in the Church (carols, songs, music). This is an “informal” gathering to enjoy a little fun and fellowship in the Spirit of the Season! A social will follow in the Parish Centre.

THANK YOU, ST. ANTHONY’S COMMUNITY, 🙏 🙏 🙏

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to ensure that the Christmas fair held on Saturday, November 15th was a success. Thanks to parents and children from the Friday Night Club who generously contributed items for the fancy special baskets, thank you to anyone who gave monetary donations, thank you to all helpers who assisted before the fair, and those who helped on the day, thank you for the raffle and Silent Auction donations plus any other contributions that any of you made :)

We must add a special very big **THANK YOU** to the ladies who made the malasadas, always a lot of work, always delicious and always a BIG attraction!

The fair and car boot combined, cleared over \$18,000 which was FABULOUS! Thank you again and again for all you did to help!

Have a joyful holiday season :)
With gratitude,
Debbie & Trisha

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



PASCAL HUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Gn 3:9–15, 20	Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Is 41:13–20	Zec 2:14–17	Sir 48:1–4,	Is 35:1–6a, 10
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12	Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Mt 11:11–15	or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab	9–11	Jas 5:7–10
Lk 1:26–38				Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Mt 11:2–11
Do you have a question for the Padre?						
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre .						



NICOLÁS NUÑEZ LC / CATHOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025