

Painting the Way to Jesus



In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming- by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to see and hear him, and he



showed them the way to God.



How can you be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to 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 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

Mass Times for the Season are as follows:

Tuesday, December 24th:
Gros Islet – 6:00 a.m.
- 9:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th:
Gros Islet – 8:00 a.m. only
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 31st:
Gros Islet – 6:00 a.m.
- 9:00 p.m. (Vigil)

New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1st:
Gros Islet – 8:00 a.m. only
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

**THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS IN YOUR MIDST, A
MIGHTY ONE WHO WILL
SAVE; HE WILL REJOICE
OVER YOU WITH
GLADNESS; HE WILL
QUIET YOU BY HIS LOVE;
HE WILL EXULT OVER
YOU WITH LOUD SINGING.
- ZEPHANIAH 3:17**

VISION 2020-DISCIPLES ON MISSION

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C- 15TH DEC 2024



Rejoice. The Lord is near!

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?" The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose - to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too.

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, metanoia (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning" away from sin. This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance". That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through the readings: "Rejoice! The Lord is near." Have no anxiety at all, we hear in the Epistle. In the Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us. In the First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting. Mary is the Daughter Zion, the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, a mighty Savior.

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

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

CONFESSIONS

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Athanase Joseph
Assistant Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis
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@candw.lc † Website: www.grosislechurch.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading
Zeph.3:14-18

Second Reading
Phil.4:4-7

Gospel
Lk.3:10-18

MASS TIMES

Morning Prayers:
5:45a.m.

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

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TUESDAY: GROS ISLET
6:00 a.m.

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WEDNESDAY
6:00 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

†
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

The Novena

A novena is a series of prayers that are said for nine straight days, usually as a prayer in preparation for a solemn feast or in petition for a particular intention or special grace, or as a prayer of thanksgiving.

But why nine days, rather than ten or forty or three? The simplest explanation of the nine days, especially for the Christmas novena, is that it reflects the nine months Christ spent in the womb of his mother. But for every novena of preparation, as also for every novena of prayer, not only the best explanation, but also the best model and example, was given by Christ Himself to the Church in the first Pentecost novena.

Before Christ ascended into heaven, he commanded his Apostles to remain in the city of Jerusalem to await the descent of the Holy Spirit. With this, our Savior instituted the practice of the Christian Novena. Christ Jesus commanded this first novena both as a period of preparation (since the feast of Pentecost was approaching) and also a petition (for the Apostles, together with Mary, were pleading for the Holy Spirit to come as their Advocate).

The Christian faithful first began to keep novenas not in preparation for Pentecost, but for before Christmas. By the seventh century, particularly in Spain and France, the faithful were keeping a novena of preparation and petition before the Solemnity of Christmas. The Christmas novena is addressed to God Himself, asking Him to grant a request in the honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas.

The general practice of novenas gained the official approval of the Church in the nineteenth century.

(excerpt: newtheologicalmovement.blogspot.com)

DAILY PRAYER

FOR THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Hail, and blessed be the hour and the moment
at which the Son of God was born
of a most pure Virgin, at a stable, at midnight,
in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.

At that hour, vouchsafe, I beseech Thee,
to hear my prayers and grant my desires. (X3)
(mention your petition here)

Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.

Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY
FOR THE SICK**

Marie Joseph
Patsy Crafton
Martha Mason
Iris Macauldy

DECEASED

Muriel Farley
Marie Joseph
Teresa Huntley
Sydney Charles
Thomas Richelieu

WEEKDAY READINGS



MONDAY
Nm.24:2-7,15-17
Mt.21:23-27



TUESDAY
Gn.49:2,8-10
Mt.1:1-17



WEDNESDAY
Jer.23:5-8
Mt.1:18-24



THURSDAY
Jgs.13:2-7,24-25
Lk.1:5-25



FRIDAY
Is.7:10-14
Lk.1:26-38



SATURDAY
Sg.2:8-14
Lk.1:39-45



MASS INTENTIONS

GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR C		
Sat Dec 14 - 6:00 p.m.	<i>Isaiah 12:6</i> Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.	B'day: Angelique George Thks: The Destang family Alghitha Richelieu & family
Sun Dec 15 - 7:30 a.m.		MISSA PRO POPULO
10:00 a.m.		Thks: Jenai Alexis & family
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		Thks: Zoey Hinkson Sashla St. Omer, Laurencia Cadette
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		Holy Spirit: Sharon & Cuthbert Elizee
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Dec 16 – 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Errol Frederick Sr. Rosemarie Minj	Dc'd: Aloysius Ferdinand Mary Vera Lawrence James & Helen Prudent
12:30 p.m.		Thks: Marcia Haywood Wedd. Ann: Eugenie & Peter Dalson
Tue Dec 17- 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Fr. Yvon Tremont	B'day: Stennett Bent Thks: The Belrose family Catherine Alexis & family
Wed Dec 18 - 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Fr. Gabriel Arockiasammy	Dc'd: James Nichols Iris Moody, Theresa St. Rose
12:30 p.m.		Thks: Francisca Jean Miguel Louisy, Ellen Regis B'day: Meuris Raymond, Eleanor Alexis
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.		Parishioners
Thu Dec 19 - 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Fr. Lambert St. Rose	Thks: Catherine Alexis & family Wedd Ann: Vimla & Kingsley St. Hill
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Rosa & Antoine Glace Irene & Joseph Destang, Mary Viette Clifford & Vincent Raymond
Fri Dec 20 – 5:30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Fr. Paul Vu Rev. John Douglas Rev. Robert Harvey	83rd B'day: Edna Hill Thks: Shiva Sharma Catherine Alexis & family
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Darwin Louis
Sat Dec 21- 5.30 a.m. <i>Christmas Novena</i>	Rev. Anthony Louis	B'day: Peter Lewis, Vernetta Brooks