



## Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

**T**oday'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. Theresa's Cathedral

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**Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R., Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda**  
Chancery & Cemetery Office: Tel:232-4414 orcc.bermuda@gmail.com

IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Dandy Traje, C.P., Rector Tel: 292-0607 Ext. 3  
Mrs. Karen Scarth, Cathedral Administrator Tel: 292-0607 Ext. 2  
Monday – Friday from 10:00am –4:00pm

St. Theresa's Catechetical (CCD) Leader: Maria Pacheco [sttheresasccd@gmail.com](mailto:sttheresasccd@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](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm) – Where you can find information about our Diocese.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda) – Visit our page & "LIKE" us to join our on-line community.

## DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Sat.	Dec. 6th	6:30pm	Joanne Judd, Birthday Wishes
Sun.	Dec. 7th (Portuguese)	8:30am 10:00am  11:30am 6:00pm	Ariana, Anias, & Mary DeSilva, Birthday Wishes Special Intentions of Natalie Yokell & Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mello & family + Kevin Ledo, Carlos Almeida, Humberto Santos, + Rogério & Manuel Santos Bolarinho, Mashall Yokell + José & Amelia Andrade Almeida, Souls in Purgatory + Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Arminda Garrafa & Victor Moniz Fr. Dandy Traje, Early Christmas Wishes
Mon.	Dec. 8th	7:30am	Thanksgiving & Birthday Wishes, Krisha Mae Castillanes
Tues.	Dec. 9th	7:30am	Special intentions of Christopher Rego
Wed.	Dec. 10th	7:30am 12:10pm	+ Victoria Etos St. Theresa's Parish Family
Thurs.	Dec. 11th	7:30am 12:10pm	+ Thanksgiving & Birthday Wishes, Leo Bongato Jr. + Eileen Boys, Happy Birthday in Heaven
Fri.	Dec. 12th	7:30am 12:10pm	Special intentions of Maria Angelina & Jose Augusto Rego In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima
Sat.	Dec. 13th	6:30pm	+ Christine Pratt, early Birthday Wishes in Heaven
Sun.	Dec. 14th	8:30am 11:30am 6:00pm	+ Antonio & Ernestina Rebello Special Intentions of Maria Pacheco St. Theresa's Parish Family

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY : December 13th & 14th, 2025

Time:	6:30pm	8:30am	11:30am	6:00pm
<b>Proclaimer:</b>	A. Machado	A. Farrell	A. Aguila L. LeFevre	K. Mosquito
<b>Communion Ministers:</b>	A. Donaghy D. DeSilva J. Judd C. Carreiro	T. Sinclair I. Brackstone G. Lovecchio C. Scarth	P. LeFevre A. Cannonier J. Alcantara	R. Ronquillo C. Sevilla M. Billones
<b>Song Leaders:</b>	G. Medeiros	J. Pearman	D. Mutch	A. L. Garina

## ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP :

A new shipment of 2026 Calendars, Christmas cards, Advent candles, wreaths etc. are now at our Gift Shop. *Do stop by for your Christmas gift ideas!*



## MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Forms are located on the communion rail and at the main doors of the Cathedral for anyone, who wishes to make an offering for St. Theresa's Christmas Flowers "In Memory of" their deceased loved ones.

All names will be remembered at all of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses.

**Deadline is Sunday, December 14th.**

## 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.**

## FILIPINO MASS SCHEDULE:

**St. Theresa's Cathedral**

7pm 1st Friday of the month

**St. Patrick's Church**

7pm 2nd Friday of the month

**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](mailto:fgwohlmuth@logic.bm) to join.  
Meetings are led by Bishop Wes.

## ATTENTION:

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



**FOCUS:** Christ will bring us to new life and new growth. Through Jesus, God fulfilled the promise he made to his people to bring them salvation. Christ's death and resurrection opened the way for eternal life for all who believe, including the Gentiles. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by asking for God's healing, listening for God's voice, and raising our hearts to him.

**Steward's Sharing of Treasure**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Collection:</b>	<b>Nov. 29th &amp; 30th</b>	<b>\$5,305.50</b>
<b>Electronic offering:</b>	<b>Nov. 29th &amp; 30th</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>
<b>2025 Collection to Date:</b>	<b>Week 49</b>	<b>\$287,119.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>Dec. 1st</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

*Thank you for your support!*



**ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL**  
**December 7th—13th, 2025**  
**Donation Given for Two 7 day Candles**  
**And 2 Roses**  
**Intentions of Grace Lovecchio**

**REFLECTION:** We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire."

**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:**

The Giving Tree is up once again at the back of the Cathedral and tags are placed on the tree. The gifts will be for the children from the Star Lighthouse Foundation. Once you have purchased your gift, place it in the bins provided after Mass on the weekend. When returning your gift, please have the tag attached to the gift. We look forward to your participation in this Parish outreach in making these children happier this Christmas!



**Deadline will be Sunday, December 14th.**

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

St. Joseph's Church invites you to join them for their Afternoon of Christmas on **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](mailto:lizatstjsephs@gmail.com).



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

**THE BISHOP'S CORNER**



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Leo, during his apostolic journey to Türkiye 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*

**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](mailto:ekelly@ibl.bm).

**PARISH REGISTRATION:**

Are you and your family registered? Is your contact information up-to-date? If not, please contact the Rectory office and request a Parish Registration Form, or download it via the Diocesan website, [www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm) under the "Useful Links" section. By being registered, it gives the Priest &/ Church the ability to speak on your behalf. Being registered can be very useful in many different ways. For example, if you and your family will receive any Sacraments here or overseas, if you are going to be a Godparent or a Sponsor, etc. All information sent in will be kept according to the PIPA ACT.

# 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**



PASCALHUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

### **Monday**

December 8

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Gn 3:9–15, 20

Eph 1:3–6, 11–12

Lk 1:26–38

### **Tuesday**

December 9

*Advent Weekday*

Is 40:1–11

Mt 18:12–14

### **Wednesday**

December 10

*Advent Weekday*

Is 40:25–31

Mt 11:28–30

### **Thursday**

December 11

*Advent Weekday*

Is 41:13–20

Mt 11:11–15

### **Friday**

December 12

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Zec 2:14–17  
or Rv 11:19a;  
12:1–6a, 10ab  
Lk 1:26–38 or  
Lk 1:39–47

### **Saturday**

December 13

*St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

Sir 48:1–4,  
9–11  
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

### **Sunday**

December 14

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Is 35:1–6a, 10  
Jas 5:7–10  
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**