



## Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**M**any people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am  
well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B



### Reflect

*If you've had a religious experience,  
is there someone you can talk to about  
how it changed your faith?*



## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stjosephbermuda@gmail.com)

**Pastor: Fr. Attilio Morelli**



**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Anthony's – Saturday at 5:00 p.m., or by appointment  
St. Joseph's – Sunday morning 8:30 a.m. “ “  
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.)  
Religious education – 10:00- 11:00 a.m. As per the Schedule  
Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting – TBA  
Coffee Social after Mass – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Team 3

### DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak  
[www.romancaholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancaholicbermuda.bm)

### Parish Team Leaders

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

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

**Walette Cross**  
Stewardship Representative

**Mrs. Sue Moench**  
Religious Education  
Coordinator

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

**Mr. Tony Bari**  
Music Ministry

**St. Vincent DePaul Society**  
(Contact - Annette)



### Today's Hymns

Entrance:	There's A Wilderness in God's Mercy	#712
Offertory:	I Will Choose Christ	#736
Communion:	We Remember	P
Recessional:	Take the Word of God with You	#812

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



**Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Opening/Closing of Church**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Altar Server**  
**Music**

**Jane Bermingham**  
**Elizabeth Card**  
**Annette Barclay**  
**Seamus Stones**  
**Tony Bari**

### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**+ Francisca Domondon**

**Prayers:** Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Mary Maybury, Ilene Bremar, Hugh & Sheelah Hassell, Eleanor Correia, and Bernie & Eileen Davies.

	Attendance	Collection
Saturday – 25 <sup>th</sup> February	6	65.00
Sunday – 26 <sup>th</sup> February	54	402.00
		<b>\$467.00</b>

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

### BIRTHDAYS

**Milroy Pereira**

**8<sup>th</sup> March**

*May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you all with many more special days*

**Religious Education.** As per the schedule, there is a class today!!

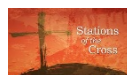


**Today, Ritchelle Felise Davis will receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time.** Please keep Ritchelle in your prayers as she continues her 'faith journey' and, also her family, who will accompany her along the way.



**THANK YOU** to Team 2 (Grace, Amy, GiGi, Pureza, Ailyn & Andrew ++)) for hosting the very nice Coffee Social and Farewell gathering for Pureza last Sunday morning; it was enjoyed by all who attended. Our next Coffee Social will be held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March and will be hosted by Team 3.

On Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00 p.m., Fr. Attilio will hold a session at St. Joseph's on the issues relating to death and dying in modern times. This will be accompanied (or followed) by an afternoon tea. **Please let Liz know if you will be attending (234-0872)** as we need to know how many to cater the tea for!!



**Stations of the Cross** - Fridays at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's.





**SENIORS BINGO.** On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (St. Patrick's Day) we will have a "fun" seniors bingo at St. Joseph's in the Parish Centre from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. There will be soup and sandwiches for lunch. Wear something green (smile)! If you plan to attend call Liz at 234-0872 so that we'll have an idea of how many to cater for. Admission by donation.



**Malassadas Sale, Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April.** Order forms are available at the back of the church.

### PASTOR's NOTE:

Dear friends,

The transfiguration of Christ comes to us to give us courage, to show us that God has in store a marvelous destiny for us. It is not just to show us that Jesus was divine indeed. It is for us; it is about us. We will be transformed, transfigured in the image of the glory of Christ himself. However, in the same way that Jesus had to go passion and death in order to be restored to his glory, the journey of our life also needs to pass through dark and difficult experiences, the outcome is going to be marvelous. This is also why the first reading brings to us the beginning of the Journey of Abraham. The journey of Abraham is the Journey of faith, which parallels, supports and enlightens the journey of life. Faith gives us the courage to face whatever comes through the journey of life because confirms the vision of the glory that is set in front of us and allows us to experience already in this world the Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ, to foretaste the resurrection in the events of our life that have the taste of death. In a little while we will offer again to those who wish to see it for themselves the possibility to start a journey (in the spirit) that may help to live life and faith in this beautiful dimension. God bless you all. Fr. Attilio

### Lenten Box:

This week we will host the second Joint Lenten Service of the Warwick Ministerial Alliance at our Church of St Anthony on **Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.** The theme is "from death to life". We will pray Vespers according to our most genuine Catholic Tradition and Rev. Evroy Weeks will address us with scriptural comments.

On **Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 PM** we will have a meeting focused on the Word of God where we will explore the Gospel of the Samaritan Woman and the theme of living waters, and our parishioner Joanne Wohmuth, will lead us in a time of meditation and contemplation.

### BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In his 2023 Message for Lent, Pope Francis wrote that personal and ecclesial "transfiguration" is the goal of the ascetical journey of Lent, and similarly of the synodal process. Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the Gospel account of the Transfiguration, proclaimed each year on the Second Sunday of Lent. As with the chosen disciples at the Transfiguration, Jesus "takes us with him to a place apart" during the season of Lent. The Pontiff wrote that "Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This requires effort, sacrifice, and concentration, which are also requirements for the Synodal Journey, and therefore we can say that our Lenten journey is 'synodal' since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master."

In order to reach our goal of personal and ecclesial transformation, or conversion, Pope Francis proposes two paths inspired by the Transfiguration of Jesus. The first is listening to God's Word and to our brothers and sisters. The second path involves facing the reality of the daily struggles of life, without getting caught up in extraordinary events and experiences. Pope Francis reminds us that neither Lent nor the synodal process are ends in themselves but are leading us to the experience of Easter.

Pointing to the appearance of Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets at the Transfiguration, Pope Francis says, "In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness." He explains that "tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation."

For the full text of the message go:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2h2vhx>

Have a calm weekend and a fruitful week!

Bishop Wes

On Sunday, 26th of March at 12:30 p.m., in the MSA Auditorium, the Portuguese Pastoral Council invites you to a Bingo Lunch. It will be a fundraiser to help the Portuguese Pastoral Council to pay their share of the monthly maintenance for the Portuguese priest, which actually happens to be the Bishop. You do not have to be Portuguese to attend, and tickets are \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. Tickets will be available soon.

# Dear Padre,

## What is the value of lighting a candle in church?

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)



CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
Dn 9:4b–10	Is 1:10, 16–20	Jer 18:18–20	Jer 17:5–10	Gn 37:3–4,	Mi 7:14–15,	Ex 17:3–7
Lk 6:36–38	Mt 23:1–12	Mt 20:17–28	Lk 16:19–31	12–13a, 17–28	18–20	Rom 5:1–2, 5–8
				Mt 21:33–43,	Lk 15:1–3,	Jn 4:5–42
				45–46	11–32	



CNS PHOTO / VATICAN MEDIA

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy,... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."*

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018