

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR CALLING? WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Each one of us has a calling, a vocation. How do we discover it? How can we be sure of it? God has given each of us unique spiritual gifts to help us in our calling. (Romans 12: 4-8). Anytime we want to speak to God, we must pray, read the Bible, meditate, and listen. As we develop a personal relationship with God, as we use our talents and gifts to serve others, we discover that certain corporal or spiritual works feel right and bring us a deep sense of fulfillment and happiness. The Holy Spirit will assist us to carry out our calling.

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"*  
(Mark 10:45)

## B I B L E

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

#### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Upset	John 14
Weak	Psalms 18:1-29
Lonely	Psalms 23
Sinned	Psalms 51
Worried	Matthew 8:19-31
Anxious	Philippians 4:4-9
Unhappy	Colossians 3:12-17
In danger	Psalms 91
Depressed	Psalms 27
Lack of Faith	Exodus 14
Need Courage	Joshua 1
Need Direction	Psalms 73:21-26
Seeking peace	Matthew 11:25-30
Leaving on a trip	Psalms 121
Struggling with loss	Luke 15
Struggling Financially	Psalms 37
Discouraged with work	Psalms 126

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DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD

*"God takes great joy any time we open our hearts to him, whether we're offering prayers on our morning jog, or listening to a Bible study in the car on the way to work. I had to let go of that "perfect" idea of what seeking God looked like, and start trusting that he would meet me where I am. The more I'm with God, and the more I let go of what I can do for him and seek instead to know him, the better I am at . . . everything. I'm a better worker, wife, mom, friend, boss, and everything else when my foundation with God is strong."*  
**Diane Paddison**

### READ THE WORD TODAY!

[www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com)  
**30 ways to strengthen  
your family in 30 days**

[http://www.  
beginningcatholic.  
com/catholic-bible-  
study](http://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-bible-study)



## The Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgetown BIBLE MONTH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017



## M E S S A G E

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

Bible month is a special time when The Biblical Commission invites all Catholics to make an extra special effort to read the Word of God, daily, reflect on His messages and to apply His teaching in your daily lives.

God's Word can have a powerful and lasting transformation in the lives of every person, every family and ultimately the nation. The Word of God can provide hope, comfort and courage during those days of difficulty and despair. It can help to heal when tragedy strikes and you experience loss. The Word of God also provides the right words for you to thank God for blessings and gifts bestowed upon you.

We encourage all the faithful to focus on the Bible this month, attend sessions planned for the month and rely on the Bible as a source of strength and wisdom, and a guiding light for all our lives.

### Biblical Commission Mission:

*To lead the People of  
God to encounter the  
Living Word, Jesus Christ*

### Commissioners: Co-leaders:

Fr. Vibert Stephens and  
June -Ann Pinkerton

**St. Patrick's Cathedral**  
Jacinta Alexander

**Our Lady Queen of the  
Universe**

Desiree Jemmott

**St. Dominic's**

Barbara Taylor

**Our Lady of the Rosary**

Iva Adams

**Our Lady of Sorrows**

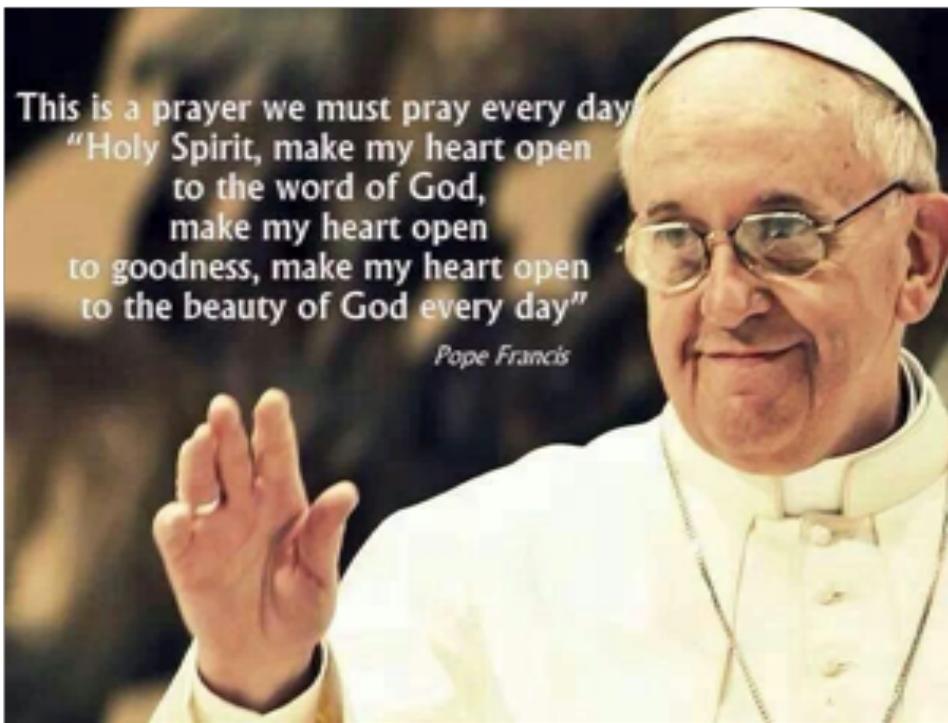
Rodwell C. Derrell

**St. Francis**

Keisha Phillips

**Sacred Heart**

Ann Auguste



# "THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER"

Family life should naturally lead children to a life-long relationship with God. Today families experience many challenges. Today's families may comprise a married mother and father, a single parent, or adoptive parents. A family also exists in a household where children are raised by grandparents, other relatives or persons in the community. However comprised, the family is the first community of faith and the most powerful influence on the faith of children. The family is the domestic church. Parents or the adults in the household are the first educators of the children, providing the foundation for their spiritual and religious life. Through their example, they also can give witness to Christ-like lives, teach the children what true love is, and teach them how to live as disciples of Jesus.

The family is therefore a vital part of lifelong faith formation, at all stages of faith development, and the adults in the home need to assist in fostering faith and a deeper spirituality within the household.

Following God's commandments is our response to God's unconditional, amazing love for us. While none of us is perfect, we must continually work on our personal relationship with God and try to strengthen our family's faith in many simple ways. Let us teach our children to know, love and serve God. Invite God into your life. Here are some ways families or households can strengthen their faith:

## 1. Have a daily family prayer time.

Set a specific time when you can pray together every day, even if it's just for 10 minutes. Children are more inclined to pray if they see the adults in their household praying also. If you look at the peace that comes into your heart from prayer, imagine the peace and harmony you can have in your home, the domestic church.

## 2. Read the Bible together.

Reading the Bible together and having discussions about your readings will help family members to develop a love for God and the Word. Encourage the children to select the passage for the family to read. Try to have a simple discussion about the passage and say a short prayer afterwards, asking God to help you live out the message of what you have read.

## 3. Be intentional when it comes to religious "practices."

Attend Mass and other religious days of obligation. Explain to your children why they should attend Mass.

## 4. Attend Mass together.

Go to church together as a family and experience this important encounter with Christ together.

## 5. Attend faith-building events.

Participating in faith building activities can help strengthen your faith and build community, especially if you attend as a family.

## DO YOU HAVE A BIBLE?

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BIBLES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE DIOCESE OFFICE FOR BDSS 20.00.

KINDLY CONTACT MS. LYNDA JOHNSON AT 426-3510 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A BIBLE.

