



Are We There Yet?

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ng ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imaged: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *For which of God's promises are you excited?*
- ✦ *Open your mind and heart to our firm, strong, and dependable leader.*

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
least among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.*

MICAH 5:1



PIZZES / SHUTTERSTOCK

St. Joseph's Church

43 Somerset Road – Sandys, MA 03, Bermuda
(Direct Line) 441-238-1784
(Located between Arnold's Supermarket & Somerset Cricket Field)
Parish Email: stjosephs@northrock.bm
Pastor: Fr. Attilio Morelli
Reconciliation: By appointment
Baptisms: By Appointment – One month in advance
Weddings: By Appointment – usually about a year in advance
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

St. Anthony's Church



26 Middle Road - Warwick WK03, Bermuda
Phone: (Office Direct Line) 441-238-1784
Pastor's Mobile: 441-777-2166
Pastor: Fr. Attilio Morelli

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Parish Email: stanthonybermuda@gmail.com
Reconciliation: Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. or by appointment
Baptisms: By

Appointment – One month in advance
Weddings: By Appointment – A year in advance
CCD: Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Anna Daniel 441-236-2438

Email: stanthonycdd@yahoo.com

Organist: Tony Bari: tbari@northrock.bm 441-236-1314

St. Vincent de Paul Rep.: Pat Rodrigues

Portuguese Charismatic Group (PCG):

Fridays @ 8:15pm – TV Room, in the Cottage

Neocatechumenal Community (NCW):

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8:00 PM in the Hall

Masses at St. Anthony's

Sat	Dec 18	5:30 pm	Christmas Novena
		6:00 pm	Manuel Moura+, John Jacinto Reis & family, Manuel Conceicao Reis & family, John & Emilia Moura & family
		8:00 pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word
Sun	Dec 19	11:15 am	Tadeusz Frankiewicz+
		4:30 pm	Spanish Mass followed by Spanish Christmas party
Mon	Dec 20	5:30 pm	Christmas Novena
Tues	Dec 21	8:15 am	Ian Mackie+
		5:30 pm	Christmas Novena
		7:30 pm	Celebration of Reconciliation
Wed	Dec 22	8:15 am	Maria Naska+
		5:30 pm	Christmas Novena
		8:00 pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word & Reconciliation (Hall)
Thu.	Dec 23	8:15 am	Umberto Morelli+
		5:30 pm	Christmas Novena
Fri.	Dec 24	6:00 pm	Family Mass – Manuel Moura+
		11:30 pm	Christmas carols

12:00 am Midnight Mass

Sat. Dec 25 11:15 am Manuel Moura+ (Christmas Mass)

Sun Dec 26 11:15 am Feast of the Holy Family

BULLETIN for December 18 and 19, 2021

Liturgical Ministries – Sign up sheet for weekly Masses and the Christmas schedule is in the back of the church. The Books for the Lectors for the new liturgical year are available and can be picked up at the Sacristy anytime.

Weekly Collections at St. Anthony's

Dec 4/5 \$ 2,916.00

Dec 11/12 \$ 2,325.00

Online payments can be made directly into the Bank account of St. Anthony's – Butterfield Bank – BD \$ Current A/c – 20006060061567100 and US \$ Current A/c - 20006840061567100.

Please make sure to indicate what the donation is for in the memo field when making the payment i.e., Gen collection; Maintenance; Mission Sunday, etc. Multiple payments can be made for those times that you are away or on vacation. Please note that we are charged \$20 for US checks drawn on a US Bank.

Bishop's Corner

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In his "Urbi et Orbi" message for Christmas 2020, Pope Francis wrote:

"I would like to bring to everyone the message that the Church proclaims on this feast with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given".

A child is born. A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future. Moreover, this Child, Jesus, was born "to us"; an "us" without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The Child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone; he is the "son" that God has given to the entire human family.

Thanks to this Child, all of us can speak to God and call him "Father". Jesus is the only-begotten Son; no one but he knows the Father. Yet he came into the world for this very reason: to show us the face of the Father. Thanks to this Child, we can all call one another brothers and sisters, for so we truly are. We come from every continent, from every language and culture, with our own identities and differences, yet we are all brothers and sisters.

At this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave economic and social imbalances only worsened

by the coronavirus pandemic, it is all the more important for us to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters. God has made this fraternal unity possible, by giving us his Son Jesus. The fraternity he offers us has nothing to do with fine words, abstract ideals or vague sentiments. It is a fraternity grounded in genuine love, making it possible for me to encounter others different from myself, feeling compassion for their sufferings, drawing near to them and caring for them even though they do not belong to my family, my ethnic group or my religion. For all their differences, they are still my brothers and sisters. The same thing is true of relationships between peoples and nations: brothers and sisters all!"

I dare to state these powerful words of our Pope, my message for the coming festivities with fervent prayers and greetings for a peaceful, healthy and blessed Christmas, and high fives of peace and fraternity.

Bishop Wes

Note from Bishop regarding the collection for Haiti:

Some time ago I announced that on the First Sunday of Advent we would have a special collection for Haiti. The purpose was, and still is, to reach out directly to the children affected in the area of the earthquake, and to bring a smile to their faces with our gifts. However, I have been unable to establish a safe network for transferring the collected donations directly and avoiding taxation by intermediary organizations, civil or church. Honestly, I did not think that this would have been so difficult to accomplish but I want our donations to be used for persons not infrastructures. At this stage, I have decided to defer this special collection for another date. I have not given up and am still working on this. At the beginning of the new year you are going to receive my report on this project. Thank you for your patience and understanding.
Bishop Wes

Additional Message from the Bishop

Dear Friends,
I would like to let you know that according to the Church's guidelines, attendance at Christmas Masses on the 24th or 25th of December (Friday or Saturday) does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation on the 26th of December.
Bishop Wes

Advent Family Liturgy: As we are in the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, as a help to live the season I want to offer you the possibility to visit with your family and have a little **Advent Family liturgy** with you, with a scriptural reading and meditation and one of two songs. I can be there with Santiago and Paolo, the two young boys

who are helping me in my mission. Those who came to mass in the past weeks already know them. There is no need to offer us a meal. A blessing of the Nativity scene, of the Christmas Tree or a home blessing can be included if you wish so. It is a good way to look at the future with hope and to reconnect with some of you. Please contact me by email, phone, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger or Telegram to schedule a time to visit your house. God bless you.

Pastor's Note

Dear friends,

As we are entering the week of Christmas, we will have a number of opportunities to prepare ourselves for the feast of the birth of the Lord.

We are having everyday (except on Sunday) a **CHRISTMAS NOVENA at 5:30 PM at St. Anthony's Church.**

A **CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION** with a Liturgy of the Word and the possibility to have individual confessions will take place on TUESDAY 21st at 7:30 PM at St. Anthony's Church. This celebration will take the place of the Tuesday Night Liturgy of the Word that is usually held at St. Joseph's Church.

A second Celebration of Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday at 8:00 PM in the Hall for anybody who may have attended the Catecheses offered by the Neocatechumenal Way anytime during the past few years. The celebration will follow the format followed during the Catechesis.

I will be available to hear confessions also on Christmas Eve before the beginning of the masses. Hope to see you soon. Wishing you the best Christmas Greetings,
Your Pastor, Fr. Attilio Morelli

Christmas Flowers: Kindly fill in the form for the Christmas flowers and memorials. Additional forms are located at the back of the church.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: Please be advised that the Gift Shop will close at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 18th and reopen at 10:00am on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022. Thank you for your continued patronage

Firewood for Sale: There are still a few cedar logs available for sale. The price is \$20 for seven logs. If interested, kindly notify Father Attilio or Annette Boyle.

Dear Padre,

I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.

In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country.

They worshiped Jesus and

brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

Fr. John Murray, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / BOB ROLLER



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10–14
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Thursday

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

Friday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Saturday

DECEMBER 25
Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
1:1–5, 9–14

Sunday

DECEMBER 26
Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24
Lk 2:41–52