

## “Return to me with all your heart”

We are now embarking on our Lenten journey, which opens with the words of the prophet Joel. They point out the path we are to follow. We hear an invitation that arises from the heart of God, who with open arms and longing eyes pleads with us: “Return to me with all your heart” (*Joel 2:12*). *Return to me*. Lent is a *journey of return to God*. How many times, in our activity or indifference, have we told him: “Lord, I will come to you later, just wait a little... I can’t come today, but tomorrow I will begin to pray and do something for others”. We do this, time and time again. Right now, however, God is speaking to our hearts. In this life, we will always have things to do and excuses to offer, but right now, brothers and sisters, right now is the time to return to God.

Return to me, he says, *with all your heart*. Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends. Lent is not just not about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed. This is the core of Lent: asking where our hearts are directed. Let us ask: Where is my life’s navigation system taking me – towards God or towards myself? Do I live to please the Lord, or to be noticed, praised, put at the head of line...? Do I have a “wobbly” heart, which takes a step forwards and then one backwards? Do I love the Lord a bit and the world a bit, or is my heart steadfast in God? Am I content with my hypocrisies, or do I work to free my heart from the duplicity and falsehood that tie it down?

The journey of Lent is an *exodus, an exodus from slavery to freedom*. These forty days correspond to the forty years that God’s people trekked through the desert to return to their homeland. How difficult it was to leave Egypt! It was more difficult for God’s people to leave the Egypt of the heart, that Egypt they carried within them, than to leave the land of Egypt. It is hard to leave Egypt behind. During their journey, there was an ever-present temptation to yearn for leeks, to turn back, to cling to memories of the past or to this or that idol. So it is with us: our journey back to God is blocked by our unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by the false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents. To embark on this journey, we have to unmask these illusions.

But we can ask ourselves: how do we then proceed on our journey back to God? We can be guided by return journeys described in the word of God.

We can think of the prodigal son and realize that, for us too, it is time to return to the Father. Like that son, we too have forgotten the familiar scent of our home, we have squandered a precious inheritance on paltry things and have ended up with empty hands and an unhappy heart. We have fallen down, like little children who constantly fall, toddlers who try to walk but keep falling and need, time and time again, to be picked up by their father. It is *the Father’s forgiveness* that always set us back on our feet. God’s forgiveness – Confession – is the first step on our return journey. In mentioning Confession, I ask confessors to be like fathers, offering not a rod but an embrace. We then need to *return to Jesus*, like the leper who, once cured, returned to give him thanks. Although ten had been healed, he was the only one saved, because he returned to Jesus (cf. *Lk 17:12-19*). All of us have spiritual infirmities that we cannot heal on our own. All of us have deep-seated vices that we cannot uproot alone. All of us have paralyzing fears that we cannot overcome alone. We need to imitate that leper, who came back to Jesus and threw himself at his feet. We need *Jesus’ healing*, we need to present our wounds to him and say: “Jesus, I am in your presence, with my sin, with my sorrows. You are the physician. You can set me free. Heal my heart”.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González  
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### I SUNDAY OF LENT



#### HOLY MASS

**Saturday:** 05:30pm English, Church.

**Sunday:** 09:00am English, Church.  
10:30am Creole, Church.  
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

**Weekdays:** 05:30pm English, Church.  
(*Except Wednesdays*)

**Fridays:**  
05:30pm Church.  
05:00pm Adoration Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary.

#### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms:** Contact one of the priests in person.

**Confessions:** Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request.

**Marriage:** Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

**1st Communions:** Date to be confirmed.

**Confirmation:** Date to be confirmed.

The Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is centered on Repentance. It not only means to be sorry for your sins but also to begin to change direction. To change is always difficult. We do not like change even when it is a small thing, such as covid-19 restrictions. But to begin to change your self, this is much more difficult and many do not even see the need for it! I am writing to tell you, you do need it. It is called conversion and the need for conversion never stops in our life. But how can I change myself? I have tried but it does not seem to work. Just remember all those New Year's resolutions; where are they now? We have, however this wonderful season called Lent to help us. The gospel of Ash Wednesday gives three means to help and they are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Whilst it's true I cannot change myself, but what I can do is ask the Lord humbly to help me to recognize my faults and especially in relation to others, that you may have an issue with, to see that the problem is mine. This is prayer; to ask the Lord to show you your fault in the 'issue' at hand. Then you can ask forgiveness. Fasting means to give some things up. Not just chocolate and ice cream! Give up those things that you rely on to make you happy and which cannot. In what things do you seek consolation? Give them up so that you enter into the desert just as Jesus did. Remember also that the word "compunction" includes puncturing your own ego, when you discover that you just cannot give some things up or that you fail to give them up for the entire season of Lent. Fasting helps your prayer reach the Lord's ears more effectively because it humbles you. Finally, the sign of true conversion is to detach yourself from earthly goods, which is exemplified in money. In other words, 'almsgiving'. Give some of your treasure away and take a risk on the Lord and you will see it will lighten your problems weighing you down! Remember that Lent is a process of 6 weeks and it builds slowly up to the crescendo which is Easter Sunday. If you enter into Lent well, i.e. feel like you are in the desert, then for sure you will experience the resurrection in the Easter season. Most important of all please remember that everything depends on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ but if we pray to him humbly and contritely, he will grant our pray and give us more graces besides those we ask.

May all of us make a good Lent so as to experience Jesus Risen over our sins on Easter.

Fr. Paul.

## LENT SCHEDULE

### Monday to Friday:

**06:30 a.m.** Morning prayer.  
Blue Chapel

### Every Friday:

**05:00 p.m.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.

**05:30 p.m.** Mass

**05:00 p.m.** Station of the Cross

Continuan las catequesis para adultos mayores de 13 años, a partir del **Lunes, 22 de febrero 2021.**



**Lunes y jueves.**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM Parish Hall**  
**Our Lady of Divine Providence**

## Parish Events Feb – Feb 28

**Sunday:** Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm  
05:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.  
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
05:00pm Fraternityé, Red Room.  
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir Practice  
05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

**Monday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

**Tuesday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

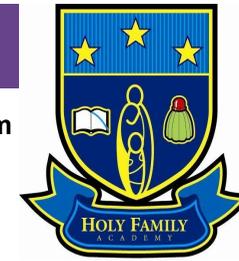
**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Church.

**Friday:** 05:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.  
05:30pm Daily Mass, Church.  
06:00pm. Stations of the Cross.

**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW**  
05:00pm Parish room.  
06:30pm Parish room.



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

While the students enjoyed their Mid-term, teachers and staff of **HFA** began the **Lenten** season with a spiritual retreat where all were able to pray, scrutinize the word, and participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. This fundamental time to be in communion with each other is necessary not only for the spirituality of the teachers, but also for the work relations of the staff that directly affects the students. CCD is continuing on Saturdays, therefore if any child needs to be prepared for baptism, reconciliation and communion please contact the parish office.

For information, please visit

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://www.hfa.catholic.tc)

### SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at [holyfamilytci@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilytci@gmail.com)

**You can also donate from the US in the following link:** <https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

### Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Moving Outdoor planters and gardening material
- Heavy Duty Sun Shade Sail Canopy
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!