



December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Bar 5:1–9

Phil 1:4–6, 8–11

Lk 3:1–6

The Time Is Right

Saint Luke loves to be precise in his Gospel, so he documents the exact time and place of the appearance of John the Baptist, the precursor to Jesus. Tiberius was the second emperor of Rome, and the fifteenth year of his reign corresponds to AD 27. Pontius Pilate was prefect from the years 26 to 36. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruled in Galilee until his death in the year 39 and is the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded. On the Jewish side, Caiaphas was high priest, and his influential father-in-law Annas was considered a leader of Jewish religious life.

These historical dates align with Luke's explanation, as well as other events described in his Gospel. Ours is a faith based on real people and events. No doubt there is a great appreciation for the supernatural in our faith, but it is never *against* nature, just *beyond* it.

Jesus praised John the Baptist (see Matthew 11:2–9) for his strong will and dedication. Humility, austerity, courage, and a spirit of prayer are also a large part of the testimony John left us. Palmezzano dresses him in the martyr's red and camel skin to accent his supreme virtue. So dedicated and heroic was he in his fulfillment of the mission entrusted to him, Jesus acclaimed "among those born of women there has been none greater" (Matthew 11:11). "He was a burning and shining lamp" (John 5:35) to illuminate the path toward the true light who was coming into the world. Once that divine light arrived, John receded into the shadows.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

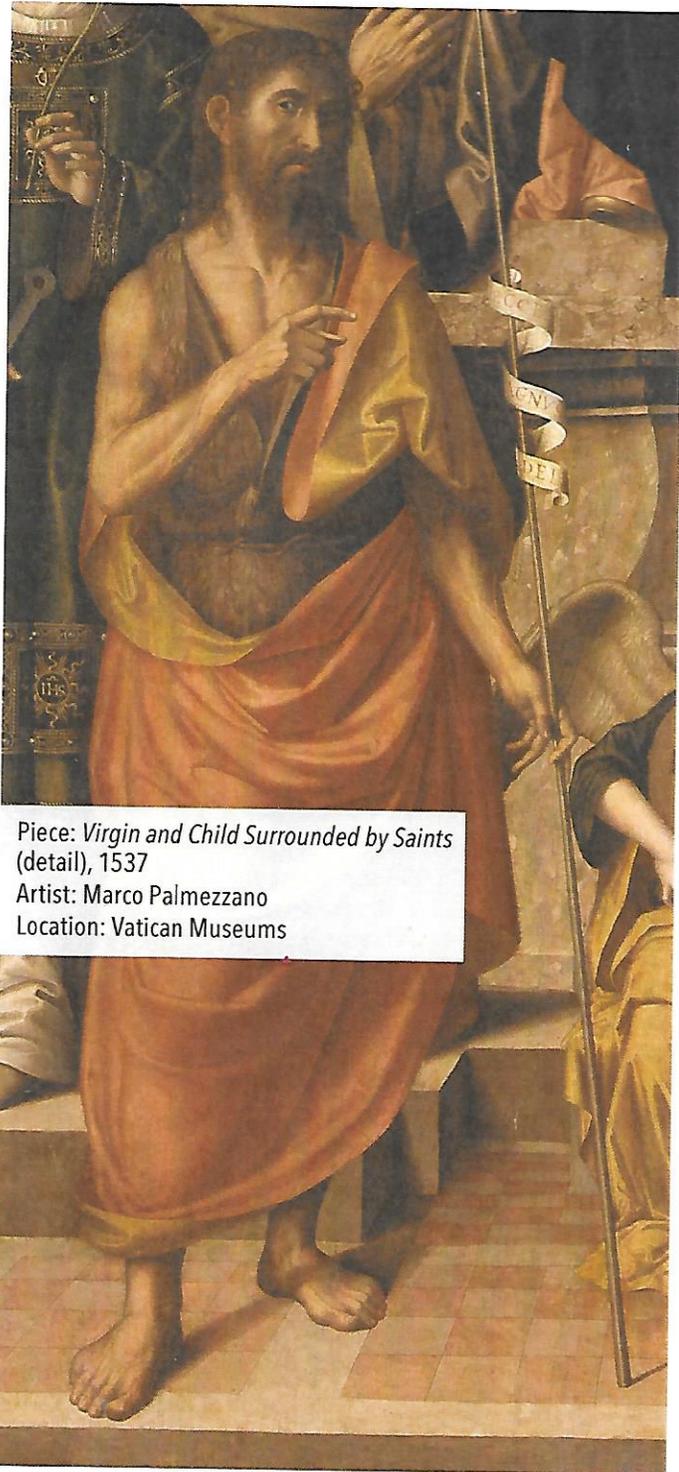
For Reflection

Do I lead people to Jesus through my dedicated testimony?

Do I speak easily and naturally of Jesus with colleagues, family, or friends?

He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3



Piece: *Virgin and Child Surrounded by Saints* (detail), 1537

Artist: Marco Palmezzano

Location: Vatican Museums



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

Email: stjosephs@northrock.bm

Pastor:



Sunday Mass: 9.00 a.m.

Portuguese Mass: Wednesday 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 - 10.00 a.m.

Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting - TBA

Stewardship Team -

Coffee Social after Mass - 16th December - Host: Team 4

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Reverend Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card - Pastoral
Council Chairperson

Mrs. Annette Barclay
St. Vincent de Paul Society
representative

Walette Cross
Stewardship Representative

Mrs. Mari-Ann Widhalm
Parish Catechetical Leader

Mrs. Mary Harvey
Parish Administrator & Finance
Committee Team Leader

Mr. Tony Bari
Music Ministry

Mrs. Liberia Aguiar -
Portuguese Representative on
Pastoral Council

St. Vincent de Paul Society
(contact Annette)



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	On Jordan's Bank	#278
Offertory:	Patience, People	#277
Communion:	Seed, Scattered and Sown	#781
Recessional:	Go Make A Difference	#730

Leader of Song - Aiden Stones



LOVE



- 16th December, 2018

Greeters

Lucille Dixon & Iliene Bremar

Proclaimer of God's Word

CCD Students

Collection

Hugh & Sheelagh Hassell

Gifts

Grade 2 Students

Eucharistic Minister

Eucharistic Minister

Collection Counters

Joanne Smith & Jane Bermingham

Opening/Closing of Church

Margaret Faries

Music

Tony Bari

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

Mass Intentions - 9th December, 2018

9.00 a.m. - People of St. Joseph's

2nd December, 2018

Attendance: 71

Collection: \$686.00 Regular
25.00 Flowers
\$875.05 Bingo
\$1,586.05

Thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity, it is greatly appreciated

PARISH

Prayers: Please keep our sick and shut-in in your prayers, especially Manuel Arruda, Mario Correia and Marisa Stones. Also keep dear Phyllis Ahern, a parishioner of St. Anthony's, who remains in Intensive Care are KEMH, in your prayers.



Christmas Flower Envelopes (Red) are now in the back of the church. Please ensure that the names of your deceased loved ones are on the outside of the envelope.

Please note the last day of CCD for 2018 is Sunday, 16th December. Classes will resume on Sunday, 13th January, 2019.

Next Sunday, 16th December, we encourage you to attend Mass because in lieu of a children's Christmas programme this year, we will be having a children's Mass. Note: there will be reserved pews that morning for the children. Following the Mass you'll be invited to attend



our next **Coffee Social** to be held in the **Parish Centre**; it will be hosted by **Team 4** (Jamila, Rosie, Kathie, Jenny and Melinda)

THANK YOU: We take this opportunity to thank Fr. Gerald Watt, CR., for celebrating Mass for us these past two Sundays. We wish him a safe return to his home in the US.

DIOCESE

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Reverend Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak

Liturgical Activities of Bishop Wes - Please review our website: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm and click on: **Bishop Wes Śpiwak, CR Schedule**. This will advise where and when Bishop Wes will be celebrating various liturgical events throughout the Diocese. Also visit our [Facebook](#) page.

THE BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

My previous Bishop's Corner was dedicated to the holy days of obligation in our Diocese. At that time I stated that the primordial holy day of obligation is Sunday. I would now like to develop this idea because of the mentality of freedom of interpretation that has been sown into our practices.

The third commandment states clearly "Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day". This is based on God's revelation to Moses in Exodus 20:8-10 and Deuteronomy 5:12. The Lord's Day in the Old Testament was the Sabbath which marked the fulfillment of the first creation. In the New Testament it was replaced by Sunday, reminiscent of a new creation, initiated by the resurrection of Christ. Jesus rose on the first day of the week.

The Lord's Day reveals the nature of the relationship that God wants to make with the creature made in his image. The Lord's Day teaches us each week that we are more important than we can imagine. In this context the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass is not an arbitrary requirement imposed by the Church, but an indispensable element of our Christian identity. Sunday is not only "the first day", but also "the eighth day", the day after the Sabbath, the day of endless life, eternal life in communion with God.

In the Gospel of John we read Jesus' words, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." (John 6:53-58).

I am aware that many things have become relativized in our approach to faith and religion. But - without using the argument of "mortal sin" - the participation in Sunday Mass has never become facultative nor subjected to someone's personal interpretation.

Have a restful Sunday and a blessed second week of Advent!! Bishop Wes

Caritas House of Prayer: Quiet Wednesday, 12th December - Schedule: Recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 1:00 p.m. The

House of Prayer will close then. See note below about this Feast Day, [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#).

An Advent day of Retreat will be held today, 9th December. This will take place from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The first part will include a Gathering prayer followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, quiet time and a scriptural rosary. Snack break will be about 3:00 p.m., with part two starting at 3:30 p.m. The second part will include a DVD, sharing, a Reflection on the Manger and closing prayer with reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lectio Divina will take place on Monday, 10th December at 7:00 p.m., at St. Theresa's hall.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 12th December, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marian Shrine at Stella Maris Church, St. George's**. The Rosary will be recited followed by Mass with Bishop Wes. Sr. Judith and Sr. Dolores will be renewing their vows and the Associates of the Sisters of Charity will renew their commitment. Please come out and show them your support.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - Sunshades for Haiti -The SVDP is assisting Lucy Willitts and Maureen Moore in the collection of sunshades which will be eventually shipped to Haiti. Thank you all for your continued support to all our efforts. (Our Parish Rep is Annette Barclay)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – CHRISTMAS GROCERY VOUCHER PROGRAMME

If you or someone you know can use a Christmas Grocery Gift Certificate, please give the name and phone number to your Pastor or to the SVDP Parish Representative listed in your bulletin. Deadline for names is the 7th December. The distribution of the vouchers will be on the 14th December. God Bless. Many thanks and God bless.



Fun and Games with the Youth Group!

Looking for something to do this Thursday night, 13th December? Come out to MSA at 7:30 p.m., for Winter Games Night! All teens welcome! Email us at catholicyouthbda@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook at BermudaCatholic YouthGroup and on Instagram @catholicyouthbda for more information.



Party Time with the Catholic Youth Group!

Mark your calendars! Join the Bermuda Catholic Youth Group this Friday night, 14th December, at St. Theresa's Hall, for our annual Christmas party! Party starts at 6:30 p.m., and goes till midnight! Bring a friend and your holiday spirit! Find us on Instagram @catholicyouthbda and on facebook @BermudaCatholic YouthGroup for more info.



Second Sunday of Advent the "Candle of Love" or in other traditions the "Candle of Peace" or the "Candle of Preparation" is lit, scriptures is read, a devotional may be given, and prayer is offered.

Preparation means to 'get ready'. Help us to be ready to welcome You, O God!

[Luke 3:4-6](#)

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 10

Advent Weekday

Is 35:1–10

Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday

DECEMBER 11

Advent Weekday

Is 40:1–11

Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

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

Thursday

DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy,

Virgin and Martyr

Is 41:13–20

Mt 11:11–15

Friday

DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross,

Priest and Doctor

of the Church

Is 48:17–19

Mt 11:16–19

Saturday

DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1–4, 9–11

Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

DECEMBER 16

Third Sunday

of Advent

Zep 3:14–18a

Phil 4:4–7

Lk 3:10–18

Dear Padre,

Why doesn't the word *immaculate* also refer to Jesus' birth?

According to Webster's Dictionary, *immaculate* comes from the Latin *Immaculatus*, which breaks down further into *in* (meaning “not”) and *maculatus* (meaning “spotted”). It means “without stain or blemish” and is commonly associated with the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, which was solemnly defined as a dogma of the Catholic faith in 1854 by Pope Pius IX. The dogma states that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother without the stain of original sin.

Catholics sometimes mistakenly think that this doctrine refers to Jesus' birth and not to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother. In a way, it refers to both. Everything about Mary ultimately leads to her Son—including the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. How so? The Church argues both from Scripture and tradition that God deemed it proper and

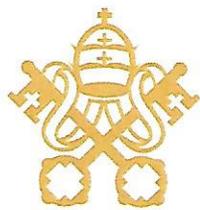
fitting that humanity's Redeemer should enter the world through a womb totally unblemished by sin. Mary, in other words, was free of the effects of original sin so she could be a proper dwelling place for the birth of the Son of God.

That is not to say, however, that Mary herself was not in need of redemption. On the contrary, the dogma clearly states that she was conceived without the stain of original sin *in anticipation* of the fruits of Christ's redemptive action manifested in his passion, death, and resurrection.

—Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BARTOLOMÉ ESTÉBAN MURILLO - WIKI COMMONS



A Word From Pope Francis

The Immaculate Conception leads us to contemplate Our Lady who, by unique privilege, was preserved from original sin from the very moment of her conception. Even living in a world marked by sin, she was not touched by it: Mary is our sister in suffering, but not in evil or in sin.

—Angelus, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015