

I CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS!!

How often do we hear both children and adults say those words? We get caught up in the hectic preparation for Christmas – decorating our homes, shopping for Christmas gifts, buying turkey, ham and pork, making sorrel and black cake, changing curtains and furniture. Do we forget the season of Advent in all this? Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of Christ should be a time for families to come together in prayer and devotion. No wonder so many are tired and stressed by the time Christmas Day finally arrives!

If we focus on the Advent symbols and their significance we can remind ourselves of the true meaning of the season.

The **Advent wreath** is a tradition that originated in 16th-century Germany. It is made of four candles - three purple and one rose - surrounded by evergreen branches. A purple candle is lit the first week, two the second, two purple and one rose the third, and finally all four in the last week of Advent. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ, Who will come into the world at Christmas. Can we make an Advent wreath at home?

The **vestments of the priests** during Advent are purple which is meant to signify the penitential nature of Advent. The exception to this is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudette Sunday, when priests wear rose-coloured vestments. This exception is to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we know Advent is more than halfway over.

A daily **Advent reading from Scripture** is another good way of focusing on the spirit of Advent. The readings for Advent come from the Old Testament book of the Prophet Isaiah, who, more clearly than any other prophet, foretold the coming of Christ.

Let's celebrate the season of Advent as it is meant to be celebrated so that when Christmas comes we can greet Christ with real joy!!

Bishop Jason's 50th Independence message to Barbados is available on youtube at RC Catholic bb & on the Diocesan website www.catholicbb.org. The link to pics of the Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicbb/albums/72157673308060043/with/3122>

St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral

2nd Sunday in Advent Cycle C
4th December 2016



Mission of our Church

To lead all people to unity encounter and participation in Christ



Fr Charles Dominique, OP
Administrator

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



Vision of our Church

By 2019 the Roman Catholic Church in Barbados will be a leader in integral development, forming mature disciples who build strong Christian families and vibrant communities in the service of Christian Unity, the Common Good and the Kingdom of God.

Mass Schedule

Monday – Friday 6:30 am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12 Noon
Saturday 7 am, 6pm
Sunday 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm
Confession Saturday 5:30 pm and available on request

CONTACT US

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SUNDAY READINGS:

1st Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10; 2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-9;

Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12



A REFLECTION ON THE 1ST READING:

"On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from its roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..."

As we reflect on the last 50 years in our nation, and journey towards the next fifty in the midst of several challenges, Isaiah's promise of hope is encouraging. We hear a clear, prophetic word of hope and promise, as we remember that the "stump of Jesse" did blossom a saviour, upon whom the promised "spirit of the lord" rested.

Questions to ponder:

- Am I a person of hope?
- From what or whom do I receive my hope?
- How do I plan to act on the hope I have?
- Do I encourage others to share my hope?

SCHEDULE : ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON LITURGICAL EVENTS

Friday Dec 16th – Saturday Dec 24th - Christmas Novena

Theme: *Come Lord, dispel the darkness of the night*



Date	Time	Celebrant
Monday Dec 19 th Penance Service	6:00 pm	
Saturday Dec 24 th Christmas Eve	6:00 pm 11:00 pm No 6:00 pm Mass	Bishop Jason Fr Charles
Sunday Dec 25 Christmas Day	7:00 am 11:00 am	Bishop Jason Fr Leonard
Monday Dec 26 th Boxing Day	7:00 am	
Tuesday Dec 27 th	7:00 am	
Wednesday Dec 28 th Holy Innocents	9:00 am (Blessing of toys)	
Saturday Dec 31 st New Year's Eve	6:00 pm 11:00 pm (Holy Hour from 10:00 pm)	Fr Charles Bishop Jason
Sunday Jan 01 st New Year's Day	7:00 am 11:00 am No 6:00 pm Mass	Fr Charles Bishop Jason

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 5TH – DECEMBER 10RD 2016

Monday	5 th	6:30 am	Birthday Blessings: Cheryl, Tamara and Joseph Gonzague
Tuesday	6 th	6:30 am	Christmas blessings: Tim Woods & Family
Wednesday	7 th	12:00 noon	God's Blessing: Douglas family
Thursday	8 th	6:30 am	Christmas blessings: Anthony Wood & Family
Friday	9 th	6:30 am	Birthday Blessings: Maria Agard
		12:00 noon	Flora Iris Reid RIP

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sacrament of Baptism Fourth Sunday of each month during the 11:00 am Mass

Monday	Christian Meditation	10:30 am
	Baptismal Instruction	5.00 pm
Tuesday	Legion of Mary	5.00 pm
Wednesday	Adult Confirmation Classes	5:00 pm
	Cathedral Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday	Bible Classes	5:30 pm
Friday	Confirmation Programme	7:00 pm
Saturday	Children's Religious Education	9:00 am

NOTICES

- Fundraising dinner - Under the distinguished patronage of the Most Reverend Bishop Jason Gordon, you are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord with an evening of dining and entertainment at Living Water Community, St David's on December 10th. Seating by 6:30 pm and contribution \$150.00. All proceeds in aid of the Cathedral restoration.
- Christmas at St Patrick's - A concert will be held on Friday, December 16th at 7 pm. Featuring Fr Charles Dominique, Kenneth Armstrong and many more. Tickets are \$25.00 and will be available at the Cathedral and the office 426-2325.
- Christmas Novena - 9 days starting Wednesday Dec 14th until Friday Dec 23rd. Details to follow.
- St Leonard's Boys' Choir, the world-class boys' choir will be in Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral for a magical night of carolling on Friday December 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Tickets \$25 available from A and B Music Supplies, Sheraton Centre.
- BREATHE – Upcoming Album Launch -The Choir of Our Lady of the Rosary (COLOR) announces the upcoming launch of the album: BREATHE. Dedicated to the memory of **Denis Del Castilho** - Brilliant musician, Loving friend, Faithful servant. CD's will be soon available at a cost of \$30. Pre-order your copy today by e-mailing olorchoir@gmail.com