

# The Christmas Story



FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO SEND THEM A MESSIAH WHO WOULD SAVE THEM FROM THEIR SINS. FINALLY HE CAME, A POOR BABY BORN ON A COLD NIGHT. SEE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, THAT HE WOULD COME TO US AS A TINY, INNOCENT BABY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

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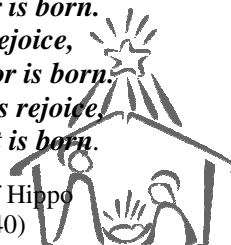
The family that prays together, stays together!



## Prayer of St. Augustine.

Let the just rejoice,  
for their Justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their Saviour is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
For their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

St. Augustine of Hippo  
(AD 354-440)



## A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages, "curing every disease and illness". At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the Coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together, and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. In your wisdom protect our country, Saint Lucia, our region and the whole world from this pandemic. Be with the doctors, nurses and researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected, and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Mary, comforter of the afflicted, pray for us.  
**Amen.**



# VISION 2020-DISCIPLES ON MISSION

## SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR C- 26TH DECEMBER 2021



### The Family of God.

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church. In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved". The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers, and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God. In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose.

The Temple we read about in the Gospel is God's house, His dwelling. But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church. In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God - until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be my son".

(excerpt stpaulcentre.com)

**CONFESSIONS**  
Every Saturday  
9.00 - 10.00a.m.  
6.00 - 6.45p.m.  
&  
by appointment

Parish Priest: Msgr. Michel Francis  
Deacons: Rev. Winston Taylor, Rev. Gerard Calderon  
Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. Madison Stanislaus.  
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Website: www.grosisletchurch.org ☎ Facebook: facebook.com/grosisletparish

## SUNDAY READINGS

### First Reading

1Sam.1:20-22,24-28

### Second Reading

1Jn.3:1-2,21-24

### Gospel

Lk.2:41-52

## MASS TIMES

### GROS ISLET

Morning Prayers:  
5:45a.m.



### MONDAY:

6:00 a. m./12:30 p.m.



### TUESDAY:

6:00 a.m.



### WEDNESDAY

12:30 & 6:00 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./7:00 p. m.



### SUNDAY

GROS ISLET/G.RIVIERE  
7:30 A.M.


Gros Islet/Monchy  
10:00 a.m.



### HOLIDAY

7:00 a.m.





### Keeping Christmas

(Henry Van Dyke)

There is something better than the observance of Christmas Day. *Keeping Christmas.*

**Are you willing** to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background. and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;

**To** see that men and women are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life;

**To** close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness.

*Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.*

**Are you willing** to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;

**To** bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

**To** trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden with the gate open for your kindly feelings .

*Are you willing to do these things, even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.*

**Are you willing** to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

**Then you can keep Christmas.** And if you can keep it for a day, why not for always?

**May you rejoice in the blessings of His love this Christmas and always.**

<u>PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK</u>	
Nellie Hall Martha Mason Iris Macauldy Denis Augustin Bentley Jn. Baptiste	
<u>DECEASED</u>	
Darwyn Louis Joseph Felix Merle Rosemond Alfred Julian	
WEEKDAY READINGS	
✠	
<b>MONDAY</b> 1Jn.1:1-4 Jn.20:2-8	
✠	
<b>TUESDAY</b> 1Jn.1:5-2:2 Mt.2:13-18	
✠	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 1Jn.2:3-11 Lk.2:22-35	
✠	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 1Jn.2:12-17 Lk.2:36-40	
✠	
<b>FRIDAY</b> 1Jn.2:18-21 Jn.1:1-18	
✠	
<b>SATURDAY</b> Num.6:22-27 Gal.4:4-7 Lk.2:16-21	

MASS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
THE HOLY FAMILY: JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR C		
Fri Dec 24 - 6:30 p.m. Vigil		MISSA PRO POPULO
Sat. Dec 25 - 8:00 a.m. Nativity of the Lord		Wedd Ann: Winston & Clara Francois Tony & Martha Sonson
G/Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		Int: Parish Youth
Monchy-10:00 a.m.		Int: Margerie Philip & family
Sun. Dec 26 - 8:00 a.m. Solemnity of the Holy Family		Int: Parishioners & their families
G/Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		Int: Parishioners & their families
Monchy-10:00 a.m.		Healing: Winifred Blanchard Int: Parishioners & their families
WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon Dec 27 - 6:30 a.m. St. John the Evangelist	Fr. Kevin Murray Rev. Gabriel Geoffrey	De'd: Rosa & Antoine Glace Irene & Joseph Destang Janine Moulton, Samuel Brookes
Tues Dec 28 - 6:00 a.m. Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Fr. John Milton Rev. Gerard Calderon	B'day: Sian Odlum Eric & Leah Gaspard Sp. Int: Margaret Jn. Baptiste, Gregory St. Jour
Wed Dec 29 - 6:00 a.m.	Rev. David Popo Rev. Peter Fevrier Rev. Herald Wilson	De'd: Felicite Clery
12:30 p.m.		Thks: Stennett Bent & family Guid & Protec: Alex Blanchard
Thu Dec 30 - 6:00 a.m.	Rev. Winston Taylor Sr. Margaret Maynard	B'day: Cindy McLean Caroline Felix-Auguste Thks: Althea & Ellen Regis
Fri Dec 31-6:00 a.m	Fr. Cleophus Joseph Sr. Mary Mumba Sr. Marie Therese Clement	Thks: Merlyn Raymond Claude & Mary Severin & family For the Conversion of Sinners
6:30 p.m. Vigil		MISSA PRO POPULO
Sat Jan 1 - 8:00 a.m. Mary, Mother of God		Parishioners
Grande Riviere-7:30 a.m		Parishioners
Monchy-10:00 a.m.		10 Wedd Ann: Andrea & Cyprian Joseph