

**The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul - June 29th**

The liturgical feast in honour of the martyrdom of Peter and Paul is of ancient origin. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of a tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both saints on the same day. Together they are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry, and martyrdom there.

Peter, a fisherman of Galilee originally named Simon, was introduced to the Lord by his brother Andrew. Jesus gave him the name Cephas which means 'Rock,' as he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church. Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. He made many mistakes, erring time and time again. Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. When entrusted with responsibility, he demonstrated that he was mature and capable. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.

Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith. He spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution. Peter was martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican Hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

Paul was the "Apostle to the Gentiles". His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Born at Tarsus (now in Turkey), he was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin and a Roman citizen.

Named Saul at his circumcision, he was raised a strict Jew and his profound conviction developed into a religious fanaticism against the infant Christian church. He took part in the stoning of the first martyr, Stephen, and in the fierce persecution of Christians that followed. But while on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was converted by a miraculous apparition of the Lord. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world.

Once a persecutor of Christ, he became the Lord's preacher. Once an impediment to the Gospel, he became its great champion. Once a guardian of Israel as an ethnic preserve of holiness, Paul came to serve as a father in the worldwide (literally, catholic) Church. Paul was eventually imprisoned and taken to Rome where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Sts. Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

(excerpt: catholicnewsagency.com)  
(excerpt: salvationhistory.com)

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please contact the Parish Office at least **6 weeks** before the date.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

Couples should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at least **6 months** before the desired date.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Intentions must be booked at least by the Wednesday, one week before the desired date



St. Joseph the Worker Parish  
Gros Islet, Grande Riviere & Monchy

**12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 23RD JUNE 2024 - YEAR B**

*In the storm.*

"How is it that you have no faith?" Our Lord's question in the Gospel frames the Sunday liturgies for the remainder of the year, which the Church calls "Ordinary Time." In the weeks ahead, the liturgy will have us journeying with Jesus and His disciples, reliving their experience of His words and deeds, coming to know and believe in Him as they did.

Today's Psalm almost provides an outline for the Gospel. We sing of sailors caught in a storm; in their desperation, they call to the Lord and He rescues them. Mark's Gospel also intends us to hear a strong echo of the story of the prophet Jonah. He, too, was found asleep on a boat when a life threatening storm broke out that caused his fellow travelers to pray for deliverance, and then to marvel when the storm abated.

But Jesus is something greater than Jonah; and Mark wants us to come to see what the Apostles saw - that God alone has the power to rebuke the wind and the sea. This is the point of the First Reading: if even the wind and sea obey Him, shouldn't we trust Him in the chaos and storms of our own lives?

As with the Apostles, the Lord has asked each of us to cross to the other side, to leave behind our old ways to travel with Him in the little ship of the Church. In their fear today, they call Him "Master," and it is only faith in His teaching that can save us from perishing. We should trust in Christ, and trust like Christ, who was able to sleep through the storm, confident that God was with Him.

We should live in thanksgiving for our salvation, as the Epistle tells us, as new creations, no longer for ourselves but for Him who died for our sake.

(excerpt: stpaulcenter.com)

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading**

Job38:1,8-11

**Second Reading**

2Cor.5:14-17

**Gospel**

Mk.4:35-41

**MASS TIMES**

**Gros Islet**

Morning Prayers:  
Mon -Fri  
5:45 a.m.



**MONDAY**

6:00 a. m./12:30 p.m.



**TUESDAY**

6:00 a.m.



**WEDNESDAY**

6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.  
**G/Riviere:** 6:00 p.m.



**THURSDAY**

6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.



**FRIDAY**

6:00 a. m./12:30 p.m.



**SATURDAY**

6:30 a.m./6:00 p. m.



**SUNDAY**

**Gros Islet/G. Riviere**  
7:30 a.m.



**Gros Islet/Monchy**  
10:00 a.m.



**HOLIDAY**

Variable



**CONFESSIONS**

Every Saturday  
9.00 - 10.00 a.m.  
&  
by appointment

**Parish Priest: Fr. Athanase Joseph**

Assistant Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis

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## The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

On June 24th we celebrate the birth of a remarkable life. In the words of John's father after his birth, 'the Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour ... As for you, little child, you shall prepare His ways before Him'.

As we become more familiar with the Scriptures, we recognize the importance of the prophets in the shaping of old Israel's faith, opening up boundless hopes, and calling them to fulfill their role as 'the light of the nations'. John the Baptist was the last of the prophets of old Israel, and a figure of immense significance.

John was the one who pointed out the way in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour of the world. As Jesus himself declared: 'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen. It was toward John that all the prophecies of the prophets and the Law were leading'. What He adds to this remarkable praise startles us: 'Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is'. These words refer, not to John's personal standing before God, but to the fact that his role belongs to the old order which is now passing away. In fact, John was a figure of such influence at the time that the gospels stress that he claimed to be no more than a humble herald of this fulfillment.

Jews came to question this preacher who was attracting large crowds. When asked: 'Who are you?', he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ; I am not Elijah; I am not the Prophet (i.e. the New Moses)'. He was, he said, 'a voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord'.

There are other indications of John's acceptance of his role as a humble herald. When large crowds came to be baptized, he brushed aside their grandiose suggestions with words that are familiar to every generation: 'I am not fit to undo the strap of His sandals; I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

Taking up the prophets' theme, referring to the Lord as the 'husband' of Israel, he applied it to the fulfillment he was announcing, calling himself 'the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens and is glad when he hears the bridegroom's voice'. And he makes himself an inspiring model to all disciples of Jesus, when he declares, 'He must increase and I must decrease'.

Unlike so many people, John the Baptist clearly understood that he had been set apart by God for a purpose. John's greatest strength was his focused and faithful commitment to the call of God. Taking the Nazarite vow for life, he personified the term set apart for God. John knew he had been given a specific job to do and he set out with singular obedience to fulfill that mission. He didn't just talk about repentance from sin. He lived with boldness of purpose throughout his uncompromising mission, willing to be martyred for his stand against sin.

We must all follow his example.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.  
Closed Tuesdays**

(excerpt themausseries.com)  
(excerpt: christianity.about.com)

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### THE SICK

Patsy Crafton  
Iris Macauldy  
Martha Mason  
Teresa Huntley  
Marie Joseph

#### DECEASED

Bridget Evans  
Teresa Xavier  
Edward Joseph  
Ferlina Aurelien  
Veronica Eugene

### WEEKDAY READINGS



#### MONDAY

Is.49:1-6  
Acts.13:22-26  
Lk.1:57-66,80



#### TUESDAY

2Kgs.19:9-11  
14-21,31-36  
Mt.7:6,12-14



#### WEDNESDAY

2Kgs.22:8-13,23:1-3  
Mt.7:15-20



#### THURSDAY

2Kgs.24:8-17  
Mt.7:21-29



#### FRIDAY

2Kgs.25:1-12  
Mt.8:1-4



#### SATURDAY

Acts.12:1-11  
2Tim.4:6-8,17-18  
Mt.16:13-19

## MASS INTENTIONS

GROS ISLET	CLERGY/RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
<b>12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B</b>		
Sat Jun 22- 6:00 p.m.		<b>B'day:</b> Chantal St. John <b>Thks:</b> The Destang family Tarbula & Cyrille Amedee
Sun Jun 23 - 7:30 a.m.		<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
10:00 a.m.		<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		<b>B'day:</b> Richard Palton <b>Guid:</b> Laurencia Cadette Zoey Hinkson, Sashla St. Omer
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		<b>MISSA PRO POPULO</b>
<b>WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
Mon Jun 24 - 6:00 a.m. <i>Nativity of John the Baptist</i>	Fr. Vincent Arulanandam Rev. Girard Glace Sr. Mary Muskosa	<b>B'day:</b> Alicia Stephen, Margerie Philip <b>Our Lady of Good Success:</b> Kate & Kateri Haywood
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Kelvin Cardinal Felix Lucinda, Iris & Olivia Moody
Tue Jun 25 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Henry Nmor Fr. Konrad Mair Fr. Kenneth Haakyav	<b>Dc'd:</b> Desmond Brathwaite Joseph Noel Alexander Joseph & Agnes Albert
Wed Jun 26 - 6:00 a.m.	Rev. Nathalbert Husbands Sr. Stephania Banda	<b>Dc'd:</b> Lucia Joseph Leo Jongue, Peter Felix
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Francis Edward Adinia & James George Members of Sacred Heart Confraternity
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.		<b>Parishioners</b>
Thu Jun 27 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Kevin Murray Rev. Gabriel Geoffrey	<b>Thks:</b> Bernadette Pamphile & family
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Gloria Richardson, Heraldine Rock
Fri Jun 28 - 6:00 a.m. <i>St. Irenaeus, Bishop &amp; Doctor Martyr</i>	Fr. John Milton Rev. Gerard Calderon	<b>Dc'd:</b> Chester Louis, Ruth Mascoll
12:30 p.m.		<b>Thks:</b> Florentina Nelson
Sat Jun 29- 6:30 a.m. <i>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul, Apostles</i>	Rev. David Popo Rev Peter Fevrier Rev. Herald Wilson	<b>B'day:</b> Darnell Louis <b>Thks:</b> Marylin Hyacinth & family