

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

14th January 2018

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 [[1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19](#)] God calls us through events in our lives, but it is not always clear. Can you recall events in your own life, which are now more clearly God calling you?

Second Reading [[1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20](#)] "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you"? Are you aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in you?

Gospel [John 1:35-42] Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you looking for"? How would you answer that question?

COME AND SEE

To say that you are called can have two quite different meanings. If someone says "What are you going to call the baby?" obviously, they mean what name you are going to give the child, but if they say, "Quick, call the children", the calling then is asking them to come. When I say that Christ is calling me, it has both meanings; he calls me personally by name, but also he calls me to come to himself. In the words of Isaiah, "I have called you by your name, you are mine." (Is 43.1)

The Lord calls us through events or other people in our lives but it's not always clear and it can easily go unnoticed. We will only recognise his calling if we are ready to listen, and become aware of it. The charming story of the infant Samuel illustrates that confusion. When the Lord called his name he thought it was the priest in the next room until eventually, following the instructions of the priest, he replied "Speak, Lord your servant is listening." Only when he took care to listen did he realise it was the Lord calling him. The same with us, but I'm afraid when we pray we are more inclined to say "Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking."

Christ's call may come in various ways, but will always depend on our readiness to see or hear what God is trying to convey to us through events of our lives. A wonderful expression Jesus used is *Come and See*. When John the Baptist pointed out Jesus and a couple of his disciples began to stalk him, Jesus asked them what they wanted and then told them, "Come and see." It was because they were ready to see or to hear Christ's invitation that they responded to his call and their lives were changed.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18 – 25

*This coming Thursday, January 18, is a National Day of prayer
– for the unity of all Christians and for our nation of Barbados.*

Like other churches across the island St Francis will be open for prayer this Thursday from after the 7am Mass until the Holy Hour of Adoration at 6 pm

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Every year at this time all Christian denominations pray particularly for healing divisions between the churches. Although we all follow Christ and give him our hearts and although for the most part (though not entirely) we all believe the same thing, we find it impossible to worship and work as one Church. Although our divisions are no longer as bitter and angry as they were once, it is still a tragedy that we do not have the unity that our Lord prayed for and wanted. During this week we will pray particularly to overcome the divisions between the churches.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

The number of men being ordained priests has dropped dramatically in the last few years, to the extent that the health of the Catholic Church in Europe and in the Americas is being seriously threatened.

We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Starting this Sunday, as a way of praying, we are suggesting that each family should take to their home for a week at a time a chalice which is used at Mass, knowing that it has held the body and blood of Christ.

And during that week the family would pray for vocations.

Any prayer can be used and we will offer prayer-cards which might help.



WORKSHOP FOR CATECHISTS

Saturday 27th January from 2pm to 6pm in The Upper Room at the Cathedral

All Catechists are invited to attend this very helpful workshop, conducted by Fr. Vibert Stephens and Sr. Margaret Mary

The Theme of this Workshop is "Catechesis and Discipleship."

CHRISTOLOGY A Certificate Course of Five Saturdays

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY – SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Who do YOU say that I am?

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who is Christ for us today?

Facilitated by Reverend Dr. Winston Layne in the Upper Room, St. Patrick's Cathedral

To register - email: formationinstitute@gmail.com or tel: 426-3510

COLLECTIONS The Offertory collection for last Sunday: **\$3,650.00**

Please would you also pray for these people who are ill : We pray especially for little Sebastian Peichl, Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Paddy Melville, 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 Vasilevskiene 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](#)