



Advent is here! It's time to begin preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Jesus came the first time long ago in Bethlehem. Now He comes to us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. But we celebrate Jesus' coming in a special way at Christmas time.

Advent is the time to get ready for Christmas. We get our houses ready by cleaning and decorating. We get our souls ready by cleaning out our sins when we go to confession, and by learning and thinking about Jesus.



**Here are some things that will help you get ready for Christmas:**

~ Light a candle on an advent wreath when you say your prayers every day.

~ Read a book about Advent or Christmas.

~ Go to Confession before Christmas.



~ Do nice things for people. Remember that anything you do for someone else you do for Jesus!

www.thekidsbulletin.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.

**About the Advent Wreath**

**Symbol of the circle:** The circle represents the fulfillment of time being achieved in the coming of Christ.

**The Greenery:** The Greenery suggests life, growth, and hope.

**The candles and light:** These remind us of the light Jesus brought into the world. The waiting for the four candles to be lit symbolizes the long years of waiting for a savior.

**Colours of Purple and Pink:** Purple is both a colour suggesting penance and fasting, perhaps, the coming of a Royal King. Pink is used as a colour of joy and expectation.

The four candles, three purple and one pink, symbolize the kind of preparation that we need to make for the coming of the child Jesus. The three purple remind us that we need to repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand, we need to re-orient our lives towards Jesus. The one pink candle is a reminder to us that through faith we can rejoice, for the coming of Christ will indeed happen.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

◆ A memorial Mass for the late Msgr. Theo Joseph will be celebrated at the Minor Basilica, on Friday, December 8th, starting at 3:00 p.m. All parishioners of the Archdiocese are invited to attend. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of our brother, priest and friend, and the consolation of his family in this time of loss.

◆ The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception invites parishioners to the Mass for their Parish feast next Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.

◆ The Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all parishioners to **"An Evening of Caroling"** on Sunday, December 17th, at the Minor Basilica from 4:00p.m. It will be an evening of music, drama and spoken word celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. A love offering will be taken up. Proceeds will go towards **Youth 2000** expenses.



*Come, Lord Jesus!*

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in the First Reading. In the Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne, to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and message are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

In this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, don't we, too, often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in the Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake, and for ours, to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father. The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says, He has given us every spiritual gift - especially the Eucharist and penance - to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end if we let Him.

So in this season of repentance we should heed the warning, repeated three times by our Lord in the Gospel, to be watchful for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

(excerpt: stpaulcenter.com)

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

Parish Priests: Msgr. Michel Francis, Fr. Joseph X. Savarimuthu  
Deacons: Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. David Popo  
P.O Box Choc 8192, Castries LC02 801, Saint Lucia  
Tel: (758) 450-8325 † Fax: (758) 450-8794 † Cell: (758) 285-8831  
Email: st.joseph\_church@hotmail.com † Website: www.grosisletchurch.org  
Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading**  
Is.63:16-17,  
64:1, 3-8  
**Second Reading**  
1Cor.1:3-9  
**Gospel**  
Mk.13:33-37

**MASS TIMES**

Morning Prayers:  
5:45a.m.

MONDAY: GROS ISLET  
Mass: 6:00 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY: GROS ISLET  
6:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY  
6:00a a.m./12:30 p.m.  
Gros Islet  
6:00 p.m. G/Riviere

THURSDAY  
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:  
Gros Islet  
6:00 p.m.: Monchy

FRIDAY  
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:  
Gros Islet

SATURDAY  
6:30 a.m./6:00 p. m.:  
Gros Islet

SUNDAY  
7:30 a.m.:  
GROS ISLET/G. RIVIERE  
10:00 a.m.:

Gros Islet/Monchy  
HOLIDAY  
Variable

**Advent: A Time of Preparation.**

Advent is a period of preparation for the Church, extending over four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin advenio, meaning "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, and secondly, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time.

Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. That is why Advent has traditionally been known as "little Lent." The Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As in Lent, Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works; priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs, and sometimes a fifth, white candle in the centre, the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle is used on Gaudete Sunday. The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.

November 29th marks the First Sunday of Advent.

(excerpt: catholicism.about.com)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Iris Macauldy  
Patsy Crafton  
Martha Mason  
Teresa Huntley

**DECEASED**

Cecil Graham  
Claude Bodley  
Patrick Compton  
Msgr. Theo Joseph  
Christine V. Duncan  
Helen Bruno Florent  
William Jean Baptiste

**WEEKDAY READINGS**



**MONDAY**

Is.2:1-5  
Mt.8:5-11



**TUESDAY**

Is. 11:1-10  
Lk.10:21-24



**WEDNESDAY**

Is.25:6-10  
Mt.15:29-37



**THURSDAY**

Is.26;1-6  
Mt.7:21,24-27



**FRIDAY**

Gn.3:9-15,20  
Eph.1:3-6,11-12  
Lk.1:26-38



**SATURDAY**

Is.30:19-21,23-26  
Mt.9:35-10:1,5-8



**MASS INTENTIONS**

GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
<b>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR B</b>		
Sat. Dec 2 -6:00 p.m.		<b>Thks:</b> The Destang family Perlin Verdant & family <b>Guid:</b> Augusta Toussaint, Marcia Haywood
Sun. Dec 3 -7:30 a.m.		<b>MISSA PRO POPULO</b>
10:00 a.m.		<b>B'day:</b> Bibiana Auguste <b>Holy Spirit:</b> The Theophilus family
Grande Riviere -7:30 a.m.		<b>Int:</b> Parish Youth
Monchy -10:00 a.m.		<b>Thks:</b> John Cherubin & family
<b>WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
Mon Dec 4 -6:00 a.m.	Fr. Vinoth Santhappan Fr. John Wilson	<b>Healing:</b> Jenny Daniel-Foster <b>Thks:</b> Althea & Ellen Regis
12:30 p.m.		<b>Holy Spirit:</b> Theresa Hyacinth Joseph & family
Tues Dec 5 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Joseph Raj Sr. Mary Lee Cox Sr. Mary Mutwiwa	<b>B'day:</b> Roger Herman
Wed Dec 6 - 6:00 a.m.	Arch. Robert Rivas OP Msgr. Patrick Anthony Sr. Frances Nosbisch	<b>Int:</b> Felix Finistere
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Dwight Frederick
Grande Riviere -6:00 p.m.		<b>Parishioners</b>
Thu Dec 7 - 6:00 a.m. <i>St. Ambrose, Bishop &amp; Doctor</i>	Fr. Albert Smith Mother Rosaria Joseph Sr. Christine Alphonse	<b>Healing:</b> Jenny Daniel-Foster
12:30 p.m.		<b>Thks:</b> Ambrose Lake
Fri Dec 8 - 6:00 a.m. <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Fr. Amalraj Fr. Cezar Herrera Sr. Giovanna Mabunda	<b>B'day:</b> Ruth Lastic Frank & Amina Sidoine
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Philomene & Elizabeth Macauldy Ambrosine Philip, Celestine Mathurin
Sat Dec 9 - 6.30 a.m.	Rev. Andrew Edward Sr. Ramona George Sr. Benedicta Chanda	<b>Holy Spirit:</b> Virginia d' Auvergne <b>Thks:</b> Diane & Richard Palton