

The Epiphany

At the beginning of the new year we celebrate both Mary, the Mother of God and the Epiphany, which is when the wise men came from far away to worship baby Jesus.



Imagine that you are living a long time ago in Bethlehem and your parents have invited a poor family to stay at your house: a mother, a father and a new baby.

One day something amazing happens: some rich men from a far away country come to see the baby and bring expensive treasures for him! Do you know who the family is now? Who is the baby?

The baby is Jesus, of course, and the mother is Mary. She holds Jesus on her lap so the wise men can bow down to Him and worship Him.

Mary cooperated with God to bring Jesus into the world so that we could all see and love and worship Him.

Can you thank Mary today for bringing Jesus to us?



The Work of Christmas.

Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the Magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains.

Then the work of Christmas truly begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart, and to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and say.

The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate His selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love.

May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away. May we welcome the adult Messiah and His challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year.

Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with us.

(excerpt: H. Thurman/Connections/appleseeds.org)



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



Come and adore Him!

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews. As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in the Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth.

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother. The magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon. His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings. Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations.

This is the star the three magi follow, and like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign that the prophecies in the First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God.

We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in the Epistle. We too must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star, and the light of the world.

As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts - our intentions and talents - on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

(excerpt: stpaulcenter.com)

St. Joseph the Worker Parish

Gros Islet, Grande Riviere & Monchy

CONFESIONS
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
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.grosisletchurch.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading
Is.60:1-6

Second Reading
Eph.3:2-3,5-6

Gospel
Matt.2:1-12

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MASS TIMES

Morning Prayers:
5:45a.m.

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

+

TUESDAY: GROS ISLET
6:00 a.m.

+

WEDNESDAY
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m. -
Gros Islet

+

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 Blessing of Homes on Epiphany.

The blessing of homes on Epiphany is a very old Catholic custom, and Catholics are encouraged to perform this rite every year.

When the Wise men or Magi became an important focus in the celebration of the Epiphany, the blessing of homes was a natural conclusion: the Wise Men came to bring gifts to honor the King of Kings, but when they entered the home at Bethlehem, they were blessed by Him whom they came to bless. We, too, are always blessed by those whom we go to bless - to give is to receive.

The Church teaches that a “temple” is not only a building in which we worship, but that we are temples of the Holy Spirit, that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that we are the Body of Christ. And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels, so should every Christian’s life be full of reverence and sanctity even outside the physical walls of the church.

The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. And just as a Church and sacred vessels, once sanctified and set aside for sacred use, can no longer be used for anything profane, in the same way a Christian washed in baptismal waters, and his home, and all his works, can no longer be the dwelling of sin and the works of satan, but only and always, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The annual blessing of homes is not as elaborate as the blessing of a new dwelling, but it should not be overlooked, for it is a way that the grace of God is extended to rid a home of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

(excerpt: frsergei.wordpress.com)

*Bless
THIS HOME
and all who enter*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marie Joseph
Iris Macauldy
Patsy Crafton
Anne Marie Felicien

DECEASED

Peter Simeon
David Joseph
Cecile Gatneau
Anaclet Richelieu
Oswald A. Marius
Pauline d'Auvergne
Anne Marie St. Mark

WEEKDAY READINGS

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MONDAY
1Jn.3:22-4:6
Matt.4:12-17,23-25

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TUESDAY
1Jn.4:7-10
Mk.6:34-44

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WEDNESDAY
1Jn.4:11-18
Mk.6:45-52

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THURSDAY
1Jn.4:19-5:4
Lk.4:14-22

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FRIDAY
1Jn.5:5-13
Lk.5:12-16

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SATURDAY
1Jn.5:14-21
Jn.3:22-30

MASS INTENTIONS

GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -YEAR A		
Sat Jan 3 - 6:00 p.m.		Thks: Augusta Toussaint Guid & Protec: Mikaela Elliott Iouanola Finistere, Kateri & Ethan Wells
Sun Jan 4 - 7:30 a.m. <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>		MISSA PRO POPULO
10:00 a.m.		Thks: Nadia Mclean & family
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		Thks: Ginerva Davidson & family
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		B'day: Agatha Charles
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Jan 5 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. John Wilson Fr. Angus Eymude Sr. Mary Lee Cox	B'day: Bonde Nsima
12:30 p.m.		Int: Elizabeth Laurent
Tues Jan 6 - 6:00 a.m.	Msgr. Patrick Anthony Fr. Joseph Raj Sr. Mary Mutwiwa	Thks: Bernadette Pamphile
Wed Jan 7 - 6:00 a.m.	Archbishop Robert Rivas Sr. Frances Nosbisch Sr. Christine Alphonse	De'd: Justin St. Helene
12:30 p.m.		Thks: Shanta King & family
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.		B'day: Juliet Joseph
Thu Jan 8 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Albert Smith Mother Rosaria Joseph Sr. Giovanna Mabunda	Int: Melissa Charlemagne
12:30 p.m.		De'd: Horace Sylvester
Fri Jan 9 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Cezar Herrera Rev. Andrew Edward Sr. Ramona George	B'day: Michael La Force
12:30 p.m.		De'd: Teresa Huntley
Sat Jan 10 - 6.30 a.m. <i>BVM</i>	Fr. Joseph Xavier Sr. Benedicta Chanda	Thks: Vernette Brooks & family