



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Mi 5:1–4a

Heb 10:5–10

Lk 1:39–45

## Are We There Yet?

**I**t'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

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

**Pastor:** Fr. Attilio Morelli



**Saturday Afternoon at 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.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 11.15 a.m.

**BAPTISMS** by appointment - one month in advance

**WEDDINGS** by appointment - one year in advance (approx)

**CCD - Closed**

**Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting - TBA**

**Stewardship Team -**

**Coffee Social after Mass - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 (Team 1)**

### DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Reverend Bishop, Wieslaw (Wes) Spiewak

[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://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. Elizabeth Card**  
Parish Catechetical Leader

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

**Mr. Tony Bari**  
Music Ministry

**Mrs. Alicia Arruda and Mrs.  
Sonia Tavares** - Portuguese  
Representative on Pastoral  
Council

**St. Vincent de Paul Society  
(Contact Annette)**



**Entrance:** The Advent of Our King #287

**Offertory:** Mary Woman of the Promise #477

**Communion:** Come, O Long-Expected Jesus #296

**Recessional:** O Come, Divine Messiah #279

**Leader of Song - Justin Tavares**



— 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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

**Jane Bermingham**  
**Mary & Simon Stones**  
**Kathie Ausenda**  
**Tony Bari**

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

### Mass Intentions:

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> December - The People of St. Joseph's**

	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Collection</u>
11 <sup>th</sup> December - Regular	11	104.00
- Maint.		65.00
12 <sup>th</sup> December - Regular	31	221.00
- Maint.		60.00
Flowers		160.00
		<b>\$610.00</b>

*Thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity, it is greatly appreciated. Banking information: Name: St. Josephs Parish - Account Number: 20006060757062100 at Bank of NT Butterfield and Son*

### .PARISH

**Prayers:** Please keep our sick and shut-in in your prayers, especially Manuel Arruda.

### BIRTHDAYS

**Margaret Faries**

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

**Liam Stones**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Francesco DiMaggio**

**23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Aleesha Maybury**

**25<sup>th</sup> December**



**We hope to see you at our Christmas get-together this afternoon (Sunday) at 3:00 p.m., in the Church** (carols, songs, music). This is an "informal" celebration; therefore, let us have fun and enjoy it as a Parish Family in the Spirit of the Season!! If you have a Christmas sweater or hat, put it/them on too 😊; be happy and **DELIGHT in the moment.**

Please join us afterwards in the Parish Centre for afternoon refreshments.

### 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.



## DIocese

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

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 p.m., 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 p.m., in the Hall for anybody who may have attended the Catechesis 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

**THANK YOU** to Kristie, Alessia, Giovanni, Stefano, Rosie, Mary and Stevie, who came out yesterday to decorate the tree and the church. Thank you to Justin for coming in through the week to put the lights on for us.

The tree w  
Giovanni ☺



Alessia and

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



### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent the "**Candle of Peace**" or in other traditions, the "**Candle of Love**" is lit.

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because God loves us! [John 3:16-17](#)

# Dear Padre,

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

**O**ne 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](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)*

### 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*.



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