

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45

Are We There Yet?

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.





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.

P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MA BX, Bermuda.

Telephone: (441) 234-2321 Email: 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 – 23rd January 2022 (Team 1)

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Reverend Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral

Council Chairperson

Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society representative

Mrs. Elizabeth Card

Walette Cross

Stewardship Representative

Mrs. Mary Harvey

Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader

Mrs. Alicia Arruda and Mrs.

Sonia Tavares - Portuguese Representative on Pastoral Council

Parish Catechetical Leader

Mr. Tony Bari Music Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Society (Contact Annette)

oday's Hymns

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





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, 19th December - The People of St. Joseph's

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

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 [™] December
Liam Stones	22 nd December
Francesco DiMaggio	23 rd December
Aleesha Maybury	25 th 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 (3); 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.

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.

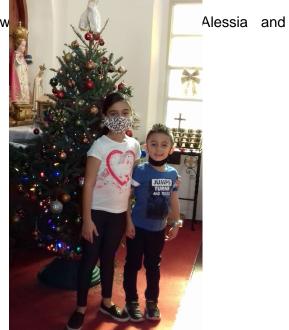
I will be available to hear confessions also on Christmas Eve before the beginning of the masses.

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 Giovanni



DIOCESE

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

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,

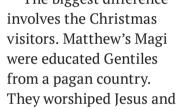
I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

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.



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



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 Sq 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

