



**“We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage.”**

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—“in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?



St. Theresa's Cathedral

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Monday – Friday from 10:00am – 4:00pm

St. Theresa's Catechetical (CCD) Leader: Maria Pacheco 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 – 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. 3rd	6:30pm + Christmas Gift for Sister Dolores & Sister Judith
Sun.	Jan. 4th (Portuguese)	8:30am 10:00am + Mr. & Mrs. Albert Victor Soares Sr. Special Intentions of Natalie & Marshall Yokell & Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garrafa & family + Carlos Almeida, Rogério & Manuel Santos Bolarinho + Humberto Santos, José & Amelia Andrade Almeida + Mr. Marshall Yokell St. Theresa's Parish Family Bishop Emeritus Robert Kurtz CR
Mon.	Jan. 5th	7:30am + Christmas Gift for Fr. Julio Blazejewski, CR.
Tues.	Jan. 6th	7:30am Fr. Michael Morris
Wed.	Jan. 7th	7:30am 12:10pm + Elfreida Lewnowski, belated Christmas Gift Paul Scaife
Thurs.	Jan. 8th	9:00am 12:10pm
Fri.	Jan. 9th	7:30am 12:10pm Special Intentions of Maggie & Joe Gravito
Sat.	Jan. 10th	6:30pm + Sr. Judith Marie Rollo, SC, Birthday in Heaven
Sun.	Jan. 11th (Portuguese)	8:30am 10:00am 11:30am 6:00pm + Peggy Barrett Special Intentions of the Mello family + Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Cardoso + Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Arminda Garrafa & Victor Moniz St. Theresa's Parish Family

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY : January 10th & 11th, 2026

Time:	6:30pm	8:30am	11:30am	6:00pm
Proclaimer:	A. Machado	A. Farrell	M. T. Ayensa A. Aguila	H. Velasco J. Placedes
Communion Ministers:	A. Donaghy D. DeSilva J. Judd C. Carreiro	I. Brackstone E. Cabral H. Cabral O. Scarth	A. Tan M. Tan P. LeFevre	C. Sevilla A. Galea M. Billones
Song Leaders:	B. Barreto-Hogan	J. Pearman	M. Gravito	K. Delgado

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



Dear St. Theresa's Parishioners,

As the Christmas Octave has just ended, Fr. Dandy and I would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your attendance at our services and celebrations.

Thank you

We would also like to acknowledge those members of our Parish Community who contributed especially to the beauty and efficiency of these celebrations:

Ms. Yvonne Soares, who thoughtfully took care of ordering the poinsettias.

Mrs. Maria Lurdes and Mr. Edmundo Faria, who every year tirelessly take care of decorating the Senhor Santo Cristo Chapel and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for Christmas.

The DeSilva Tribe, who perfectly fulfilled the duties of ushers at the Family Mass.

Our CCD mentors, under the guidance of Mrs. Maria Pacheco, who organized the children so that the Family Mass had its proper setting with the Holy Family, kings, shepherds, and angels; as well as Mr. George Alayon, who devoted his time to putting together the Children's Choir for the Family Mass. Many thanks also to the Parents who volunteered their children to be part of this project and who patiently brought them to rehearsals.

Our organists, Jade Fernandes and Nicholas Medeiros; our violinist, Ms. Lindsey Scarth; and our song leaders, Ms. Kerry Judd with her daughter AJ (great debut, AJ!), Ms. Gabriella Medeiros, Mrs. Janice Pearman (with her guitar), and Mr. David Mutch. Please know that without your contributions, our celebrations would not have been the same!

Fr. Dandy and I would also like to personally express our gratitude for the many kind words of greetings and appreciation. Thank you very much!

Have a healthy, safe and happy 2026!

Bishop Wes and Fr. Dandy

FOCUS: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. The Magi undertook an arduous journey to see Jesus. For us, sometimes even a short trip to Mass can feel like a challenge. Yet the God who set the stars in the sky desires an intimate relationship with each of us. This year is a good time to renew our commitment to grow closer to God. A star revealed Jesus' birth to the Magi; let us ask God to reveal himself to us today.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure

	Date	Actual
Collection:	Dec. 27th & 28th	\$3,223.00
Electronic offering:	Dec. 27th & 28th	\$2,530.00
2025 Collection to Date:	Week 52	\$306,169.50
Christmas Gift collection:	Dec. 24th & 25th	\$15,363.00

Thank you for your support!



ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL
January 4th—10th, 2026
Donation Given for Two 7 day Candles
And Two Roses
Special Intentions of Maria Pacheco



BAPTISMS:

We welcome **Austin Zachary Zapata**, child of Anthony Zapata & Leah Anne Alaras, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on **Monday, December 29th, 2025**.

Welcome to the Church Family Austin!



FUNERAL:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of the late **Amaro Bizarro**, whose funeral was held at the Cathedral on **Tuesday, December 30th, 2025**.

May he rest in peace with the angels!

PARISH COUNCIL COFFEE SOCIAL:

Come join us for Coffee and baked goods next week, on **Sunday, January 11th, 2026**, after the 11:30am Mass, in the Church Hall.

Food and Drink donations are welcomed! *We welcome all!*



SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY -

Inspired by the method of SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION used during the Synod on Synodality. It is leading a small group using the texts from the Sacred Scriptures in a structured format emphasizing: listening, discernment, and community, fostering a deeper connection with scripture and with each other. This NEW BIBLE STUDY will be on **Thursday's starting on January 15th at 3:00 pm** 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 anyone in the diocese interested with everything else provided. Any questions please contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236.

Please be advised that after the Christmas break, the 6p.m. Wednesday Portuguese Mass at St. Patrick's will resume on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026.



THE BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,



As we began a new calendar year, on 1 January we celebrated the 59th World Day of Peace. For his first message on this occasion, Pope Leo chose the theme: "Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace." The Pontiff reflected especially on the fear, growing military spending, and threat of war in our world, inviting all people to embrace an authentic peace rooted in love and justice.

Reflecting on the peace that the risen Christ shared with his disciples, the Holy Father wrote: "Let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey." He highlighted that the path of the Gospel is one of nonviolence and recalled the challenge this posed to Jesus' disciples, who were commanded by the Lord to "put your sword back into its sheath."

Reflecting further on the life of Christ, the Pope noted: "His was an unarmed struggle in the midst of concrete historical, political, and social circumstances." Consequently, he emphasized that Christians today must recognize past complicity in violence and commit themselves to prophetic witness. "May this be one of the fruits of the Jubilee of Hope, which has moved millions of people to rediscover themselves as pilgrims and to begin within themselves that disarmament of heart, mind, and life," concluded the Holy Father.

For official text of the message, see:

<https://tinyurl.com/ctd8f9b8>

Have a peaceful weekend and a serene and blessed new year!

Bishop Wes



MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

We would like to extend our **most sincere apologies** for an unforeseen and unfortunate error concerning the 2025 Christmas Memorial Flowers pamphlets.

Sadly, the wrong list of names was accidentally used.

Please collect the re-issued and corrected pamphlets at the entrances and communion railings of our Cathedral.

Also, Poinsettias will be available to take home, for anyone interested, on the morning of **Monday, January 12th** in the Church Hall.

Please stop by and collect a plant for you to enjoy in your home!



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY SEE:

As a bond of unity and charity with churches throughout the world, Canon Law 1271 annually requires bishops in dioceses worldwide to financially help the apostolic works of the Holy See through a special collection.

In Bermuda, this collection will take place on the weekend of **January 17th and 18th**. Please use the special envelopes provided for your donation, or make a contribution online.

Thank you for your stewardship!

Dear Padre,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:22–4:6

Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday

January 6

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:7–10

Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday

January 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:11–18

Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

January 8

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:19–5:4

Lk 4:14–22a

Mk 6:34–44

Saturday

January 10

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14–21

Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

January 11

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1–4, 6–7

Acts 10:34–38

Friday

January 9

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5–13

Lk 5:12–16