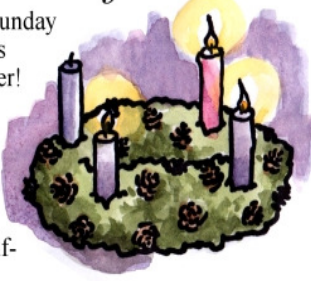


# Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



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.

P F R A I S E D X P X G W O B  
 R K P R I S O N T T U P O X O  
 E S J E F N I B S U Q D O O A  
 A D O F K O I I S B C N E O D  
 C U H N G I R H E Y U L U A R  
 H W N S R H M E F D R Z N F D  
 E A M F C C C A D L E Z E T N  
 D L M K R C E X L M D E W C I  
 V K J A S D F L L C S W S Q S  
 H B E S B B I E E D H E A R T  
 E H L U I L A M E P H O N N I  
 A Y Z I P G W H I P R B P X N  
 R O N C N H H M I M G O Q A E  
 D Y D X Q D I T A H I Y S M J  
 A O Y K B B P H F L F E H Y E

BLIND	LAME	HEARD	DEAF	HEAR
GOOD	PREACHED	POOR	CHRIST	DEAD
RAISED	SEE	LEPROSY	PRISON	JOHN
NEWS	CURED	SIGHT	WALK	HEAR

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

♦ The Christmas Novena begins this Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Masses during the Novena will be held at 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily, except on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, when there will only be 5:30 a.m. Novena Masses. On Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be no Novena in church. There will be neither the midday Masses, nor the weekday Masses at Grande Riviere and Monchy during the Novena. Please be guided accordingly.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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



*Here is our God.*

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel for his disciples' sake and ours. He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in the First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples, and us, to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us. The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God - the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor. The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord. As James advises in the Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet, holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide. John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples, and us, to our Savior. We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving. Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading**  
Is.35:1-6,10  
**Second Reading**  
Jas.5:7-10  
**Gospel**  
Mt.11:2-11

**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.  
✠

**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 - 10.00a.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 ✠ Fax: (758) 450-8794 ✠ Cell: (758) 285-8831  
 Email: st.joseph\_church@hotmail.com ✠ Website: www.grosisletchurch.org

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



### St. Lucy, Feast Day December 13th

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who was born in Syracuse, Sicily in about 283 A.D., lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early 4th century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the 6th century the whole Church

recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her father died when she was young, leaving Lucy and her mother wealthy but without a protector. Her mother, herself ill, was fearful for Lucy's future and arranged her marriage to a young man belonging to a wealthy pagan family. Trying to convince her mother that Christ was a better partner for life, she began to visit the tomb of St. Agatha to pray. After several prayers at the tomb, St. Agatha told Lucy in a dream that her mother's illness would be cured through faith. Lucy used this to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and to allow Lucy to commit her life to God.

The rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor, Paschasius, who attempted to force her into a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen. The guards heaped bundles of wood around her but they wouldn't burn. Finally Lucy's neck was pierced by a sword and she died.

Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy had warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes. In another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. Lucy, "the saint without eyes", thus became the patron saint of the blind.

Lucy's Latin name "Lucia" comes from the Latin word for light, and around the world a number of traditions on her feast day bear witness to the symbolic meaning her name as the bearer of light in the darkness. St. Lucy is the patroness of Syracuse in Sicily, Olon in Ecuador and our own island of St. Lucia.

(excerpt: wikipedia.com)  
(excerpt: catholic.org)

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

### DECEASED

Alberta Daniel  
Helene Poyotte  
Kenty Whitfield  
Norbert Williams  
Anne Marie Alcide  
Rosanna McDowe

### WEEKDAY READINGS



#### **MONDAY**

Zec.2:14-17  
Lk.1:39-47



#### **TUESDAY**

2Cor.10:17--11:2  
Mt.25:1-13



#### **WEDNESDAY**

Is.45:6-8,18,21-26  
Lk.7:19-23



#### **THURSDAY**

Is.54:1-10  
Lk.7:24-30



#### **FRIDAY**

Is.56:1-3,6-8  
Jn.5:33-36



#### **SATURDAY**

Gen.49:2,8-10  
Mt.1:1-17



### **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>GROS ISLET</b>	<b>CLERGY / RELIGIOUS</b>	<b>INTENTIONS</b>
<b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A</b>		
<b>Sat Dec 10- 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous." - Psalm 146:8</b>	<b>Thks:</b> The Destang family <b>B'day:</b> Algitha Richelieu, Anaiah Bousquet Elaina Blanchard, Angelique George
<b>Sun Dec 11- 7:30 a.m.</b>		<b>MISSA PRO POPULO</b>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>		<b>Thks:</b> Descendants Philomene & Andrew Auguste
<b>Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>Monchy - 10:00 a.m.</b>		<b>B'day:</b> Zachery Felix
<b>WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
<b>Mon Dec 12 - 6:00 a.m.</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Rev. Wilfred Harris Rev. Arnold Clouden Rev. Marcellus Serieux	<b>Wedd Ann:</b> Cletus & Bernadette Springer <b>Thks:</b> Diane & Richard Palton & family
<b>12:30 p.m.</b>		<b>Wedd Ann:</b> Ralph & Delia Frederick <b>Thks:</b> Virginia d'Auvergne & family <b>Holy Spirit:</b> Catherine Alexis & family
<b>Tue Dec 13 - 6:30 a.m.</b> <i>St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	Rev. Anthony Pierre Rev. Vincent Norbert Rev. Madison Stanislaus	<b>St. Anthony:</b> Catherine Alexis & family
<b>Wed Dec 14- 6:00 a.m.</b> <i>St. John of the Cross Priest &amp; Doctor</i>	Msgr. Justin Barthelmy Sr. Mary Dungdung Sr. Mercy Masaka	<b>Dc'd:</b> Mathurin Erilien
<b>12:30 p.m.</b>		<b>B'day:</b> Carrel Moise <b>St. Joseph:</b> Catherine Alexis & family
<b>Grande Riviere- 6:00 p.m.</b>		<b>Dc'd:</b> David Hinds
<b>Thu Dec 15 - 5:30 a.m.</b> <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Jeremy Joseph Sr. Marie Joseph	<b>Dc'd:</b> James Prudent
<b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Christmas Novena</i>		<b>Precious Blood:</b> Catherine Alexis & family
<b>Fri Dec 16 - 5:30 a.m.</b> <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Errol Frederick Sr. Rosemarie Minj	<b>Dc'd:</b> Anne Rose Raymond
<b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Christmas Novena</i>		<b>B'day:</b> Gregory Jules <b>Wedd Ann:</b> Peter & Eugenie Dalson <b>Sacred Heart:</b> Catherine Alexis & family
<b>Sat Dec 17 - 5.30 a.m.</b> <i>Christmas Novena</i>		Fr. Yvon Tremont