



## He's One of Us

**T**he Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a “son of David” (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph’s legal son, he also was a “son of David.” Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



ANNEKA/SHUTTERSTOCK

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”*

MATTHEW 1:23

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?*
- ★ *We are on the threshold of Christmas. What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart?*



**St. Joseph's Church**

*was consecrated on the 29th January 1928;*

*it is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.*

45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda.

or

P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MA BX, Bermuda.

Telephone: (441) 234-2321 or Fr. Attilio's cell: 777-2166

Email: [stjosephbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephbermuda@gmail.com)

Pastor: Fr. Attilio Morelli



Mass  
Schedule

**Sunday Mass: 9.00 a.m.**

**Portuguese Mass: Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St. Anthony's - Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

St. Joseph's at 8.30 a.m. Sunday morning " "

St. Anthony's Mass times: Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday morning at 11.15 a.m.

**BAPTISMS** by appointment - one month in advance

**WEDDINGS** by appointment - one year in advance (approx.)

**CCD - Resumes on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

**Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting - TBA**

**Stewardship Team -**

**Coffee Social after Mass - 26<sup>th</sup> January - Host: Team 1**

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA**

Most Reverend Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak

[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

**Liturgical Activities of Bishop Wes** - Please review our website:

[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm) and click on: **Bishop Wes Spiwak, CR Schedule**. This will advise where and when Bishop Wes will be celebrating various liturgical events throughout the Diocese. Also visit our [Facebook](#) page.

**Parish Team Leaders**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Card** - Pastoral  
Council Chairperson

**Mrs. Annette Barclay**  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
representative

**Walette Cross**

Stewardship Representative

**Elizabeth Card**  
Parish Catechetical Leader

**Mrs. Mary Harvey**

Parish Administrator & Finance  
Committee Team Leader

**Mr. Tony Bari**  
Music Ministry

**Mrs. Alicia Arruda & Mrs. Sonia  
Tavares** - Portuguese

Representative on Pastoral Council

**St. Vincent de Paul Society  
(contact Annette)**



**Today's Hymns**



Entrance:	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (4-6)	#274
Offertory:	Patience People	#277
Communion:	Look Beyond	#775
Recessional:	Immortal Invisible God Only Wise	#594

**Leader of Song: Aiden Stones**

*We are pleased to have our visitors celebrate the Mass with us this morning, and we hope that their stay in Bermuda will be a pleasant one.*



**Christmas Flower Envelopes:** Please return by today, if possible.



— **24<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

**Greeters**  
**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Collection**  
**Gifts**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Opening/Closing of Church**  
**Music**

**Alicia Arruda and Kayla Tavares**  
**volunteers**  
**volunteers**  
**Volunteers**  
**Pat Gibbons**  
**Jenny Barclay & Volunteer**  
**Liz Card**  
**Tony Bari**

**25<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

**Volunteers**

**29<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

**Greeters**  
**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Collection**  
**Gifts**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Opening/Closing of Church**  
**Music**

**Lucille Dixon & Iliene Bremar**  
**Aleesha Maybury**  
**Hugh & Sheelah Hassell**  
**Volunteers**  
**Jane Bermingham**  
**Mary Harvey & Kathie Ausenda**  
**Kathie Ausenda**  
**Tony Bari**

*If you would like to participate in one of the above-mentioned ministries please see Annette Barclay.*

**Mass Intentions - 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019**

**9.00 a.m. - For the People of St. Joseph's**

**Christmas Eve - For the People of St. Joseph's**

**Christmas Day - For the People of St. Joseph's**

**15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

**Attendance: 62 (approx) 9.00 a.m.**

**45 (approx) 3.00 p.m. Christmas Programme**

**Collection**

**\$596.00 - Regular**

**\$ 86.00 - Holy Childhood Collection**

**\$140.00 - CCD Fees**

**\$130.00 - Flowers**

**\$952.00 TOTAL**

Thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity, it is greatly appreciated. Banking information: Name: St. Josephs Parish - **Account Number: 20006060757062100** at Bank of NT Butterfield and Son

**PARISH**

**Prayers:**

Please keep our parishioners who are sick or shut-in, in your prayers, especially Manuel Arruda.

**Birthdays**

**Liam Stones**  
**Aleesha Maybury**  
**Stefano Ausenda**  
**Jamila Faries**  
**Maria Silveira**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**27<sup>th</sup> December**  
**28<sup>th</sup> December**  
**28<sup>th</sup> December**



**Fr. Attilio WILL celebrate a Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph's at 9:00 p.m. If you can volunteer in any way for that evening, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day, please let him or Annette Barclay know. This is a wonderful gift for St. Joseph's!!**

**THANK YOU** to all who helped to make the Christmas Programme last Sunday a most entertaining afternoon. A special thank you to our children (and parents) who participated so well, and of course we can't forget Hannah Lampit and Fr. Attilio who provided the music for us ☺. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Being good is a choice or act of our own will. We should be choosing



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR's MASS SCHEDULES

### ST. JOSEPH'S

Christmas Eve	9.00 p.m.
Christmas Day	9.30 a.m.
New Year's Day	9.30 a.m.

### ST. ANTHONY'S

Christmas Eve Family Mass	6.00 p.m.
Carol Singing Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.
Mass to follow at	midnight
Christmas Day	11.15 a.m.
New Year's Day	11.15 a.m.

**Fr. Attilio's Christmas Open House and House Warming will be on Sunday 29th December, at St. Anthony's Rectory from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.** Those who wish to help refurbishing our newly renovated rectory can offer gift certificates from International Imports (Par-la-ville Road) or some other store that may sell Kitchenware.

### Pastors Note

Dear Friends,

As we are approaching Christmas, we hear the well-known story of the birth of Jesus from the perspective of Joseph. Joseph was the one who had to suffer the greatest ordeal. First, having to believe a story that sounds absurd, a cover-up also badly concocted literally impossible to believe. Second, his gentle heart would not have accepted anyway to see that little girl stoned to death. Third, in the moment he would begin to believe the story of Mary, having to face the public shame, together with her. Yes, because if he believed, who else would? He would have become the laughingstock of the village! Consider that even the Jewish Talmud writes few years after that this girl had an affair with a Roman soldier who went by the name of Panthera. Finally, after having passed over all these ordeals, the last one would have been the perspective to be parenting the Messiah, the Son of God definitively realizing that he did not feel at all up to the task. Joseph had a lot on his plate, but in the end, he accepted to enter the plan of God and had the courage to face all these ordeals. The plan of God is always filled with ordeals, they come one after the other and when we feel we got out of it another one comes out of the blue. "No rest for the old man!" However, at times we may be deceived thinking that a good life is a life with none of them, and we try to find a way to escape. Joseph too tried to find an escape route when he thought about dismissing Mary in secret. However, the angel of the Lord (remember, angel means messenger) helps him to see that the plan of God is for him to face all these ordeals. This is true also for us: the plan of God for our life passes through several ordeals. We are constantly tempted to find an escape route, the easy way out. Here it is where it is important to hear the voice of God, to listen to his voice, through the messenger that is the Church and the Christian community. This is what may help us to redirect ourselves on the right path and to boldly face the ordeals that are placed in front of us, trusting that there is the Immanuel, God with us, who will see to it that the course of our life will reach the proper destination.

Merry Christmas to those who are travelling; for those who are staying see you at Christmas, and, God bless you all.  
Fr. Attilio

## DIocese

### BISHOPS CORNER

My Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"Peace to people of good will." What do these words mean? They refer to those who, despite obstacles, despite weaknesses; choose to do good each day, in every moment.

to do good at every moment, and to do so repeatedly. It is not about doing good tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, it's about doing good right now. If today, we do not make this choice, we risk never being able to do good, because we can only do good in the present moment.

There is something great in the goodness that a person chooses to do each day. Regardless of what they are doing, they will have a radiating glow about them. The secret of good lies in the fact that when one person sees another person doing good, he/she becomes good themselves. Good will spread by itself. It does not need commandments or commands and it does not need propulsion to pass from person to person or from heart to heart. Just as someone can become infected with a disease, so can someone become "infected" with health. However, it is not physical health that I am speaking of, but spiritual health. One only needs to see an act of good will once, to want to do good also.

This is why the words of the angels said over the stable of Bethlehem were so beautiful and important. Each of us needs peace. However, this peace will not come from our hearts or from our world. This Peace will come from the good which we have the courage and will to choose. As did Jesus, the Son of God, who had the courage to become human and give himself up into the hands of his people. I wish you a beautiful Christmas, full of peace and flowing from the boldly and consciously chosen good. Bishop Wes

**Open House:** Bishop Wes is happy to submit to your attention his invitation for Open House at his residence. Friday, the 27th December, 2019, starting at 3:30 pm.

**Caritas House of Prayer:** The House of Prayer will be closed from 20<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December. A special prayer service will take place on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, at Caritas at 3 p.m. in celebration of the Epiphany and the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Quiet Wednesdays will resume on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Sister Dolores and Sister Judith pray that you will experience God's love in a very special way this Christmas and that God will bless each and every one of you with good health and much happiness in the New Year.

**REMINDER: Need ASAP a written confirmation that you will be making the Diocesan Women's retreat at Grotto Bay hotel** on 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Just e-mail me at [bcaritas@northrock.bm](mailto:bcaritas@northrock.bm). Because of my fall I will not be traveling for Christmas, therefore, registration forms and deposits can wait. Sister Judith

**Lectio Divina:** is cancelled on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December. It will resume on Monday, 6th January in St. Theresa's Hall at 7 p.m.

**ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** The Gift Shop will CLOSE from Monday, 23rd December, 2019, and REOPEN on Tuesday, 7th January, 2020. We wish all our customers a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year



### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent the "Candle of Peace" or in other traditions the "Candle of Love" is lit.

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because God loves us!

[John 3:16-17](#)



# Dear Padre,

## Why did early Christians begin celebrating Christmas on December 25th?

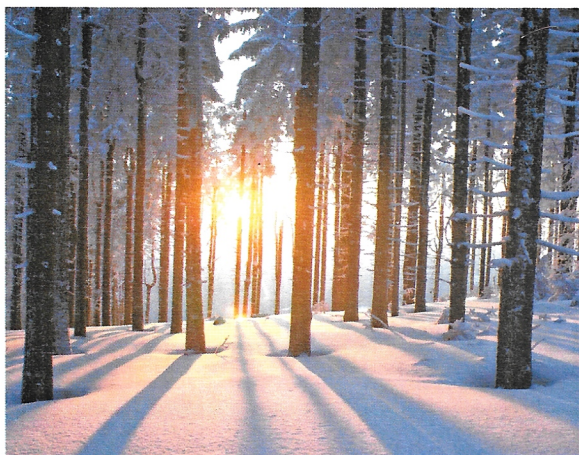
Placing Christmas near the winter solstice can be traced to pagan celebrations in Christianity's early years. The celebration of Christmas in December began in Rome as a Christian response to a civil festival honoring the sun god Sol.

The Romans celebrated the sun climbing into the northern skies, signaling the lengthening days after the cold winter nights. On December 25, 274, Aurelian proclaimed the sun god principal patron of the empire. Christmas originated when this sun cult was strongest. Christians wouldn't go to the temple to pay homage to a sun god. They believed in the one true God, and God's only son made human, Jesus Christ.

It's almost as if Christians substituted "son" for "sun" and celebrated the birth of the son of justice into this world. The parallels are uncanny. As the extending sunlight broke night's grip and softened the cold sting on the world, so Jesus' coming broke the long reign of sin and darkness. Jesus was the true son, the light and life of the world, the reason for renewed hope.

Narrow fundamentalists fail to understand that Christmas is more than a birthday celebration of the *day* Christ was born. It's wider in scope, celebrating the reality that Jesus was born human. It's not the *when* but the *what* that we celebrate. So, Jesus' precise birthdate doesn't matter. What matters is that Jesus was truly born human—like us in all things but sin. For this we celebrate.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



PSYNOVEC/SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We need, then, to open our hearts to the true light, Jesus Christ. He is the light that can illumine life and turn our darkness into light; the light of goodness that conquers evil; the light of the love that overcomes hatred; the light of the life that triumphs over death.*

—ADDRESS TO VATICAN CURIA, DECEMBER 21, 2018



## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday  
Sir 35:1–12  
Mk 10:28–31

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 25  
Christmas  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

### Thursday

DECEMBER 26  
St. Stephen,  
First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Friday

DECEMBER 27  
St. John,  
Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1–4  
Jn 20:1a and 2–8

### Saturday

DECEMBER 28  
The Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2  
Mt 2:13–18

### Sunday

DECEMBER 29  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14  
Col 3:12–21 or  
Col 3:12–17  
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23