



Belonging to Two Families

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Adolescence can bring family life into an upheaval for both parents and adolescents alike. At its heart, adolescence is an urge for independence, a silent instinct to be part of the larger world. It is a calling sewn by God's Spirit into the very fabric of being human. At its best, family life can be the staging ground for that movement outward.

Hannah recognized this when she believed that her young son Samuel was chosen for a specific role in life. It moved her to bring Samuel to the temple to be raised there in growing service to the community. Ultimately Samuel became a charismatic leader of the Hebrew people who would anoint both Saul and David as king. That same calling seemed to take time

to unfold in the awareness of Joseph and Mary who wondered why Jesus stayed behind in the temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" asked Jesus of them (Luke 2:49). All of us are meant to live more than a life of satisfaction for ourselves or even the fulfillment of our parents' dreams.

We may find ourselves asking a young person what they want to be when they grow up. A more valuable question might be what they think God wants them to be. While the Spirit of God does not usually ask us to be something contrary to our inclinations, the call of service to the needs of the human family is an added piece to the puzzle of what someone's life might look like. ●

Reflect

How has the call to serve God and God's people shown itself in your life?

[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51





St. Anthony's Church

26 Middle Road -Warwick WK03, Bermuda
Phone: (Office Direct Line) 441-238-1784

Parish Email: stanthonybermuda@gmail.com

Fr. Joe Morley 441-705-0236

Reconciliation: By appointment

Baptisms: By Appointment – One month in advance

Weddings: By Appointment –A year in advance

Organist: Jane Farge

St. Anthony's Club (CCD): Fridays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Coordinator: Anna Daniel 441-236-2438

Email: stanthonyccd@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Rep: Pat Rodrigues

St. Vincent de Paul No. 525-1191

Bulletin for December 21 and 22, 2024

Weekly Collections at St. Anthony's

December 15/Dec 16 \$1,282.00

December 22/Dec 23 \$ 659.00

December 24/Dec 25 \$2,643.00

Online payments can be made directly into the Bank account of St. Anthony's – Butterfield Bank – BD \$ Current A/c – 20006060061567100 and US \$ Current A/c - 20006840061567100.

Please make sure to indicate what the donation is for in the memo field when making the payment i.e., Gen collection; Maintenance; Mission Sunday, etc. Multiple payments can be made for those times that you are away or on vacation. Please note that we are charged \$20 for US checks drawn on a US Bank. Kindly do not place Canadian or British currency in the collection baskets.

Maintenance Collection – first weekend of the month

This week: Annette and Gabby

Next week: Annette and Jackie

Mass Schedule at St. Anthony's

Dec 28	6:15 pm	Christine & Raymond Astwood++
Dec 29	11:30 am	Christmas Flower Memorials
Dec 31	8:30 am	
Jan 1	11:30 am	Christmas Flower Memorials
Jan 2	8:30 am	
Jan 3	8:30 am	
Jan 4	6:15 pm	John Boyle+
Jan 5	11:30 am	John Boyle & Joseph De Salvo++

Pastor's Point

Dear Parishioners,

Today's feast celebrates the marvelous reality that through the incarnation, family life is forever taken up into the very life of God. As we hear in today's collect, in "the virtues of family life and ...the bonds of charity" that exist among the members of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, all earthly families find a shining example to emulate in their daily life. The feast reminds us that each family is called to be holy. This feast highlights the importance of family, both in imagery and in history, for understanding God's relationship with humanity.

Luke's Gospel focuses on the one episode Scripture preserves of Jesus' childhood. Jesus was drawn to those from whom He could learn and grow, though it caused concern for His family. Sometimes such hunches take us outside our boxes, as well as those of our family and of our society. This may lead us to the path of finding authentic relationship with God broadening our understanding of family.

There are some men, women and couples who have been unable to have children and they may find today particularly challenging. While honouring their pain, we can lift up the community's role in bringing up children in faith. Also, the ADOPTION OPTION may be a way for some to raise a child(ren) who are not related by blood, but by LOVE. Remember, Jesus was not related to his foster father (St.) Joseph by blood, but Joseph took Jesus to be his son because the angel said so and Joseph was obedient to the angel, but in really to God.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, collection counters, etc. if you can assist, kindly let Father Joe know. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church for the Christmas and New Year's masses.

Mass Schedule for St. Anthony's

Weekday masses will be held at 8:30 am going forward.

Please be aware that St. Anthony's Church will be open prior and closed after each Mass.

New Year's Mass Schedule

Holy Family Mass (Sat. Dec 28) - 6:15 pm (Fr. Joe)

Holy Family Mass (Sun. Dec. 29) - 11:30 am (Fr. Joe)

Mary, Mother of God (Wed. Jan. 01) - 11:30 am (Fr. Joe)

The Gospel accounts leave lots of room for holy imagination when it comes to Jesus' childhood. He certainly wasn't isolated from others, seeing as He "grew in favour before God and man." What might their household have been like in terms of conflict resolution, communication, and hospitality? What can we learn about how to shape our own households?

Jesus' three days in the temple foreshadow his passion. As events like this happen in Jesus' life, Mary wrestles with her own understanding of her call as His mother. There are moments like this in our own lives - in parenthood, marriage, professional life, ministry in the church, working for justice, etc. - that stir our hearts in uncomfortable ways. Our task is to notice them, take them to prayer, perhaps read the Scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, even consult your pastor and keep your heart open to what God maybe calling you to do. God does answer prayer even outside the time in prayer.

May this upcoming year of 2025 be an awesome year for all of you as we have already started the year of Jubilee which is based upon the Scripture text of: "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). These words of encouragement, are from the Apostle Paul who addressed them to the Christian community of Rome. Also, may these words be for all of us living here in Bermuda and all those from across the world that are residing here. May you capture and spread this influence among your loved ones as we continue the Christmas Season realising that our Lord and Saviour - Jesus - was born for us as He offers us Hope personified. May God continue to bless and keep you now and always.

Jesus is the reason for the season,
Fr. Joe (acting) Pastor & Vicar General (DOHB)

Bishop's Corner

Dear Fellow-Catholics,
Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every twenty five years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope" and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

"Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year, a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The 2025 Jubilee officially began on the 24th of December 2024, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by Pope Francis. This Sunday, 29th of December, the Jubilee is to be officially inaugurated in all dioceses of the Catholic Church.

The official prayer has been prepared to allow pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness.

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

More information is available on

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Thank you all for our shared journey of Faith, Hope and Love in 2024, and have a blessed and healthy 2025!

Bishop Wes

Word of Life – December 29

"Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life — especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

www.respectlife.org/prayer-

Coffee Socials

There will be no coffee socials until the new year. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Apartment Needed

A parishioner requires an apartment (1 or 2 bedrooms) preferably furnished. Call Chris on 519-7322.

Dinner Bingo

There will be a Pizza, Salad and Ice-cream Dinner Bingo, served by Bella Vista Restaurant in St. Theresa's Hall on Friday, 10th of January 2025, at 6:00pm. Tickets will be available from the 1st of January in the Parish Office and in the sacristy; \$25 Adults, \$15 Children under 12.

Portuguese Mass

Please be advised that there will be NO 6:00 pm Portuguese Mass at St. Patrick's on Wednesday January 1st. The Mass resumes on Wednesday, January 8th.

Dear Padre,

If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6–7).

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to "Catholic Church" is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means "universal." "The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 868). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ST. PETER PREACHING, BY MASOLINO / JORISVO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	1 Jn 2:18–21 Jn 1:1–18	Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	1 Jn 2:22–28 Jn 1:19–28	1 Jn 2:29–3:6 Jn 1:29–34	1 Jn 3:7–10 Jn 1:35–42	Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12



JILCO JULIA AMARAL / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties.... And this too helps...talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 26, 2021