

St Francis of Assisi Church

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SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



NEWSLETTER

20th August 2017

To prepare for Sunday Mass it is a good idea to read and give thought to the readings in your missal or Bible. Here are some questions to ponder.

First Reading [Isaiah 56:1, 6-7] Without being racist, do I go out of my way to welcome newcomers to our island?

Second Reading [Romans 11:13-15, 29-32] "To make my own people envious of you." Am I envious of new converts who feel the presence of Christ more than I do?

Gospel [Matthew 15:21-28] Am I as persistent in praying as the woman in the gospel was?

WHY NO ANSWER?

In this Sunday's gospel a woman came to Jesus asking for healing for her daughter. Jesus at first said not a word and ignored her - then he spoke rather rudely seeming to refuse her – until in the end, moved by her faith he healed her daughter. In the process her faith was growing stronger than ever. A friend of mine whose daughter has been ill for a long time read that piece of the gospel and thought that God was speaking personally to herself, to go on praying when all seems lost and God is silent. Often enough she felt like giving up and could take no more of God's silence and lack of response. All the time her faith has been growing stronger, but it certainly didn't feel like it. That is what was happening to the woman in the gospel. Jesus' silence and apparent lack of compassion brought her to a deeper faith.

If you are serious about praying and growing closer to God, there will come times when God simply seems to disappear. If you remain faithful to praying and growing in the love of God there will surely come a time when your prayer will seem to be meaningless and you may even feel you have lost your faith - or rather as some people express it, feel that your faith is drying up and will soon be gone completely. But your real faith is growing deeper, dependent entirely on God.

Then just occasionally will come a brief and vivid flash of awareness of God's presence, as if the Lord is saying "Do not be afraid. Stay with it, I have not forgotten you." Stay faithful to the Lord until eventually you will hear him say, "You have great faith. Let your wish be granted."

Please pray for Stephen Foster and George Waithe who are to be ordained Deacons at 10 am on Saturday September 2nd in the Cathedral

CARIFESTA XIII

CELEBRATORY MASS Bishop Jason has given his blessing for the Diocese to host a Celebratory Mass at the Cathedral at 11 a.m on Sunday 20th August, specifically for participants of CARIFESTA and the Diocese family. Wearing national dress is welcome.

ART EXHIBITION All artists in the Diocese are invited to display their original works of art in an exhibition at the Cathedral Hall immediately after the Celebratory Mass for CARIFESTA XIII at St Patrick's Cathedral on the 20th August 2017.

Exhibits should be no larger than 48 inches x 48 inches and must have wire or string affixed to the back so that they are ready to be hung on the wall. If you are interested in having your work displayed, please contact Louis Parris at louisp@caribsurf.com or Cathy Alkins at cjm_alkins@yahoo.com, no later than the 13th August 2017. Let's showcase our creativity!

BISHOP JASON PRESENTS a paper at the Carifesta Symposium at the Cave Hill Campus from 19th -23rd CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY OF TECHNOLOGY TO CARIBBEAN CULTURE AND IDENTITIES Wednesday 23rd August 3:30 – 4:30 pm at the Cave Hill Campus

COLLECTIONS Last week's collection came to **\$2,411.30**

CONTEMPLATIVE EVENING here at St Francis on Thursday, August 24, we will have a contemplative evening (6-8pm) centred on **Our Lady Untier of Knots** with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament postponed from last week by the storm.

TRAINING DAY FOR CATECHISTS AND SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS

SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH 9 am to 3 pm

at Our Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic Church, Black Rock,

All Catechists and Sunday School teachers are asked to make a special effort to attend this training session.

BUSINESS LEADERS/MANAGERS

Saturday 9th September 9:15 am. to 12:30

Bishop Jason is to give a retreat for Business Leaders/Managers – on

“The Vocation of the Business Leader” at the Living Water Community Centre.

This retreat will focus on practical ways to help Business Leaders/Managers from every sector integrate their Catholic faith and values into how they lead in the workplace, with emphasis on promoting *human dignity* and the *common good* as they lead with respect and integrity.

To register for this Retreat,

visit our website at <http://bit.ly/2i6BeRb> or contact Lynda Johnson at 436-9525

"Our Blessed Mother in Scripture" From Monday August 21st at 10.30 am and every Monday thereafter until the end of the year, Mrs. Barbara Taylor will lead a Bible Study course entitled: "Our Blessed Mother in Scripture" at the St. Dominic's Pastoral Centre

Please would you pray for these people who are ill : Kenneth Miller, Annie Bend, Veronica Tavernier,, Carlos Phillips, Phillip Alleyne, Lucille Alleyne, Joan Mahon, Mervin Mahon, Carolina Restrepo, Marie Edmund, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Teresa Hodge, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Michael Faul, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Conibert, Jane Fontelle, Aurelija Vasilevskiene, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman.

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>

A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday

and after the Sunday on: *Michael A J BarrowYoutube*

LOOKING AHEAD

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT facilitated by Bishop Jason

Friday September 15th To Sunday 17th at the Marian Retreat House, Verdun, St. John.

All Gentlemen, 18 years and over are invited to this special Retreat - to Pray and to Reflect, to Relax and to enjoy a delicious Barbecue and other tasty meals. **BD\$100 includes accommodation and meals.**

Come and invite a friend to attend.

To register call 231-9529 or email catholicmensretreat.bb@gmail.com

CURSILLO WEEKEND - October 19th to Sunday October 22nd

The Cursillo Movement is inviting all Cursillistas to renew their Cursillo Weekend by attending Cursillo De Cursillo from Oct 19th - 22nd 2017 at Marian Retreat House Verdun.

For further information call: Marion Clarke -2482519 or Jackie James - 2404432 /6221781

or Elva Hall – 4286090 or Susan Marshall – 4220115