

**The Son who was Sorry**



Today's Gospel reading tells us about God's forgiveness. We are like the son who ran away and wasted all his money whenever we don't use our gifts or talents to serve God or others.

God is like the father in this story. He lets the younger son do whatever he wants, but he loves him even when he chooses to be bad. All he wants is for his son to come home and be sorry. He is ready and waiting to forgive the prodigal son.

God is waiting to forgive us too, in the sacrament of Confession. He wants us to be sorry for our sins and tell Him we are sorry so He can take them away. Try to make sure you go to confession before Easter so your soul will be clean and ready for the great celebration!



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.

**We ought never to lose hope. God overwhelms us with his grace, if we keep asking.**

Pope Francis

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Chrism Mass -Wed. Apr 16th-5:30 p.m.**  
(Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception)

**Holy Thursday - April 17th**  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
6:30 p.m. - Gros Islet, Monchy  
(please remember to bring your offerings for those in need)

**Good Friday April 18th**

- ◆ WAY OF THE CROSS  
4:30 a.m. (Outdoor),  
9:00 a.m. (Gros Islet Church)
- ◆ COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION  
3:00 p.m.: Gros Islet

**Holy Saturday April 19th - 9:00 p.m.**  
EASTER VIGIL (Gros Islet )

**Easter Sunday April 20th**  
7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.- Gros Islet  
7:30 a.m. - Grande Riviere  
10:00 a.m. - Monchy



*A Father's Forgiveness*

In today's First Reading, God forgives the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can, with a clean heart, celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son. Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in the Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer. In baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, leaving our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him. Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does. But only God can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us, like the Prodigal Son, to see God not as our Father but as our master, one we serve as slaves. God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in the Gospel, He longs to call each of us "my son," to share His life with us, to tell us "everything I have is yours." The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance, entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church. Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father holds for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.

(excerpt: stpaulcenter.com)

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

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

**Parish Priest: Fr. Athanase Joseph**  
**Assistant Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis**  
**Deacons: Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. David Popo**  
**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@candw.lc ☎ Website: www.grosislechurch.org**  
**Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish**

**First Reading**  
Jos.5:9-12

**Second Reading**  
2Cor.5:17-21

**Gospel**  
Lk.15:1-3,11-32

**✠ MASS TIMES**

**GROS ISLET**  
Morning Prayers:  
5:45a.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.

**✠ 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  
✠

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is God's gift to us. In the story of the Prodigal Son, the father is not only waiting, he is out by the road longing for the wayward son to return. And when the son begins to give his practiced speech of repentance, the father interrupts him and shouts orders to begin the celebration. Jesus is telling us that this is how God feels about our reconciliation. It isn't about our having to shame ourselves or face being scolded. It is all about letting ourselves receive the merciful and healing love and peace that only God's love can give us.

The evil spirit would love to separate us from the Sacrament of God's mercy and peace. But we must never forget what happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; our sins are forgiven! They are taken away; the slate is wiped clean for a fresh start. We receive God's mercy and are filled with God's peace. Once this total and complete forgiveness happens, deep and lasting healing can happen as well.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an invitation to give ourselves a chance to experience the incredible freedom of forgiveness and a new beginning. No one is going to judge us. We won't get interrogated. We'll experience God's mercy as we never imagined. We don't need to hold on to all this guilt any more, and, once this is all out of the way, we can begin again to live the life of a follower of our Lord.

It is so important to keep coming to the Sacrament. Our Lord wants us to enjoy the benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently, as a means to grow in our Lord's grace and His peace. It may be that we won't have any serious sins to confess, but examining our conscience on what we might have failed to do might highlight our shortcomings. Have we been as charitable and generous as we could have been? Have we fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick or imprisoned, in whatever ways we've heard our Lord's call to do those things? Have we exercised our civic responsibility and formed our consciences to hear the cry of the poor and follow the teachings of the Church regarding our role in the world and civil society? We all need God's grace and mercy. Without it, we handicap our efforts to stay close to the Lord and have a personal experience of renewal and a daily pattern of prayer with Him.

Finally, it is so important to come to the Sacrament as a celebration. This is an occasion for great joy and deep peace. It is a time of sincere expectation of grace to be given to us. Whatever penance the priest offers us - "as a remedy for the healing desired" - we can all come forth from the Sacrament, giving thanks and praise for this experience of power of the Incarnation, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus touching our hearts. When we say "Amen" to this grace and open our hearts to then receive the Eucharist and say "Amen" again, we experience the full meaning of the Communion with Jesus given to us in these two Sacraments together.

(excerpt: onlineministries.creighton.edu)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**THE SICK**

Patsy Crafton  
Iris Macauldy  
Martha Mason  
Marie Joseph

**DECEASED**

Marjorie Grell  
Samuel Bowers  
Gabriel Mathurin  
Bernadette Hinds  
Felix Francis Charles  
Felicité Hetty Lucien

**WEEKDAY READINGS**



**MONDAY**

Is.65:17-21  
Jn.4:43-54



**TUESDAY**

Ez.47:1-9,12  
Jn.5:16



**WEDNESDAY**

Is.49:8-15  
Jn.5:17-30



**THURSDAY**

Ex.32:7-14  
Jn.5:31-47



**FRIDAY**

Wis.2:1,12-22  
Jn.7:1-2,10,25-30



**SATURDAY**

Jer.11:18-20  
Jn.7:40-53



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**GROS ISLET**

**CLERGY /RELIGIOUS**

**INTENTIONS**

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**Sat Mar 29- 6:00 p.m.**

I SOUGHT THE LORD,  
and he answered me,

**B'day:** Cecilia Epiphane, Yohannes Lubin  
**Int:** Glace, George & Bousquet families  
**Thks:** The Theophilus family

**Sun Mar 30 - 7:30 a.m.**  
*Laetare Sunday*

AND DELIVERED ME

**MISSA PRO POPULO**

**10:00 a.m.**

from all my fears.

**B'day:** Edith Eudoxie, David Louis Mirla Joseph-Conlon, Amelia Rose Waters

**Grande Riviere -7:30 a.m.**

**PSALM 34:4**

**Healing:** Frederick Joseph  
**B'day:** Catherine Augustin, Althea Palton

**Monchy - 10:00 a.m.**

**B'day:** Elizabeth Jeanne Joseph  
Corin Joseph, John Cherubin

**WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

**Mon Mar 31 - 6:00 a.m.**

Sr. Mary Mumba  
Sr. Marie Therese Clement

**B'day:** Glenda James-Myers

**12:30 p.m.**

**Dc'd:** Greg Glace  
Muriel Gill, Bridget Evans

**Tues Apr 01- 6:00 a.m.**

Fr. Ignatius Cetoute  
Fr. Cleophus Joseph  
Fr. Joseph Akande

**Dc'd:** Stephen Macauldy, Chericia Angel Albert, Letitia & Raymond Laurent

**Wed Apr 02 - 6:00 a.m.**

Fr. Athanase Joseph  
Fr. Stephen Quinlan  
Fr. Celestine Nwakwuo

**B'day:** Christina and Tadj Cazaubon  
Luke and Verne Cazaubon

**12:30 p.m.**

**Dc'd:** The St.John & Collins families

**Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.**

**Parishioners**

**Thu Apr 03 - 6:00 a.m.**

Arch Bishop Malzaire  
Msgr. Michel Francis  
Fr. Arthur Zalewski

**Thks:** Diane & Richard Palton

**12:30 p.m.**

**B'day:** Keisha St. Helene

**Fri Apr 04 - 6:00 a.m.**

Fr. John Wilson  
Fr. Vinoth Santhappan  
Sr. Mary Lee Cox

**Dc'd:** Teresa Huntley, Greg Glace  
Irvine & Alexander Blanchard

**12:30 p.m.**

**Healing:** Randolph Khan

**Sat Apr 05 - 6:30 a.m.**  
*Mass at the Shrine*

Fr. Joseph Raj  
Fr. Angus Evumude

**Thks:** Sandra Aimable & family  
**B'day:** Diane Jhariah-Robinson