


## Family and Friends or God?



**YES, I AM A CHRISTIAN.**

In today's Gospel reading Jesus says, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

You probably thought that God doesn't want us to hate anyone, right? Well He doesn't! What Jesus was saying was that we should love God more than we love the people closest to us. He means that we should be ready to do what God wants even if that means losing our family or best friends.

Normally God wants us to stay close to the people we love, but what if you had to choose between doing the right thing or keeping your friends? Are you ready to give up anything or anyone that would stop you from loving God?



**STEAL THAT IF YOU WANT TO STAY FRIENDS WITH ME.**  
**NO. I WON'T.**

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://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 must contact the Parish Office to arrange 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.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

- ♦ Youth of the parish are invited to Youth Mass and activities on Sunday, Sept 25th at the Minor Basilica, Castries, from 10am, after which scheduled activities will be held. Come have fun, food and fellowship with other young persons like yourself. If you need transportation please give your name your youth leaders or catechists.
- ♦ The clergy of the diocese will be on Retreat from Monday Sep 12th to Friday Sep 16th. Therefore, no Masses will be held in Gros Islet parish for that week except on Monday Sep 12th at 6:00 a.m.

"In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge!"  
† Psalm 90.†

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.**  
**Closed Tuesdays**

### 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.**



*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

**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**  
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**Email: [st.joseph\\_church@hotmail.com](mailto:st.joseph_church@hotmail.com) ☎ [st.joseph\\_church@candw.lc](mailto:st.joseph_church@candw.lc)**  
**Website: [www.grosisletchurch.org](http://www.grosisletchurch.org) ☎ Facebook: [facebook.com/grosisletchurch](https://facebook.com/grosisletchurch)**

### 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 4TH SEPT 2022 - YEAR C

*Choosing Christ above all.*

Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus. Our Lord today is telling us up front the sacrifice it will take. His words aren't addressed to His chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds", to whoever wishes to be His disciple.

That only makes His call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, to renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose Him above every person and possession. Again He tells us that the things we have - even our family ties and obligations - can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to Him. Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are promised in the First Reading. He is that saving Wisdom.

Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world; we could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So in His mercy He sent us His Spirit, His Wisdom from on high, to make straight our path to Him.

Jesus Himself paid the price to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in today's Psalm. No more will the work of our hands be an affliction; no more are we destined to turn back to dust. Like Onesimus in the Epistle, we have been redeemed. We have been given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the Father, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We are free now to come after Him, to serve Him, no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the Psalm beautifully describes as the day-break, ready to be filled with His kindness. For He has given us wisdom of heart and taught us to number our days aright.

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

### SUNDAY READINGS

**First Reading**  
**Wis.9:13-18**

**Second Reading**  
**Phim.9:10,12-17**

**Gospel**  
**Lk.14:25-33**

### 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**  
Variable  
✠



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - September 8th

The Nativity of Mary refers to the traditional birthday of the Blessed Virgin. This feast, like that of the Assumption of Mary, originated in Jerusalem in the fifth century as the feast of the *Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est*, now called the Basilica of St. Anne. The feast spread to Rome in the seventh century.

While in the case of saints the Church commemorates their date of death, the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist are two whose *birth dates* are commemorated as well. The reason for this is found in the singular mission each had in salvation history.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Gospel of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. The story stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "*She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed.*"

The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace. We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in His creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning. Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world.

“*Today the barren Anna claps her hands for joy, the earth radiates with light, kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy every blessing, the entire universe rejoices, for she who is Queen and the Father's immaculate bride buds forth from the stem of Jesse.*” (adapted from *Byzantine Daily Worship*).

(excerpt: americancatholic.org/Wikipedia.org)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

Carmen Lord  
Coleta Henry  
Martha Mason  
Iris Macauldy  
Patsy Crafton  
Theresa Huntley  
Mary Alexander

DECEASED

Mona Joseph  
Calixte Eugene  
Joseph Nelson  
Cuthbert Philip  
Anne Marie Louisien

WEEKDAY READINGS



MONDAY

1Cor.5:1-8  
Lk.6:6-11



TUESDAY

1Cor.6:1-11  
Lk.6:12-19



WEDNESDAY

1Cor.7:25-31  
Lk.6:20-26



THURSDAY

Mi.5:1-4  
Mt.1:1-16,18-23



FRIDAY

1Cor.9:16-19,22-27  
Lk.6:39-42



SATURDAY

1Cor.10:14-22  
Lk.6:43-49



MASS INTENTIONS

GROS ISLET

CLERGY/RELIGIOUS

INTENTIONS

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

Sat Sept 3 - 6:00 p.m.

Sun Sept 4 - 7:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.

Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

LET THE FAVOR  
OF THE LORD  
OUR GOD BE  
UPON US, AND  
ESTABLISH THE  
WORK OF OUR  
HANDS UPON US;  
YES, ESTABLISH  
THE WORK OF  
OUR HANDS!  
PSALMS 90:17

Bless: Agatha Toussaint  
Thks: Algitha Richelieu & family  
B'day: Rachel Myers, Gale Rigobert  
Wedd Ann: Girard & Jean Glace

MISSA PRO POPULO

Thks: Members of the McLean family

Int: Parish Youth

B'day: Arielle Felicien

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Mon Sept 5 - 6:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Fr. John Wilson  
Fr. Joseph Raj  
Sr. Mary Lee Cox

Guid: Zoey Hinkson  
Thks: Diane & Richard Palton & family

Thks: Cecil Graham

Tue Sept 6 - 6:00 a.m.

Msgr. Patrick Anthony  
Sr. Mary Mutwiwa

B'day: Joshua Roach  
Wedd Ann:  
Teresa & Gregory Jean Baptiste

Wed Sept 7 - 6:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Arch. Robert Rivas OP  
Fr. Albert Smith  
Sr. Frances Norbisch

Dc'd: Ian Simon  
Dc'd: Michael Doxilie Augustin & family

Thks: Mya Norville & family

Thu Sept 8 - 6:00 a.m.

Nativity of the BVM

12:30 p.m.

Mother Rosaria Joseph  
Sr. Christine Alphonse  
Sr. Giovanna Mabunda

Thks: Shanta King & family

B'day: Tiah Arnold  
Thks: Catherine Alexis & family  
Brenda Brookes, Virginia d' Auvergne

Monchy - 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners

Fri Sept 9 - 6:00 a.m.

St. Peter Claver, Priest

12:30 p.m.

Fr. Amalraj Penigilipadi  
Fr. Cezar Herrera  
Sr. Ramona George

B'day: Dylan & Curtis Charles  
50th B'day: Marie Angele Joye

Dc'd: Jeanne Bristol-Clarke

Sat Sept 10 - 6:30 a.m.

BVM

Rev. Andrew Edward  
Sr. Benedicta Chanda  
Sr. Petronilla Banda

Dc'd:  
Kaye, Bornwell & Fitzgerald St. Rose