



The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Advent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

Reflect

How can you better enjoy times of waiting?

**May the Lord make you
increase and abound in love
for one another and for all...
to be blameless in holiness
before our God and Father at
the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his holy ones.**

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13





St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or

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

Telephone: (441) 234-2321

Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

Acting Pastor: Fr. Joseph Morley - Cell: 705-0236



Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By appointment: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass 3 rd Saturday 11:00 a.m.	21 st December
Kids & Youth Ministry	Sunday 8:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Children's Mass	Resumes in January
Pastoral & Finance Council	Monday, 13 th January
Monthly Coffee Social	

DIOCESE HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak

www.romancahtolicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral
Council Chairperson

Mrs. Annette Barclay
St. Vincent de Paul
Society Representative

Walette Cross
Stewardship Representative

Natalia Walker
Religious Education
Kids & Youth Ministry

Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish
Administrator & Finance
Committee Team Leader

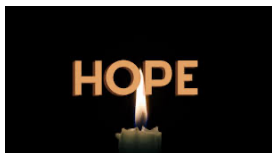
Mrs. Jane Farge
Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance: Light The Advent Candle (Antonia v1)
Offertory: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus #296
Communion: One Bread, One Body #793
Recessional: Let the Valleys Be Raised #292

Leader of Song: Aidan Stones



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship here today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 8th December 2024

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Servers
Music

Elizabeth Card
Kathie Ausenda
Jane Bermingham
Mary & Simon Stones
Liam Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Bernie & Eileen Davies, Jenny Woods; Jose Garcia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury, and for Petra Caesar who is still in the hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 30th November

***Eugene DeSilva**

Sunday, 1st December

For the People of St. Josephs

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Sat. 23 rd November 4:00 p.m.	7	60
Sun. 24 th November 8:45 a.m.	57	360
St. Vincent DePaul Alms Box		115
Votives		50
TOTAL:	64	\$585

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield



THANK YOU to all who donated to the “Thanksgiving/Harvest Basket” that was gifted to the residents of the Packwood Home on Sunday morning. Our children were amazing, and their singing was really enjoyed by the seniors (and) we were asked when we could come back! 😊

Note: We delivered one full basket and three large, very full, bags. **THANK YOU so much**, your benevolence is greatly appreciated.



Next Friday, 6th December –Annual Christmas Bingo – Menu: Sandwiches, assorted hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets: \$20 Adults - \$10 children + 2 bingo cards. Time: 6:30 p.m. If you would like to donate a raffle prize or something towards the “goodies” table, please let Kathy or Liz know. Your kindness and generosity would be appreciated. **Tickets are available – See Liz or email: lizatstjosephs@gmail.com**



Christmas Flower Envelopes are at the back of the church. Please ensure that the names of your deceased loved ones are on the outside of the envelope.



Our “Afternoon of Christmas” will be held on Sunday, 15th December at 2:30 p.m., in the Church (carols, songs, music, and a ‘little magic’). This is an “informal” celebration that will be dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Tony Bari, as he loved this afternoon so much; therefore, let us have fun and enjoy it as a Parish Family in the Spirit of the Season! We will have a social afterwards in the Parish Centre. If the children want to play an instrument, sing, recite a poem, or something else; now is the time to get them to start practicing. 😊

Proposed Christmas Schedule

St. Joseph's

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day 9:30 a.m.

St. Anthony's

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m. (Carols, etc.)

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

A detailed schedule will be available next weekend.

PASTOR'S POINT -

Dear Parishioners,

In time of suffering for the people of Judah, Jeremiah looks forward with hope to God's fulfilling of the promise of the Davidic covenant. The time is coming, says he, for God to raise up His Anointed One from the line of David to redeem Israel and return justice to the land and its people. The psalmist follows, developing the essence of this covenantal relationship of petitioning God to continue teaching His ways and remember His fidelity, righteousness, and mercy. The hope is for an abiding, life-giving relationship, made manifest in the coming gift of the Christ.

The New Testament readings spring from the lived reality of this relationship in history. Paul pleads for help for God's people to abound in love, manifesting that of God the Father in the gift of Jesus the Son through loving care for creation and one another. How we choose to act and interact with one another should reflect this relationship. The hope now is for the time to come, as Jesus expounds in Luke's Gospel. Jesus calls disciples of all time to stand strong in the face of fear and distraction. Life in covenant relationship with the One who created us and the One who redeemed us in the longer, possibly harder road, but the journey is worth the effort in hope for a destination in union.

Apocalyptic signs abound in the world today, and can leave us fearful, anxious, and looking for escape. Let us lift our eyes toward God and trust that He will lead the way, but it is up to me to follow Him.

God bless,
Fr. Joe (Acting) Pastor,
Vicar General of DOHB

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament are a religious community of blind women. They cannot see, but they are still actively involved in the glory of God and the good of humanity. Sister Mary Veronica always wanted to become a nun, but had difficulty finding an order that would accept her because of her visual impairment. “This congregation of blind sisters is unique and one of a kind in Kenya,” says Sister Mary Veronica. “Our founder, Fr. Luigi Orione, was a person full of mercy and asked us to be mothers and sisters of the poor. We offer our lack of sight to God for our brothers and sisters who do not know the Truth, so that they may experience God, the light of the world.”

Although the blind Sacramental Sisters are a contemplative congregation, they are also very active. They teach catechism in their parish, visit people in the neighbouring village, and offer their help online. "In our charism as the Sacramental Sisters,” Sister Mary states, “we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and talk to Jesus about humanity. We meet with people and talk to them about God's love. We bring souls to Jesus and Jesus to souls.”

The sisters alternate between attending the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and other community activities, such as farming, poultry farming, making rosaries and knitting. These are activities that help them earn a living. Sister Mary comments that, “We come to the congregation to give and receive; we do not come to be helped. We try to be autonomous in everything we do. We need opportunities, not pity.” The sisters admit, however, that the challenges make them complete. Sister Mary Rachael also comments that, “We face our challenges with joy; being blind does not take away our talents and abilities.”

Have a restful weekend and a blessed Advent!

Bishop Wes



First Sunday of Advent the **Candle of “Hope”** or “**Expectation**” is lit.

We have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us.

Our Hope comes from God.

[Romans 15:12-13](#)

If you are unable to attend Mass this weekend, try to take a little time out to pray during the time of the Mass.

Dear Padre,

I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the “holidays,” beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine’s Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God’s life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●

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



KIPGODI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
Advent Weekday	St. Francis	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Ambrose,	Second Sunday
Is 2:1–5	Xavier, Priest	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	Bishop and	of Advent
Mt 8:5–11	Is 11:1–10	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	Doctor of the	Bar 5:1–9
	Lk 10:21–24				Church	Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
					Is 30:19–21,	Lk 3:1–6
					23–26	
					Mt 9:35–10:1,	
					5a, 6–8	



STEFANO DAL POLOZZO / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become “sleepy Christians”—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.... This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Our Sunday Readings

JEREMIAH 33:14-16
PSALM 25:4-5,8-10,14
I THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2
LUKE 21:25-28,34-36

The Day

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Reading closely

1. What promises does the LORD make?
2. When will these events occur?
3. For whom are these words spoken?
4. How might people have responded to this prophecy?

Living the word

5. What promises have been made to you?
6. Have you received promises that were kept, but not in the way you expected?
7. Do you keep your promises?

THE FIRST READING

A brighter future

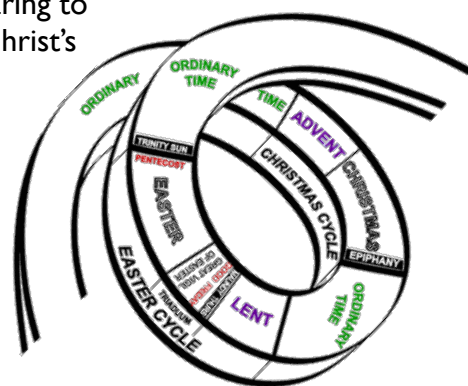
The reigns of King David and his son Solomon were a high point in the history of Israel. This particular prophecy was given centuries later, after the nation had been conquered several times and forced to endure hardship and humiliation. After these centuries of oppression, God's people longed for the peace and prosperity that their ancestors had enjoyed.

A just shoot

Because King David had been both an able leader and devoted to the LORD, God promised that his descendants would always reign over Israel. This passage renews the hope that God would bring forth a ruler who would be as just, pious, and competent as David was. This new ruler would protect the people and help them follow God's law.

ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin *ad venire*, which means *to come*. Advent has a double meaning. Our liturgical year ends and then begins with readings on the end times. As we enter the season of Advent, we're reminded not only that we're preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we're also preparing for his return in glory.



LUKE 21:25-28,34-36

Reading closely

1. How do you react to such imagery?
2. What word or phrase most captures your attention?
3. How should people react to these events?
4. Do we know when “the day” will come?

Living the word

5. What things lure you away from Christ?
6. What challenges to your faith have you already faced?
7. What do you need to do in order to stand confidently before Christ?

THE GOSPEL READING

Cataclysmic events

Most Jews expected violence and chaos to increase dramatically right before God established the fullness of his kingdom. The upheaval would be the result of the forces of evil trying to stop God from completing his transformation of the world.

People expected the entire cosmos to become part of this upheaval.

- celestial bodies would no longer give light
- the oceans (symbols of death and chaos) would become dangerous again
- heaven itself would shake at the enormity of what happens

In a cloud

Clouds were signs of God’s presence.

- the Israelites followed a pillar of cloud out of Egypt and into Canaan (Exodus 13:21, 40:34-38)
- a cloud surrounded Mt. Sinai when God made a covenant with his chosen people (Exodus 19:9)
- a cloud descended upon the Jerusalem temple at its dedication (1 Kings 8:10-13)

In Daniel 7:13-14 we hear how *one like a son of man* ascends *on the clouds of heaven* to receive power to bring about God’s kingdom. This person is the opposite of the evil, monstrous figures that oppose God’s reign. The son of man will vanquish such evil and establish *an everlasting dominion*.

In this Gospel passage Jesus is the Son of Man who now *descends* from heaven to vanquish evil and establish God’s reign. Jesus’ first coming was marked by suffering and death. His second coming will manifest his *power and great glory*. Such language and imagery alludes to God’s powerful presence in the history of his people.

Have no fear

Some people will be so frightened by Christ’s return that they will *die of fright* (v.26). The changes that will be evident when God’s kingdom comes in its fullness are so dramatic that some people will recognize and dread how radically different their lives are about to become.

Despite the events that will happen, those who remain faithful to Jesus have nothing to fear. On the contrary, they are to *stand erect* (rather than cower in fear) and *raise their heads* (v.28). God will bring them into the fullness of his kingdom.

Until then

There is no indication when these events will occur. Instead, Jesus’ followers hear how they must conduct themselves until *that day* comes. People must avoid becoming absorbed in fleeting, mind-numbing pleasures. Even the things people have to do as part of daily living shouldn’t distract them from remaining hopeful and faithful.

PRAYER

adapted from a prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas

Give me, O Lord God,
an ever watchful heart so that nothing
may ever lure me away from you.
Give me a noble heart that no unworthy affection
shall ever draw downward to earth.
Give me a heart of honesty that no insincerity
shall warp.
Give me a heart of courage that no distress shall
ever crush or quench.
Give me a heart so free that no harmful or
thoughtless desire shall ever claim me for its own.
Amen.