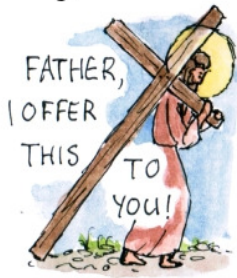


WHAT'S HAPPENING

If you want to be my disciple...

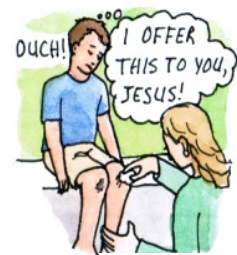


What would you think if your best friend told you that you would have to die if you wanted to stay friends? In today's Gospel reading Jesus told the Apostles that if they wanted to be like Him they would have to take up their crosses and follow Him.

Jesus was teaching them that this world is a preparation for Heaven. If we make sacrifices for love of God then we will be ready for Heaven. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven to us by dying out of love for God the Father and for us. We get little crosses every day when things make us unhappy. If we offer them to God with love, they are like dying a little bit, and they prepare us for Heaven.



Sometimes we think that we need nice things or to be with fun people if we want to be happy. It's easy to forget that we will never be completely happy here. Next time you feel unhappy, remember that it's a cross that can help you get to Heaven!



www.thekidsbulletin.com

♦ YOUTH 2000 is an international, spiritual initiative established to draw young people ages 12-35 to a deep and lasting union with Jesus Christ. It will take place in Saint Lucia from September 29th to October 1st, 2023 at the Saint Mary's College. Registration costs EC\$10. and it can be paid on the first day of the Prayer Festival or upon registration. Registration with a T-shirt costs EC\$30. T-shirts purchased separately cost EC\$25.

♦ Also, we are looking for accommodations for some of the pilgrims. If you are willing to host a young person during the festival please contact the team at 384-8708.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

PRAYER DURING THE HURRICANE SEASON

O Lord, our God and Father, who gives rain and sunshine to your children, we ask you in this rainy season to uphold us and provide for our needs.

You try our patience and test our faith and reliance on you; forgive our sin of ingratitude. So often have we forgotten to thank you for your goodness and acts of mercy. Teach us to look up to you each day, appreciative of rain and sunshine, as you, in your wisdom, through any kind of weather do feed us all.

In your mercy, protect us against hurricanes and tropical storms. Pour out your blessings upon our nation and our people, and make us grateful for the weather we receive from your bountiful hand.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



To renounce our lives

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching God's Word has brought him only derision and reproach. But God does not deceive, and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials.

What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in the Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself - your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in the Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies, our whole beings, as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have. God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in the Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will.

Peter doesn't yet get this in the Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter. This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan. That's how people think, Jesus tells us. But we are called to the renewal of our minds - to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise. We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied.

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading
Jer.20:7-9

Second Reading
Rom.12:1-2

Gospel
Mt.16:21-27

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.
Monchy: 6:00 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
✠

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

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday
9.00 - 10.00 a.m.

&
by appointment

Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis, Fr. Joseph Xavier
Deacons: Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. David Popo
Rev. Madison Stanislaus, Rev. Winston Taylor.

Address: P.O. Box Choc 8192, Castries LC02 801, Saint Lucia
Tel: (758) 450-8325 / (758) 450-9390 ✠ Cell: (758) 285-8831

Email: st.joseph_church@hotmail.com ✠ Website: www.grosisletchurch.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - September 8th

The Nativity of Mary refers to the traditional birthday of the Blessed Virgin. This feast, like that of the Assumption of Mary, originated in Jerusalem. It began in the fifth century as the feast of the *Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est*, now called the Basilica of St. Anne. The feast spread to Rome in the seventh century.

While in the case of saints the Church commemorates their date of death, the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist are two whose *birth dates* are commemorated as well. The reason for this is found in the singular mission each had in salvation history.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Gospel of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. The story stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "*She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed.*" The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in His creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love.

If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning. Birth-day celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world.

"Today the barren Anna claps her hands for joy, the earth radiates with light, kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy every blessing, the entire universe rejoices, for she who is Queen and the Father's immaculate bride buds forth from the stem of Jesse" (adapted from *Byzantine Daily Worship*).

(excerpt: americancatholic.org/Wikipedia.org)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

Patsy Crafton
Iris Macauldy
Martha Mason
Theresa Huntley

DECEASED

Lucia Edward
Edwin A. King
Florina Frederic
Rosena Hyacinth
Benedict Charles
Jean Baptiste Eleodore

WEEKDAY READINGS



MONDAY

1Thess.4:13-18
Lk.4:16-30



TUESDAY

1Thess.5:1-6,9-11
Lk.4:31-37



WEDNESDAY

Col.1:1-8
Lk.4:38-44



THURSDAY

Col.1:9-14
Lk.5:1-11



FRIDAY

Mi.5:1-4
Mt.1:1-16,18-23



SATURDAY

Col.1:21-23
Lk.6:1-5



MASS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY/RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Sat Sept 2 - 6:00 p.m.		Guid: Augusta Toussaint Wedd Ann: Girard & Jean Glace B'day: Rachel Myers, Felix Finistere
Sun Sept 3 - 7:30 a.m.		MISSA PRO POPULO
10:00 a.m.		Int: Parish Youth
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		B'day: Craig Anderson Thks: Mishma Anderson & family Mzondo of Zimbabwe Lee Augustin & family
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		Parishioners
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Sept 4 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Vinoth Santhappan Fr. John Wilson Sr. Mary Lee Cox	70th B'day: Aldith Gabriel 50th B'day: Kimberlyn McPhee Guid: Zoey Hinkson Kaelan, Kateri & Kate Haywood
12:30 p.m.		De'd: Marilyn Sancion Alexander & Irvine Blanchard
Tue Sept 5 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Joseph Raj Sr. Mary Mutwiwa	Thks: Julius & Lee-Ann Charles
Wed Sept 6 - 6:00 a.m.	Arch Robert Rivas OP Msgr. Patrick Anthony Sr. Frances Norbisch	B'day: Arlene Herman
12:30 p.m.		B'day: Joshua Roach 90th B'day: Luciana Deterville
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.		Parishioners
Thu Sept 7 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Albert Smith Mother Rosaria Joseph Sr. Christine Alphonse	Thks: Stennett Bent & family
12:30 p.m.		Thks: Thomas Louis & family Guid & Success: St. Lucia Sports Academy
Fri Sept 8 - 6:00 a.m. <i>Nativity of the BVM</i>	Fr. Amalraj Penigilipadi Fr. Cezar Herrera Sr. Giovanna Mabunda	Thks: Glace Motors Ltd Shanta King & family
12:30 p.m.		De'd: Clifford Raymond, Mary Viette
Sat Sept 9 - 6:30 a.m. <i>St. Peter Claver, Priest</i>	Rev. Andrew Edward Sr. Ramona George	B'day: Julie Radjou