

Pope Francis — General Audience.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

After speaking about sanctifying grace and then charisms, today I would like to take a look at a third reality. The first, sanctifying grace; second, charisms; and what is the third? A reality linked to the action of the Holy Spirit: the “fruits of the Spirit”. Something strange. What is the fruit of the Spirit? Saint Paul offers a list of them in the Letter to the Galatians. He writes this, listen carefully: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (5:22). Nine: these are the “fruits of the Spirit”. But what is this “fruit of the Spirit”?

Unlike the charisms, which the Spirit gives to whom He wants and when He wants for the good of the Church, the *fruits* of the Spirit, I repeat - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control – are the result of cooperation between grace and our freedom. These fruits always express the creativity of the person, in which “faith works through love” (cf. Gal 5:6), sometimes in a surprising and joyful way. Not everyone in the Church can be an apostle, not everyone can be a prophet, not everyone can be an evangelist, not everyone; but all of us, without distinction, can and must be charitable, patient, humble workers for peace, and so on. But all of us, yes, must be charitable, must be patient, must be humble, workers for peace and not war.

Among the fruits of the Spirit listed by the Apostle, I like to highlight one of them, recalling the initial words of the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangeliium Gaudium*: “The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Jesus joy is constantly born anew” (no. 1). There will be sad moments at times, but there is always peace. With Jesus there is joy and peace.

Joy, fruit of the Spirit, has in common with any other human joy a certain feeling of fullness and fulfilment, which makes one wish it would last forever. We know from experience, however, that this is not the case, because everything here passes quickly. Everything passes quickly. Let us think together: youth, youthfulness – it passes quickly; health, strength, well-being, friendships, loves... They last a hundred years, but then... no more. They soon pass. Besides, even if these things do not pass quickly, after a while they are no longer enough, or even become boring, because, as Saint Augustine said to God: “You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You” [1]. There is the restlessness of the heart to seek beauty, peace, love, joy.

The joy of the Gospel, evangelical joy, unlike any other joy, can be renewed every day and become contagious. “Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. ... Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangeliium Gaudium*, 8). It is the dual characteristic of joy as fruit of the Spirit: not only is it not subject to the inevitable wear of time, but it multiplies when it is shared with others! A true joy is shared with others; it even spreads. Five centuries ago, a saint called Philip Neri lived in Rome – here in Rome. He has passed into history as the saint of joy. Listen to this carefully: the saint of joy. He used to say to the poor and abandoned children of his Oratory: “My children, be cheerful; I do not want qualms or melancholy; it is enough for me that you do not sin”. And again: “Be good, if you can!”. Less well known, however, is the source from which his joy came. Saint Philip Neri had such love for God that at times it seemed his heart might burst in his chest. His joy was, in the fullest sense, a fruit of the Spirit. The Saint participated in the Jubilee of 1575, which he enriched with the practice, maintained thereafter, of the visit to the Seven Churches. He was, in his time, a true evangelizer through joy. And he had this, like Jesus who always forgave, who forgave everything. Perhaps some of us might think: “But I have committed this sin, and this will not be forgiven...”. Listen to this carefully. God forgives everything, God always forgives. And this is joy: being forgiven by God. And I always say to priests and confessors: “Forgive everything, do not ask too many questions; but forgive everything, everything, and always”.

The word “Gospel” means glad tidings. Therefore, it cannot be communicated with a long face and sombre countenance, but with the joy of those who have found the hidden treasure and the precious pearl. Remember Saint Paul’s exhortation to the believers of the Church of Philippi, which he now addresses to us all, and which we heard at the beginning: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (*Phil* 4:4-5).

Dear brothers and sisters, be glad, with the joy of Jesus in our heart. Thank you.

Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González

P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez

P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

**1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.**

Confirmations: November 10, 2024.

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

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Parish Events Dec. 1-8



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Holy Family Academy has been filled with a thankful spirit to the lord this week. The 11th grade hosted a thanksgiving banquet on thursday, where students were able to share a feast of a delicious thanksgiving meal.



Classes also shared the thanksgiving spirit among themselves, like the 4th grade which celebrated friendship soup day inspired by their literacy unit this term.

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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!



Dear Brothers and sisters,

In the first reading of this First Sunday of Advent, the prophet Jeremiah calls upon God to come down from heaven to fulfill the promise. He says that when the Lord does come he shall do what is right and just

About six hundred years after, St. Paul recognizes that the prophet was speaking about Jesus Christ and the power and might of the Kingdom of God, and our role in that Kingdom.

Searching for that kingdom, actually, we try to blame God to reduce our own guilt. We certainly don't want to be reduced to animals and not have free will, not have the ability to make choices in life. But we need to cast the blame to someone other than ourselves. We need to wait for Him. This is the theme of the First Sunday of Advent.

We wait for God to come to set us free from the mess. God promises us a Savior to free the world from its chaos and to free us from our turmoil. Jesus Christ came to release the world from the power of evil. He came to free us from the power of evil. He calls us to make a new promise to His Love. And so we watch for Him to come into our lives. Advent, the time of watching reminds us that our entire lives must be a watching for ways that we can grow more spiritual, grow closer to Christ. And He will come. Advent is a time of hope. "Our hope is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth." We call on Him throughout Advent and throughout our lives, "Tear a hole in the wall between heaven and earth, rend the heavens and come down. Show us your power, your awesome deeds, and heal us with your love. For our hope is in you, O Lord. Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus."

Because God is love and He loves us

God bless, Fr. Orlando

We are grateful for the Communion and Joy last week in the Parish Feast. Thanks to all of you. God Bless you all

HOLY HOUR FRIDAYS

4:00 pm—5:00pm.



Goretti.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist.

In the Upper Room St. Maria

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday: 6:20 am St. Joseph's room

Penitential: Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm Church.

Christmas concert: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm Church.

Novena of Nativity: Dec 16—Dec 24. 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

Christmas Eve 05:30 pm. English
Midnight 12:00 am multilingual

Monday, Christmas day Dec. 25:

09:00 am English
11:00 am Multilingual

Tuesday, Dec 31st: 05:30 pm. English

Holy Mass: 11:00am

Coeur de Marie Children's group.

Fraternite, Red Room.

Creole Youth Choir practice.

Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd

Sunday at church.

04:00pm

05:00pm

05:00pm

05:30pm

06:00pm

Monday

05:00pm

Confession near Holy Door

05:30pm

Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday

05:00pm

St. Francis Xavier

Confession near Holy Door

05:30pm

Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

07:00pm

First English St. Mary Chapel

07:00pm

Second English SMG

07:00pm

Spanish St. Joseph room

Wednesday

05:00pm

St. John of Damascus

Confession near Holy Door

05:30 pm

Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

07:00pm

3rd English SMG, Upstairs

07:00pm

4th English St. Joseph Room

07:00pm

5th English St. Mary's

07:00pm

Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel

Thursday

05:00pm

Confessions near Holly Door

05:30pm

Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday

04:00pm

St. Nicholas

Adoration, SMG upstairs

05:30pm

Daily Mass ,SMG upstairs

Saturday

05:30pm

St. Ambrose

Mass in Church

07:00pm

Eucharist NCW