

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

10th December 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent (year B)

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 40:1-5, 9-11] In your personal history what parts have been smooth and what parts rough? When did you most feel Christ's presence?

Second Reading [2 Peter 3:8-14] This reading says that the Lord "is patient with you." How does it feel being patient with someone? How does the Lord feel with you?

Gospel [Mark 1:1-8] How is John's message of repentance and judgment different from that of Jesus?

WALKING WITH CHRIST OR BEING CARRIED BY CHRIST



St John the Baptist, whose whole life was a preparation for the coming of Christ, uses the imagery of the prophet Isaiah: "Make a straight highway for our God to cross the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low – then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Christ is coming anyway.

But for St John the Baptist unless we prepare the way and clear the road of our lives from obstacles, then his coming will not touch us. When Jesus came he continued the same message, but he put it with such a different emphasis that the Baptist must have wondered if he got his message wrong.

Jesus' message was the same as John the Baptist's in that he wants our lives to be rid of anything that is wrong, but Christ is offering to do it himself if we will allow him and welcome him. His mission is to come and heal and he will never abandon us. He knows that like little children, we prefer to be carried and he is offering to carry us. But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run and so sometimes Christ will put us down. When someone is first converted and turns to Christ, they are often vividly conscious Christ's presence. They feel carried. As you grow closer to Christ, you will sometimes feel alone and struggling. You have not been abandoned, though it may feel like it, but you are growing more united to God.

It is at the times when Christ puts us down to walk that we need to trust that he is still with us.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA a very prayerful way to prepare for Christmas



Our novena starts this coming Friday, December 15.

Each morning we have a Mass at 6am with a special homily and our novena prayer - though on Sunday we have Mass at the usual times.

If you can't manage to get to the Mass, then take a copy of the Novena Prayer and make that prayer each day in union with us, starting on Friday.

Before the Mass for those who wish, at 5.30am we have the traditional singing of the *Bemdita* and the Litany of Our Lady in Latin.

If you can't manage every day – come when you can!

Or you may wish to join us via the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>

DIACONATE ORDINATION this Tuesday December 12th at 6.00 pm in the Cathedral

Winston Layne and Kirt Prospere are to be ordained deacon - the final step before ordination to the priesthood **All are urged to attend this historic occasion.**

24 HOUR ROSARY

Saturday December 16th at 8am to Sunday December 17th at 9am Mass

at the Marian Retreat House in Verdun

SECONDHAND FRIDGE Does anyone have a small fridge they want to dispose of - for one of our families. It does not have to be very big as they do not have much to put in it.

S. V. P. FAMILIES IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS

Please be generous with your contributions both financial and bringing nonperishable items for our hampers.

COLLECTIONS last week's collection came to **\$3,596.00**

Please would you also pray for these people who are ill : We pray especially for Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Basil Cozier, Paddy Melville, Kathy Winterhall, Kenneth Miller, 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, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Cornibert, Aurelija Vasilev, 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 Barrow Youtube*

Christmas Schedule

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23/24

Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning

Masses at 8 & 10.30

(Bishop Jason's farewell
at 8am Mass)

6pm

**Christmas Mass
for young families**

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm Carol Service

12 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8 and 10.30am Mass

BOXING DAY

(Tuesday)

9.30 am Mass

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

Mass at 7am

Saturday

no morning Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

Feast of the

Holy Family

Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning

Masses at 8 & 10.30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

(Sunday)

10.30pm Mass

followed by refreshments in the
garden to greet the New Year and
watch the fireworks over the sea

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Feast of Mary

the Mother of God

Mass at 9.30 am