## Kids Column

# The Immaculate Conception

This Thursday we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

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 baptism date.

## **SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

Couples must contact the Parish Office to arrange 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.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- ♦ All parishioners are invited to a grand Crusade in preparation for the celebration of the Cathedral Parish feast on December 8th. The crusade will be on December 5th to 7th at the Vigie Complex at 5:30pm each day. The guest speaker will be Fr. Elveau Augustin from Dca. Admission is free, but an offering taken up each evening to help cover costs.
- ♦ All parishioners are invited to join in the celebration of the Patronal feast of our Mother Church, the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, on Thursday, December 8th, from 5:30 p.m.

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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



## His Kingdom Comes.

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims, and the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in the First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David, a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father. He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit, endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel, but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations, and they will seek Him and pay Him homage. In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham, renewed in God's oath to David, will be fulfilled in His dynasty. His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in the Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise". John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham. Now, God will raise up living stones, children of Abraham, born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings, making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

(excerpt: stpaulcenter.com)

## CONFESSIONS **Every Saturday**

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9.00 - 10.00a.m 6.00 - 6.45p.m. by appointment

Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis. Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. Festus Iwuagwu Deacons: Rev. Winston Taylor, Rev. Anthony Louis Rev. Girard Glace, Rev. David Popo P.O Box Choc 8192, Castries LC02 801, Saint Lucia Tel: (758) 450-8325 P Fax: (758) 450-8794 P Cell: (758) 285-8831 Email: st.joseph\_church@hotmail.com & Website: www.grosisletchurch.org

**First Reading** Is.11:1-10 **Second Reading** 

> Rom.15:4-9 Gospel

Mt.3:1-12

### **MASS TIMES**

**GROS ISLET** Morning Prayers:

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.

> 4 FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY: 6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p. m.

> 骨 SUNDAY

GROS ISLET/G.RIVIERE 7:30 a.m.

GROS ISLET/MONCHY 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY Variable

## 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".



### PLEASE PRAY FORTHE SICK

Coleta Henry Carmen Lord Iris Macauldy Patsy Crafton Martha Mason Teresa Huntley Mary Alexander

## **DECEASED**

Emma Cyril Anne Richard Helene Poyotte Kenty Whitfield Anne Marie Alcide Samuel Charmond Rosanna McDowele

## WEEKDAY READINGS

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## **MONDAY**

Is.35:1-10 Lk.5:17-26

## **TUESDAY**

Is.40:1-11 Mt.18:12-14

II.10:12 - դ

## WEDNESDAY

Is.40:25-31 Mt.11:28-30

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## **THURSDAY**

Gen.3:9-15,20 Lk.1:26-38

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## **FRIDAY**

Is.48:17-19 Mt.11:16-19

## **SATURDAY**

Eccl.48:1-4,9-12 Mt.17:10-13

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MACC INTENTENTONIC		
MASS INTENTIONS  CD OC ICLED CV / DELICIOUS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR A		
Sat Dec 3- 6:00 p.m.	"JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH IN	Thks: Algitha Richelieu & family Blessings: Augusta Toussaint
Sun Dec 4- 7:00 a.m.	HIS TIME, AND FULLNESS OF PEACE FOR EVER."	MISSA PRO POPULO
Grande Riviere - 7:00 a.m.		B'day: Teferi Trotman, Lenard Willie Sp. Int.: Mya Norville & family
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Dec 5 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Joseph Raj	B'day: Roger Herman
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Douglas Trotman
Tue Dec 6 - 6:00 a.m.	Msgr. Patrick Anthony	B'day: Merlin Alexander Ashley Boxill Thks: Thomas Louis & family
Wed Dec 7- 6:00 a.m. St. Ambrose Bishop & Doctor	Archbishop Emeritus Robert Rivas OP Sr. Frances Norbisch	B'day: Ambrose Lake, Eulina Delice Thks: Stennett Bent & family
12:30 p.m.		<b>Dc'd:</b> Ambrosine Philip Celestine Mathurin
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m		Dc'd: Christal James
Thu Dec 8 - 6:00 a.m. Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Fr. Amalraj Fr. Albert Smith Mother Rosaria Joseph	B'day: Ruth Lastic Frank & Amina Sidoine IHO BVM: The Felix, Constantine & Beaubrun families
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Philomen & Elizabeth Macauldy
Fri Dec 9 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Cezar Herrera Rev. Andrew Edward Rev. Arnold Clouden	Thks: Althea & Ellen Regis
12:30 p.m.		<b>Thks:</b> Tyrone & Stella Chong & families Louise Ann Albert, Lisa Marcellin
Sat Dec 10 - 6.30 a.m.	Rev. Wilfred Harris Sr. Petronilla Banda	Thks: Diane & Richard Palton & family