

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

On June 23rd, we celebrate the birth of a remarkable life. As we become more familiar with the Scriptures, we recognize the importance of the prophets in the shaping of old Israel’s faith, opening up boundless hopes, and calling them to fulfill their role as ‘the light of the nations’. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets of old Israel, was a figure of immense significance.

John was the one who pointed out the way in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour of the world. As Jesus himself declared: ‘A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen. It was toward John that all the prophecies of the prophets and the Law were leading’.

However, what He adds to this remarkable praise startles us: ‘Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is’. In fact, John was a figure of such influence at the time that the gospels stress that he claimed to be no more than a humble herald of this fulfillment. Jews came to question this preacher who was attracting large crowds. When asked: ‘Who are you?’, he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ; I am not Elijah; I am not the Prophet (i.e. the New Moses)’. He was, he said, ‘a voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord’.

There are other indications of John’s acceptance of his role as a humble herald. When large crowds came to be baptized, he brushed aside their grandiose suggestions with words that are familiar to every generation: ‘I am not fit to undo the strap of His sandals; I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’.

Taking up the prophets’ theme, referring to the Lord as the ‘husband’ of Israel, he applied it to the fulfillment he was announcing, calling himself ‘the bridegroom’s friend, who stands there and listens and is glad when he hears the bridegroom’s voice’. And he makes himself an inspiring model to *all* disciples of Jesus, when he declares, ‘He must increase and I must decrease’. We must all follow his example.

John Thornhill SM
(excerpt theemausseries.com)

PRAYER DURING THE HURRICANE SEASON

O Lord, our God and Father, who gives rain and sunshine to your children, we ask you in this rainy season to uphold us and provide for our needs.

You try our patience and test our faith and reliance on you; forgive our sin of ingratitude. So often have we forgotten to thank you for your goodness and acts of mercy. Teach us to look up to you each day, appreciative of rain and sunshine, as you, in your wisdom, through any kind of weather do feed us all.

In your mercy, protect us against hurricanes and tropical storms. Pour out your blessings upon our nation and our people, and make us grateful for the weather we receive from your bountiful hand.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Because your steadfast
love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
~Psalm 63:3~

Prayer for the Synod on Synodality

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. **Amen.**



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

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday
9.00 - 10.00 a.m.
5:00-5:45 p.m.
&
by appointment

VISION 2020-DISCIPLES ON MISSION

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -19 JUNE 2022 - YEAR C

Following in His footsteps.

In the First Reading we hear the voice of the Prophet Zechariah as he delivers difficult oracles from God. The people have returned from exile and now, back in Jerusalem, they face the arduous work of rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah acknowledges their hardships and foresees more obstacles. But their grief has a purpose. It is a remedy, a penance to heal them, “a fountain” to purify from sin and uncleanness. Thus purified, the people will be ready to receive the Messiah and usher in a new creation.

God promises to “pour out a spirit of kindness and prayer” over the house of David and the citizens of Jerusalem. So that no one should mistake the identity of the Messiah when He comes, God says through Zechariah: “they will look on the one whom they have pierced; they will mourn for him as for an only son.” That prophecy could be fulfilled in no other than Jesus, the Word made Flesh, the Only-Begotten Son of God, the Crucified.

The day of the Messiah indeed came, with an outpouring of the Spirit. Yet it was a saving event not only for Jerusalem, but for all people. Both Jews and Gentiles could become, Paul says, “sons of God”, and now, “there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female.” If we belong to Christ, then we are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

In light of these readings, Sunday's Gospel is poignant. Jesus asks His closest friends, “who do you say that I am?” Peter replies, “The Christ of God.” Jesus then reveals, as Zechariah had foretold, that the Messiah must be killed and mourned before the Spirit would come forth on Pentecost. The day has indeed come. Yet still we long for its fullness, and so we pray to God as in the Psalm: “for you I long: for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you, like a dry weary land...”

Jesus gave His life for all people. As His followers, we too must follow Him along the path of self giving, taking up our cross by not seeking our own will, but the will of the Father who wants the world to be a place of peace and true justice. That is not an easy path to follow, but it is the one that gives life.

(excerpt: st.paulcenter.com)

Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis
Deacons: Rev. Winston Taylor, Rev. Gerard Calderon
Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. Madison Stanislaus.
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@hotmail.com ☎ st.joseph_church@candw.lc
Website: www.grosisletchurch.org ☎ Facebook: facebook.com/grosisletchurch

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading
Zec.12:10-11;13:1

Second Reading
Gal.3:26-29

Gospel
Lk.9:18-24

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.
Monchy: 6:00 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
7:00 a.m.
✠

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - June 24th

For us the word “Sacred Heart of Jesus” symbolizes the divine love of Jesus. It is centered on the heart of Jesus as the emblem of Divine love. This feast celebrates a love so great that nothing is asking too much of this magnificent love.

The love of God remains a love for those who are unworthy. It is a “foolish” love. From this "foolishness” of God came our salvation. Jesus breathed forth the Spirit as He died upon the cross and from His wounded side flowed the life giving waters of baptism and the precious blood of the Eucharist. He gave up His life not just for us, but to us. We are so used to baptism and Eucharist that we forget that they issued forth from His broken body and His pierced heart.

On this feast day, let us express our love to this Sacred Heart to whom families are consecrated and place our total trust in Him and run to Him in our need This Sacred Heart is burning with love for us and will protect us, care for us and give us peace and tranquility.

We are of the religion of love, the religion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Behold the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There, we can see His sufferings, His Cross, His humility, His forgiveness, His victory in the Resurrection, His infinite Love for us.

But the most important demonstration of the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the Holy Eucharist. Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is the companion of our exile, by His real presence: “Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened and I will give you rest”.



Fr. Eugene Lobo S.J.
(excerpt: msjnov.wordpress.com)

A Father's Day Prayer

God,
Bless all the fathers in the world. Father, we ask that You guide them to be good role models and loving to their children. We also ask that You help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.
Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

Nellie Hall
Martha Mason
Iris Macauldy
Patsy Crafton
Theresa Huntley
Carmen Lord

DECEASED

Randell Gaston
Marilyn Joseph
Anette Finisterre
Meinrad Cadasse
Veronica Activille
Marguerite Alcindor

WEEKDAY READINGS

✠
MONDAY
2Kgs.17:5-8,13-15,18
Mt.7:1-5
✠
TUESDAY
2Kgs.19:9-11,14-21,31-36
Mt.7:6,12-14
✠
WEDNESDAY
2Kgs.22:8-13;23:1-3
Mt.7:15-20
✠
THURSDAY
Is.49:1-6
Lk.1:57-66,80
✠
FRIDAY
Ez.34:11-16
Rom.5:5-11
Lk.15:3-7
✠
SATURDAY
Lm.2:2,10-14,18-19
Mt.8:5-17

MASS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY/RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C		
Sat Jun 18 - 6:00 p.m.	 <i>My soul thirsts for YOU. My flesh longs for YOU, in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. Psalm 63:1</i>	Thks: The Destang family
Sun Jun 19 - 7:30 a.m.		MISSA PRO POPULO
10:00 a.m.		60th B'day: Patricia Charles B'day: Isabella Mc Lean, Ashna Auguste Int: All Fathers
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		Int: Parish Youth, All Fathers
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		Int: All Fathers
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Jun 20 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Paul Vu	Int: Anthony Louis
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Irvin Albert, Eliza Marcellin
Tue Jun 21 - 6:00 a.m.	Rev. Anthony Louis Rev. John Douglas Rev. Robert Harvey	B'day: Kaelan Haywood Int: Bernadette Pamphile
Wed Jun 22 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Cecil Goodman Rev. Thomas Alexander	Dc'd: Anazilta Volney, Holy Souls
12:30 p.m.		Int: Cecil Graham, Anthony Robinson
Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.		Parishioners
Thu Jun 23 - 6:00 a.m. <i>Nativity of John the Baptist</i>	Msgr. Theophilus Joseph Fr. Linus Clovis Sr. Adinase Mumba	Dc'd: Charlesia Montoute Members of The Montoute family
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Bennett Best
Monchy- 6:00 p.m.		Parishioners
Fri Jun 24 - 6:00 a.m. <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	Fr. Vincent Arulanandam Rev. Girard Glace Sr. Mary Muskosa	Wedd. Ann: Thecla Deterville
12:30 p.m.		B'day: Margerie Philip Int: Ignatius Lewis & children 60th F/Comm Ann: Kingsley St. Hill
Sat Jun 25 - 6:30 a.m. <i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	Fr. Henry Nmor Fr. Konrad Mair Fr. Kenneth Haakyav	Dc'd: Lucia Joseph, Holy Souls