



Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
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Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

Acting Pastor: Fr. Joseph Morley - Cell: 705-0236



Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By appointment: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass 3 rd Saturday 11:00 a.m.	21 st December
Kids & Youth Ministry	Sunday 8:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Children's Mass	Resumes in January
Pastoral & Finance Council	13 th January 2025
Monthly Coffee Social	26 th January 2025

DIocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Most Rev. Bishop, Wieslaw (Wes) Spiewak
www.romancaholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance: Light The Advent Candle (Antonia v1, v2)
Offertory: I Have Loved You #623
Communion: Bread of Life (Advent Verses) #788
Recessional: People Look East #297

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship here today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 15th December 2024

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Servers
Music

Jane Bermingham
Elizabeth Card
Annette Barclay
Joanne Smith
Alessia Vianello
Jane Farge

Advent families:

Saturday 30th Nov: Jenny Barclay & Kate Barnes
Sunday, 1st Dec: Margarita Tejada & daughter Diana.
Saturday 7th Dec: Sue Moench & Stephen Card
Sunday 8th Dec: We are pleased this week to have new members of our parish family, **Antonio & Caroline Pombeiro, along with their children Maria, Antonio & Isabel**, celebrate this week's lighting of the candles.

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Bernie & Eileen Davies, Jenny Woods; Jose Garcia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury, and for Petra Caesar who is still in the hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 7th December *Eugene DeSilva
Sunday, 8th December The People of St. Josephs

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Sat. 30 th November 4:00 p.m.	8	81
Sun. 1 st December 8:45 a.m.	51	320
TOTAL:	59	\$401

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield



THANK YOU to ALL who helped in any way to make our Christmas Bingo a most enjoyable evening. Good food, great fellowship, and lots of laughs. We appreciate all the wonderful donations of food and prizes, and your support.



Christmas Flower Envelopes

We have been truly blessed in that an anonymous donor has gifted us with our Christmas poinsettias. They in turn suggested that if you would still like to make a monetary donation in memory of loved ones, that your donation could be put towards new air conditioners that need to be installed in the church. If you choose to do this, still use the red envelopes that are on the table at the back of the church and ensure the names of your loved ones are on the envelope. That memorial mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 12th January 2025.



Our "Afternoon of Christmas" will be held on **Sunday, 15th December at 2:30 p.m., in the Church (carols, songs, music, and a 'little magic')**. This is an "informal" celebration that will be dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Tony Bari, as he loved this afternoon so much; therefore, let us have fun and enjoy it as a Parish Family in the Spirit of the Season! We will have a social afterwards in the Parish Centre. If the children want to play an instrument, sing, recite a poem, or something else; now is the time to get them to start practicing. 😊

Proposed Christmas Schedule

St. Joseph's	
Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	9:30 a.m.
St. Anthony's	
Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.
	11:00 p.m. (Carols, etc.)
	12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

PASTOR'S POINT -

Dear Parishioners,

On this second Sunday of Advent, Luke's account of the Gospel introduces the adult John and his mission (in the words of the prophet Isaiah) to "prepare the way of the Lord" (3:4). His is the voice crying out in the desert, and he is the one who baptized those coming to him in repentance and moving toward a new direction. A way of preparing for the coming of the Messiah when all "shall see the salvation of God" (3:6) is presented to those who are attentive and courageous enough to reflect on their lives and their way of proceeding, in relationship both with God and with other people.

The reading from Paul encompasses his thanksgiving, a component he typically adds to the conventional Greco-Roman letter. Paul expresses his joy with the Philippians at their lived manifestation of the Good News. The timeless summons of his prayer is for everyone to strive for the good of all. Seeking to find and be our best selves includes discerning what is truly of value. This is the hard work also bidden by the psalmist and envisioned by Baruch. The restoration of God's people after the exile is described as tears that lead to joy. The mercy and justice of God guide those in covenant with Him to be accountable in what they believe and do. This is the path to authentic satisfaction. Are you satisfied with your relationship with Jesus? Are you going to your priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to have your sins washed away as we start the new liturgical cycle with the focus this year on the Gospel of Luke? Do not be afraid - COURAGE!

God bless,
Fr. Joe,
Acting Pastor and Vicar General

BISHOP'S CORNER:

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Francis made a heartfelt invitation recently when greeting representatives of the Italian Motorcycle Federation. when he encouraged them in their efforts to raise greater awareness of Italy's road safety rules. He pointed out that the lives of so many young people are at stake, especially those who admire "the champions" of motorcycling but who are "often unaware of the dangers" of riding. The Pontiff mentioned the importance of road and rules education and how the Federation's statutes provide for "courses to be held in schools" to promote greater awareness of the rules of the road. The tragic reality of the high number of road accidents involving young people makes their work ever more critical, the Pope noted saying, "In many cases, poor knowledge or failure to apply safety rules endangers not only the safety of drivers, but also the safety of others." He described their efforts to raise road safety awareness and enhance knowledge of road issues as "an investment in life." Pope Francis offered them his hearty good wishes and blessings, asking them to pray for him, remarking that he needs their prayers as "my work is very high-speed, and my 'bike' is old and not working very well!" It looks like a greater awareness and more advanced education on the road safety is needed not only in Italy...

Have a good weekend and a productive week!
Bishop Wes



2nd Sunday of Advent - Live Stewardship

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season, it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To live **Stewardship** and grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.



Second Sunday of Advent the "Candle of Love" is lit, Preparation means to 'get ready'. Help us to be ready to welcome You, O God!

[Luke 3:4-6](#)

If you are unable to attend Mass this weekend, try to take a little time out to pray during the time of the Mass.

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1–11 Mt 18:12–14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25–31 Mt 11:28–30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17–19 Mt 11:16–19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 Mt 17:9a, 10–13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14–18a Phil 4:4–7 Lk 3:10–18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go “beyond” where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us....

Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds....

Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021



ADVENT

Mary's Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin:

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire

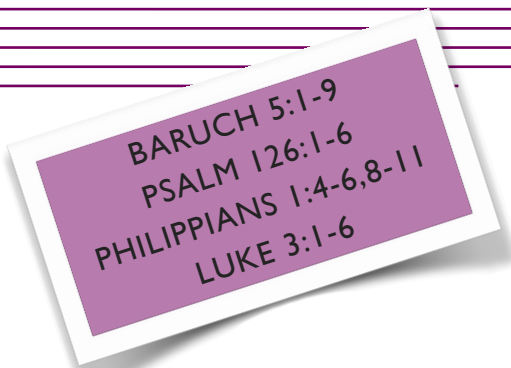
Church. (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 142-143)

Even before this tenet of the faith was formally declared, a long tradition of faith that held this belief that Mary was conceived without sin:

This feast was celebrated in some monasteries before the beginning of the eighth century and became widespread in the eighteenth century. In the United States, celebration of this observance predates the Declaration of Independence. The bishops commended the nation to the patronage of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception in 1846. It became a nationwide holy day in 1885. (*Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints*, 120)



Our Sunday Readings



And All Shall See

BARUCH 5:1-9

Reading closely

1. What all will God do for Jerusalem?
2. How do you envision Jerusalem before and after the city hears these prophetic words?
3. What imagery most captures your attention?

Living the word

4. Who might be uplifted by these words today?
5. Has God ever turned your sorrow to joy?
6. Is your path right now easy or difficult?

THE FIRST READING

Who's Baruch?

Baruch was a follower of the prophet Jeremiah, who lived during the Babylonian conquest of Israel in the sixth century BC. During this attack Baruch was taken into Egypt (Jeremiah 43:4-7).

However, scholars estimate that this book was written in the second century BC, when Baruch would no longer have been alive. By attributing the work to Baruch, the author of this work evoked the memory of the Babylonian invasion and all that provoked it.

Sin and mercy

The author invites his hearers to reflect on what caused the Babylonian invasion. Prophets like Jeremiah warned that God would punish his people for failing to uphold his laws. This book thus invites later generations to confess their own sins and seek forgiveness. As we hear in the passage for this Sunday, God protects and restores all who repent and seek his mercy.

A glorious restoration

The Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem before looting the city and killing or imprisoning the surviving inhabitants. When the city was rebuilt, it was a sign that God had forgiven his people.

This author personifies Jerusalem, urging her to exchange her sorrow and misery for symbols of glory and justice (vv.1-2). Everyone, including the city's enemies, will see this wondrous transformation (vv.3-4).

Jerusalem will then watch as those who left during the invasion return home. These people return like royalty (vv.5-6). God will make their journey comfortable by smoothing their path and providing food and shade (vv.7-8).

LUKE 3:1-6

Reading closely

1. Name your political leaders, from the president to your local representatives. Name your religious leaders, from the pope to your local pastor and/or other ministers. This list is your version of verses 1-2a.
2. What might it be like for John to receive the word of God?
3. Why might God have chosen John?
4. How might John feel about God's call?
5. How might John change because of his prophetic role?
6. How do you imagine people reacting to John?

Living the word

7. Have you ever felt called by God to do something?
8. In what ways do you need to prepare yourself for God's arrival?

THE GOSPEL READING

Setting the stage

Other Greek writers of Luke's era also began their literary works by naming local and regional rulers. They did this in order to establish the historical context of the events they wrote about. Such introductions also lend weight and solemnity to the events that follow. Some of the prophetic literature in our Old Testament begins the same way.

Luke makes other points with this introduction.

- Despite their positions of power, God doesn't call any of these people to announce the gospel
- Both John the Baptist and Jesus will come into conflict with people in power
- Although John's ministry begins in one small pocket of the Roman Empire, it has repercussions that stretch from Jerusalem to Rome itself (*all flesh shall see the salvation of God*)

The desert

The desert was a religiously significant place for the Jews. When God led their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt, he led them into the Sinai desert and formed a covenant with them.

Centuries after the exodus, God's people were conquered by the Babylonians. Some were forced to live in Babylon. Once this time of oppression had ended, God called prophets like Isaiah to urge people to make a new exodus by journeying through the desert to rebuild their homeland.

Time of salvation

John quotes the passage from Isaiah to declare that God is coming with salvation, but only for those who turn away from sin and accept this new era. He echoes other Old Testament prophets in saying that God is coming, so people must amend their ways or face condemnation.

Baptism

The Jordan river marks the eastern boundary of Israel and is that nation's largest river. Many significant events in Israel's history happened at the Jordan river, making it a richly symbolic place for John to begin his ministry.

Jews immersed themselves and objects in water as a way of ritually purifying them. John adapts this practice to suit his prophetic ministry. He makes baptism a sign that people want to turn away from their sins and embrace whatever is coming.

John's baptism isn't the same as Christian baptism. John's baptism is only a sign of contrition, whereas Christian baptism also takes away a person's sins. Christian baptism also immerses believers into the life and death of Christ and makes them part of a new spiritual community.

PRAYER

*Opening Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent
(Roman Missal, 1985)*

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving
Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.