

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading
Is.40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading
2Pet.3:8-14

Gospel
Mk.1:1-8

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



Making His Paths Straight.

Our God is coming. The time of exile, the long separation of humankind from God due to sin, is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in the First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as the Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God, the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land, and He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord. John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth. He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near.

Each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in the Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

(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
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

♦The Cathedral Parish will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the blessing of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on May 11th, 2024. They have planned a year's activities commencing with their Parish Feast this Sunday, Dec 10th, at 4:00 p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend this Mass as they launch their year of activities.

♦The Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all parishioners to "An Evening of Caroling" on Sunday, December 17th, at the Minor Basilica from 4:00 p.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.

♦The Christmas Novena begins this Friday, Dec 15th. The Novena will be held at 5:30 a.m. daily except on Sundays when it should be done privately. The 12:30 p.m. Masses for those nine days will not include the Novena. Please be guided accordingly.

♦After many years of service in the Lord's vineyard, the Clergy of the Archdiocese deserve a proper home for their retirement. The Archdiocese is in the process of refurbishing the St. Benedict's Presbytery at the Morne for that purpose. Beginning 2024, a Special Collection will be taken at all New Year's Masses in the Archdiocese, to go towards a Retirement Fund for the maintenance of the Home and the care of the residing Clergy. Special envelopes will be distributed for the collection. Parishioners can also pledge donations towards that fund by direct bank transfer or submissions at the parish in properly labeled envelopes. More information about the Retirement Home and its operation can be found on www.aocslu.org or the Archdiocesan Facebook Page: Archdiocese of Castries.

Kids Column

Mk.1:1-8

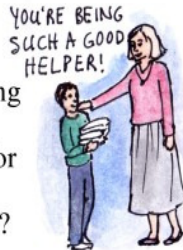
Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our

sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"



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.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

According to the teaching of the Church, the conception of the Mary in her mother's womb was free from original sin. This means that Mary was conceived by normal biological means, but her soul was kept immaculate by God at the time of her conception.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception (Mary being conceived free from original sin) is not to be confused with the virginal conception of her son Jesus. Roman Catholic dogma states "that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

Being always free from original sin, from her conception Mary received the sanctifying grace that would normally come with baptism after birth. The Church holds that Mary was also sinless personally - "free from all sin, original or personal". But her immaculate conception did not remove her need for redemption by Christ; rather it was the result of a more perfect redemption granted her because of her special role in salvation history. Indeed, Mary herself proclaims in Luke 1:47: "My spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour." The Immaculate Conception represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary in anticipation of His redemption of man and in God's foreknowledge of Mary's acceptance of His Will for her. In other words, the Immaculate Conception was not a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of it. It is the concrete expression of God's love for Mary, who gave herself fully, completely, and without hesitation to His service. This is referred to as Mary's pre-redemption by Christ.

The belief that Mary was sinless and conceived immaculate has been widely held since Late Antiquity, and the doctrine was dogmatically defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX in his Papal Bull "Ineffabilis Deus".

Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession, those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen.

(excerpt: catholicismabout.com)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Iris Macauldy
 Patsy Crafton
 Martha Mason
 Teresa Huntley

DECEASED

Cecil Graham
 Claude Bodley
 Marie M. Charles
 Msgr. Theo Joseph
 Helen Bruno-Florton
 William Jean Baptiste

WEEKDAY READINGS

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MONDAY
 Is.35:1-10
 Lk.5:17-26
 †
TUESDAY
 Is. 40:1-11
 Mt. 18:12-14
 †
WEDNESDAY
 2Cor.10:17-11:2
 Matt.25:1-13
 †
THURSDAY
 Is.41:13-20
 Mt.11:11-15
 †
FRIDAY
 Is.48:17-19
 Mt.11:16-19
 †
SATURDAY
 Eccl.48:1-4,9-12
 Mt.17:10-13
 †

MASS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR B		
Sat. Dec 9 -6:00 p.m.	 <p>Show us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.</p>	Thks: The Oculien family Tyrone & Stella Chong & family B'day: Monica Phillip Anaiah Bousquet, Angelique George
Sun. Dec 10 -7:30 a.m.		MISSA PRO POPULO
10:00 a.m.		B'day: Cletus Springer Thks: Shanta & Randolph Khan
Grande Riviere -7:30 a.m.		Deliv: Bernadette Hinds
Monchy -10:00 a.m.		Int: Felix Finistere
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Dec 11 -6:00 a.m.	Sr. Scholastica Felician	B'day: Xachery Felix, Adeline Jean
12:30 p.m.		Sp Int: Jose - Anne d' Auvergne Thks: Theresa Hyacinth Joseph & family
Tues Dec 12 - 6:00 a.m. <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Fr. Festus Iwuagwu Rev. Wilfred Harris Rev. Marcellus Serieux	Wedd Ann: Bernadette & Cletus Springer
Wed Dec 13 - 7:00 a.m. <i>St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	Rev. Madison Stanislaus Rev. Vincent Norbert Rev. Anthony Pierre	Dc'd: Roger Philip Thornhill Kevin Haywood
Thu Dec 14 - 6:00 a.m. <i>St. John of the Cross Priest & Doctor</i>	Msgr. Justin Barthelmy Sr. Mary Dungdung Sr. Mercy Masaka	Int: Bernadette Pamphile & family
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Rosa & Antoine Glace Irene & Joseph Destang
Fri Dec 15 - 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Jeremy Joseph Sr. Marie Joseph	Dc'd: Cecil Graham James & Paulina Prudent
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Gregory St. Helene
Sat Dec 16 - 6.30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Errol Frederick Sr. Rosemarie Minj	Holy Spirit: Theresa Hyacinth Joseph & family